



Ethics: Providing Original Lecture Content

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MARIJUANA AND DRIVING

Disclosures



- ▶ Dr. Valenti is owner of IMMAD, a company specializing in technology and services for the responsible use of marijuana.
- ▶ Technology, IMMAD-Impairment Measurement Marijuana and Driving is specific to the assessment of fitness to drive with use of marijuana.



Why I Care



- ▶ Once a student has observed success with cheating of any sort, it becomes hard to teach when not to cheat.
- ▶ There are educators who intentionally and consciously teach students to cheat.
- ▶ “It doesn’t matter what you say in the grant, do what you want once you get the money”
- ▶ “No one will notice if you.....”
- ▶ And our students simply learn by observation.

Imagine: Worst Case?



<https://unsplash.com/@bel2000a>

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Worst Case?

Botched Heart Transplant?



Jessica Santillian
Heart Transplant Blood type error

Jessica Blood type O
Transplanted heart Blood type A

Rather than match faxes in print,
surgeon discussed organs over
telephone.

Very much against protocol.

Breaking Protocol: Learned Behavior



- ▶ Duke University repeated errors....based on behavior learned...
- ▶ Learned at Oregon Health Sciences University OHSU
- ▶ 1992 First of two errors – misblood type of heart patients by OHSU head surgeon. Error not discovered until surgical procedures to remove the failing heart. This first patient, a middle aged male survived long enough to get a matched heart.
- ▶ Transaction was over telephone. AGAINST PROTOCOL
- ▶ Jessica Santillian's Duke University cardiac heart transplant surgeon was a surgical resident at OHSU during this error. There were no repercussions and no changes to force adherence to protocol. Against protocol telephone organ procurement continued.



OHSU 2nd Blood Type Error

They had discussed organ by telephone, failed to match printed fax.
Surgeon cut open chest, spread the ribs and removed the failing heart before realizing the patient was Blood type B and the donor heart was Blood type A



<https://unsplash.com/@theunsteady5>

Having
“Ethics”
Does Not
Make One
Popular or
Even
Respected

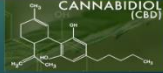
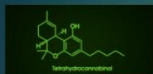
Lecture With Substantial Material From My Work



- ▶ Virtual Lecture
- ▶ The big national yearly association conference.
- ▶ Faculty from academic professional institutions make up much of membership.
- ▶ Continuing education has preference for those associated with professional academic institutions.

I Had Provided “Similar” Lecture At State Level

- ▶ My lecture had 83 slides total, questioned lecture had 49.
- ▶ 7 of the 49 were administrative
- ▶ My lecture had 35 on marijuana background, other lecture 24
- ▶ Questioned lecture had 18 slides related to vision of which 11 had direct plagiarism of my material either in visual print form or auditory form.
- ▶ Only two of the 18 had content not at all on my slides.



CBD Studies IOP Elevation

- ▶ Straker and Miller: ARVO 2018
- ▶ Miller and Straker: ICRS 2018
- ▶ CBD caused an elevation in IOP in a rabbit model.
- ▶ THC caused a decrease in IOP, but there were gender differences with the decrease less or absent in females.



Marijuana IOP Blood Pressure Hypothesis

- ▶ Eighteen patients all with glaucoma.
- ▶ The blood-pressure lowering effect of marijuana mediates the temporary reduction in IOP.
- ▶ The concern is that this also reduces perfusion of the optic nerve.
- ▶ IOP reduced
- ▶ BP reduced
- ▶ **DID NOT FOLLOW Longitudinally**

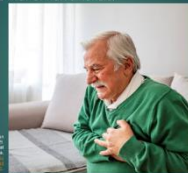


Heath JT, Campbell WL, Alexander TC, Andrew RS, Gaskin SJ. Effect of marijuana on intraocular and blood pressures in glaucoma. *Optometry*. 1980;51(3):222-228.



Marijuana Cardiac Issues

- ▶ A new study from Boston's Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School says marijuana increases the risk of having a heart attack within the first hour of smoking to five times that of non-smokers.



Doses CBD That May Induce Increase IOP

- ▶ MS Cannabis plant extracts containing 2.5-120 milligrams of a THC-CBD combination have been taken by mouth daily for 2-15 weeks.
- ▶ Schizophrenia, 40-1,280 milligrams of CBD has been taken by mouth daily for up to four weeks.
- ▶ Epilepsy 200-300 mg of CBD by mouth daily for up to 4.5 months.
- ▶ Sleep disorders 40-160 mg CBD by mouth.



Nine Patients Followed Nine Months

- ▶ All had glaucoma unable to be controlled by other treatments.
- ▶ Initial decrease in IOP.
- ▶ IOP decrease was not sustained over time.
- ▶ Marijuana was in the form of capsules.
- ▶ Measured weekly, time of day constant until desired IOP was stable.
- ▶ Followed up to nine months, some less.
- ▶ All participants elected to discontinue use.



More Recent Study

- ▶ Six participants with glaucoma
- ▶ 5 mg Delta-9-THC Lowered IOP
- ▶ 20 mg CBD No effect
- ▶ **40 mg CBD Raised IOP**
- ▶ placebo No effect



- ▶ While effect of THC often cited, rarely hear the concerns with higher doses of CBD.



Lack of Education Results In Increased Use Medical Marijuana

- ▶ Study in Washington, DC.
- ▶ 204 patients with glaucoma.
- ▶ Intent to use marijuana as a treatment associated with false perceptions about marijuana and glaucoma.
- ▶ Also associated with cost of glaucoma medications.
- ▶ As well as impression of legal access.

- ▶ JAMA: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26719907>



Marijuana and Lowering Intraocular Pressure IOP

- ▶ It was been shown to lower IOP by approximately 25 percent in 60 to 65 percent of both glaucoma and non-glaucoma patients.

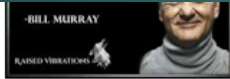
Hager RJ, Smith G. CBD versus marijuana and intraocular pressure. *JAMA*. 1981;245(12):1595-1596.



Increased Awareness Increase Diagnosis

Fewer pills prescribed in medical pot states
Difference between annual drug doses prescribed per physician in medical marijuana states, and in states without medical marijuana laws, by drug category.





Academy 2021 - Boston
November 3-6, 2021



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of OPTOMETRY

<https://www.cteyes.org/assets/Conference-Handouts/Marijuana%20and%20Glaucoma.pdf>



Marijuana and Glaucoma

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Provided Slide By Slide Comparison October 2020 Organization Response

“I am trying to make a comparison to the COVID-19 and the eye lectures that I have attended.

Almost every lecture quotes the same studies and concludes in the same way. Therefore I would expect lectures from different people to be repetitive...”

Two Organizations Involved



- ▶ Neither had any form of policy on plagiarism.
- ▶ The organization providing the education reviews, vets and accepts a submitted lecture as appropriate.
- ▶ I had submitted the original lecture---rejected.
- ▶ Once accepted it is reported to a formal organization that manages education credits for optometry.
- ▶ Accrediting group can not remove lecture without notification of group having originally vetted and approved of the lecture.

Lecture Reported Taken Down: Not true



- ▶ Not true. It was reported by email to me in November that the lecture was taken down. This was false.
- ▶ I hired legal counsel in December to have the lecture removed.
- ▶ The lecture remained posted as a viable continuing education program as late as March 2021.
- ▶ It took several communications on the part of my legal counsel to have the lecture taken down.

Lecturer Had Claimed Faculty Appointment



- ▶ Dean of the university for which the lecturer listed a current faculty appointment was unaware of who the person was.
- ▶ The faculty appointment had been as an adjunct estimated over ten years earlier.
- ▶ The lecturer's social media claimed a faculty appointment, but the social media pages were taken down.



Adjunct Clinical Faculty - Optometry

Aug 2009 - Present • 11 yrs 7 mos

Organization Unwilling to Release Ethics Ruling



- ▶ Only discussed in two short emails.
- ▶ “Your plagiarism complaint was submitted to the Ethics committee some time ago. Dr. XXXXXX admitted to the offense and I was told he apologized to you.”
- ▶ And “policy regarding plagiarism for lectures and workshops has always been understood but is codified now. Though XXXXXXX continues to take the two slides argument, the Ethics committee has determined that there was extensive copying. The committee and I have rejected his assertions.”

March 2021 Sent to Attendees

“Following a review of drafts, power points, and notes for course titled “CBD, THC, FAQs, FYIs, and the E-WHY-E” COPE 69083-PH, the following statement is to be distributed to all attendees of AAO 2020 at Home Lecture course PH01.

The review called attention to an inadequacy in citing Dr Denise Valenti among sources of information for the course. Dr. Denise Valenti has been a prominent researcher in the area of the effects of Cannabinoids in the Eye and the Visual System. It is difficult to talk about this topic without giving due recognition to Dr. Valenti’s contributions and involvement; her innovative and extensive work has laid a strong foundation relating to the topic.

As the developer of this course, I want to inform the audience of this inadvertent omission. This was an editorial lapse for which I make myself available for questions.”

Ethics



- ▶ For 2021 the speaker agreement now says:

“You agree to ensure the authenticity of material presented and to give proper acknowledgement and attribution of any content or works cited. The Academy does not tolerate plagiarism.”

- ▶ Minimal repercussions....one year not eligible to submit CE.
- ▶ Any students aware of the plagiarism are now being taught that there are essentially no repercussions.
- ▶ Students are seeing an example of reward for plagiarism.

Recent Blog



- ▶ Controversial---
- ▶ Many blog members had observed signs of ethical concern.
- ▶ Person having been found guilty had served on editorial boards.
- ▶ Evidence the topic for which they were to be providing oversight resulted in “harmful” material making way into public venues.

Students Learn: Success With Compromised Ethics



- ▶ Minimal to no repercussions.
- ▶ No repercussions with reporting falsely about the outcome.
- ▶ Current status: Asked for reimbursement of my legal fees that were incurred due to lack of policy.....ongoing saga.
- ▶ To date, organization is refusing to make public the final report from the ethics committee.

Lesson To All



- ▶ Develop policy regarding plagiarism.
- ▶ Develop policy regarding penalties when there are compromises in ethics.
- ▶ Make sure the repercussions are harsh enough to have meaning.



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