



## INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFERT DE CONNAISSANCES

### FORMULAIRE DE SOUMISSION

*Avant de remplir ce formulaire, le chercheur doit s'assurer de lire les critères de sélection ci-joints de veiller à ce que l'activité y soit conforme.*

#### **Titre de l'activité**

The Inaugural Symposium on Cannabis and People Living with HIV: At the Crossroads Between Neuropsychology and Inflammation

#### **Déroulement de l'activité**

Date : Friday April 5, 2019

Lieu : Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre

Nombre de participants presentis : approximately 200

Nombre de personnes oeuvrant dans la lutte contre le VIH, le VHC et les ITSS presenties : 200

Nombre d'étudiants : approximately 50

#### **Résumé de l'activité (Maximum 20 lignes)**

Approximately 40-74% of people living with Human immunodeficiency virus (PLWH) infection report using cannabis to alleviate anxiety and depression, disease-related symptoms or secondary effects of medications. HIV itself is known to have direct harmful effects on the central and peripheral nervous system which results in HIV associated neurocognitive disorder. Cannabis use may influence the effects of HIV on the nervous system and impact neurocognitive processes. Similarly, due to its anti-inflammatory properties, cannabis may affect the immune system in turn impacting HIV disease progression. *The 2 main themes of the inaugural symposium on cannabis and PLWH will be to review evidence on the effects of cannabis on 1) neurocognition and 2) immunomodulation in relation to HIV/SIV disease progression.* This symposium will facilitate knowledge exchange among key researchers in the field and emerging Canadian researchers, health care providers, trainees and community members. It will contribute to fostering international collaborations to develop a strategic research agenda on the effects of cannabis on neurocognition, inflammation and HIV disease progression in PLWH. Speakers include: Ms Shari Margolese (Community Advocate/Patient perspective), Dr David Grelotti (Neuropsychological affects of cannabis in PLWH), Dr Thomas Marcotte (Cannabis and driving/Daily Functioning in PLWH), Dr Patricia Molina (Cannabinoid neuro-immune modulate of SIV), Dr Nichole Klatt (Cannabis, inflammation and microbial dysbiosis in PLWH) and Dr MJ Milloy (Cannabis and harm reduction related to the opioid overdose crisis).



**Impact sur le Réseau et ses membres (Maximum 15 lignes. Expliquez brièvement en quoi la contribution du Réseau à cette activité peut renforcer sa perspective multidisciplinaire, favoriser le développement de collaborations futures et accroître sa visibilité)**

Since the legalization of recreational cannabis in Canada, many Quebec researchers have become interested in learning more about the potential risks and benefits associated with cannabis use as it pertains to PLWH. This symposium will feature some of the top cannabis researchers in North America (clinical, epidemiological and basic scientists), all of whom have a focus on PLWH. The setting will enable members of the Réseau SIDA (in addition to its student members) to gain a deeper understanding of some key issues surrounding cannabis and cannabinoid-based medicine as they pertain to cognition and inflammation, and will serve as fertile ground for Quebec researchers to network and build collaborations for future research studies. The lead organizer, Dr Costiniuk, is an FRQ-S Junior chercheur-boursier-clinicien Junior 1. Both Dr Costiniuk and co-organizer, Dr MA Jenabian, are members of the *Réseau SIDA et maladies infectieuses*. As the event will be held in Montreal, and no registration fee is required, this will facilitate the attendance by members of the *Réseau SIDA et maladies infectieuses*.

**Budget**

Montant demandé : Maximum 2 500 \$

Justifications budgétaires (maximum 15 lignes) :

We have already obtained \$20,000 from the CIHR as a Planning and Dissemination grant. The \$2,500 from the *Réseau SIDA et maladies infectieuses* will enable us to provide travel awards for 1 community member living with HIV and 1 graduate student (conducting research related to PLWH and cannabis) outside of Montreal to attend the symposium.

Participant	Details	Cost(\$CAN)
Community Member	Economy-class travel (train or plane) from within Canada (\$800 max.) Hotel x 2 nights (\$150 x 2) and meal allowance (\$70 per day x 2)	\$1,250
Student	As above	1,250
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,500</b>