



Cannabis in Family Medicine and Cancer Care

Dr. Neil McKinney ND

Biography:



Dr. McKinney graduated from Simon Fraser University with a degree in Biosciences and had a career in biophysical (radiation) cancer research. He studied kinesiology at the University of Waterloo and graduated as a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine from National College of Naturopathic Medicine in 1985. He concurrently trained 3 years in TCM at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine. Dr. McKinney has had many teaching roles, from lab instructor in microbiology at UVic and NCNM, to an instructor at schools of traditional Chinese medicine, massage therapy, and finally as a professor at BINM. He has served many roles in the regulation and advancement of the profession, including Registrar of the BC College of Naturopathic

Physicians and as an accreditation evaluator for CNME. He founded the BC Naturopathic Association and the Boucher Institute of Naturopathic Medicine. He is a professor of Naturopathic Oncology, and author of textbooks of naturopathic oncology. Dr. McKinney is well known for his generous sharing of time and writings to mentor students and peers. He has received a number of awards for contributions to advancing the scope and standards of the naturopathic profession. He practices with a focus on integrative oncology in Victoria, BC.

Presentation description:

Cannabis is an ancient medicine, marginalized due to its prohibition as a “narcotic”. Cannabinoids are now being embraced widely as a cancer medicine, with little to no human evidence of safety or efficacy.

This presentation will clarify the endocannabinoids we all possess, and how the cannabinoids from the cannabis plant interact with this innate regulatory system and its receptors. It will outline how medical marijuana is derived, and how it can be administered as edibles, by vaping, and as highly concentrated oil extracts by mouth or suppositories. The role of cannabis in symptom palliation will be explained, such as for nausea and in chemotherapy. The potential for tumour reduction, even cure, will also be addressed, with case histories.

The dark side of cannabis overdose, dependence, addiction, psychosis, tumour lysis syndrome and contraindications and drug interactions will also be presented. Further resources in print, websites and published science will be provided.