

weedz SA and ETH Zürich collaboration on cannabinol research

St-Sulpice (VD) / Zürich, Switzerland, 20. March 2019: ETH Zurich and weedz SA have signed an agreement on a joint research project in the field of CBN research. The parties are pursuing the objective of obtaining the active substance cannabinol (abbreviation: CBN) from the cannabis plant and to develop a sleep-enhancing drug based on it. The soporific effect of CBN has recently aroused the interest of the cannabis industry. The use of conventional sleeping pills is often accompanied by negative side effects. Natural CBN, a by-product of the cannabis plant, may be the key for a future CBN-based sleeping pill without any side effects.

CBN originates in older cannabis plants and the degradation of THC molecules. This explains why researchers have only recently discovered its benefits. Up until now, it was believed that CBN was a waste product of the hemp plant. CBN was thus presented no research interest. This changed after a study by Steep Hill Labs, in which CBN was found to be the tranquillizer of all cannabinoids. This discovery led to renewed interest in the therapeutic effect of CBN and its role in the regulation of the endocannabinoid system¹ (part of the nervous system, which also includes the cannabinoid-receptors CB1 and CB2)².

The potential for soporific medication is huge: The world market for medical sleeping aids amounted to 54.9 billion USD in 2013. The market has a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 5.6%. A market volume of about 76.7 billion USD is forecast for 2019.³

A further focus of the joint research project is the reduction of THC content and the enrichment of cannabidiol (CBD) and CBN in raw extracts and plant material. *“Cannabidiol is a barely-psychoactive cannabinoid from female hemp. Medically speaking, it has an antispasmodic, anti-inflammatory, anxiolytic and anti-nausea effect. Further pharmacological effects (such as an antipsychotic effect) are being researched”*⁴

The research results will be published within the next 24 months. weedz SA and the ETH will jointly own the corresponding patent.

ETH Zürich is one of the world’s leading technical universities. Its alumni include 21 Nobel price winners, among them Albert Einstein and Wolfgang Pauli. Further information is available at: <https://www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/portrait.html>

weedz SA is a manufacturer and wholesaler with many years of experience in the domain of cannabinoids, and has a multiplicity of branches in Switzerland and abroad. The company specializes in the production of hemp flowers according to GACP standards for the medical market. weedz also offers a wide range of high-concentration CBD crystals for various industries. Further information is available at: www.weedz.ch

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¹ see <https://www.analyticalcannabis.com/articles/beyond-cbd-exploring-the-health-benefits-of-cbn-311488>

² Current research results show, that the CB receptor may be necessary for the suppression of negative memories. Endocannabinoids may thus play an important role in anxiety disorders. A study at the Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry on knockout mice without CB₁ receptors showed that the forgetting of negative experiences was significantly impeded.

³ see <https://www.analyticalcannabis.com/articles/beyond-cbd-exploring-the-health-benefits-of-cbn-311488>

⁴ See Wikipedia : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabidiol>