

1 | **Study Protocol**

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- 7 • **Use the section headings to write the eForm A, inserting the appropriate material in each. If**
- 8 **a section is not applicable, leave heading in and insert N/A.**
- 9 • **When submitting eForm A (new or revised), enter the date submitted to the field at the top**
- 10 **of eForm A.**

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15 **1. Abstract**

- 16 a. Provide no more than a one page research abstract briefly stating the problem, the research
- 17 hypothesis, and the importance of the research.

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19 Understanding the pharmacokinetics of cannabis and comparative pharmacodynamics effects is important  
20 for a number of reasons. First, the pharmacokinetic profile of cannabis is essential to understanding and  
21 interpreting toxicology testing for detection of use. Detection of cannabis use is important for the conduct  
22 of controlled clinical trials of treating cannabis use disorders and for workplace and roadside drug testing  
23 programs. Establishing behavioral and subjective effect profiles in parallel with pharmacokinetics will be  
24 important for determining biological concentrations associated with intoxication/impairment and  
25 distinguishing between acute/recent use and residual levels of cannabinoids from long-term use. Such  
26 data is important for advising regulations related to driving under the influence, and can be used to  
27 reinforce early abstinence behavior in patients engaging in a quit attempt in a formal treatment setting.

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29 In substance abuse treatment programs, contingency management (CM) is an effective, evidence-based,  
30 treatment based on the principles of behavior analysis. Patients trying to quit are provided rewards for  
31 providing objective evidence of drug abstinence. Typically, this is done using urine drug testing, and for  
32 substances like cocaine, tobacco, and opiates, this is very effective. Using CM for the treatment of  
33 cannabis use disorders is more difficult because cannabis remains detectable at high levels for much  
34 longer periods of time after use, and may last longer depending on the route of administration. Research  
35 is needed to determine whether biological matrices other than urine have a shorter window of detection  
36 following long-term chronic use but still register reliable "positive" results with recent use episodes.  
37 Research is also needed to evaluate whether there are differences in clearance based on the route of  
38 cannabis administration.

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40 Workplace drug testing is practiced broadly in the United States in both the Federal Government and the  
41 private sector. More than 17 million people over age 18 were illicit drug users in 2007, according to the  
42 U.S. Department of Labor, and more than 75 percent were currently employed. Drug use can contribute to  
43 workplace accidents and cause an increase in absenteeism. Thus, it is clear that drug testing is necessary  
44 to maintain a safe, drug-free workplace. Although urine is the only biological specimen currently approved  
45 for use in the Federal workplace program, oral fluid is tested for drugs in the private sector, and there is  
46 interest in adding oral fluid as an alternate test matrix in the Federal Program. Prior to adopting oral fluid in  
47 the Federal Program, additional validity testing is required.

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49 THC is reliably found in oral fluid following smoked cannabis and oral ingestion of extracted active  
50 constituents (e.g. dronabinol), but few studies have been conducted to assess the pharmacokinetic and  
51 pharmacodynamics of different doses of orally consumed intact cannabis (e.g., cannabis-containing  
52 brownies) on drug test results, and no published studies have characterized oral fluid cannabinoid levels  
53 following vaporization of cannabis. Careful analyses of these parameters is required to determine the level  
54 and duration of cannabinoid detection after oral consumption and vaporization, relative to smoked  
55 cannabis via oral fluid testing prior to implementation in workplace settings.

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The present study will be conducted in 3 phases. In Phase 1, we will evaluate the detection of cannabinoids in oral fluid, plasma, hair, and urine for up to 9 days following consumption of a brownie containing one of three possible doses of cannabis containing 10mg, 25mg, or 50mg THC. This design will allow us to assess the effects of cannabis dose on drug detection across a range of biological matrices. In Phase 2, we will conduct a dose-effect evaluation of the subjective, behavioral, and cognitive performance effects of oral cannabis ingestion among study participants at each active dose and following placebo using a within-subject crossover design. In Phase 3, we will evaluate the effects of smoked and vaporized cannabis containing 0mg (placebo), 10mg and 25mg THC doses for direct comparison with the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic outcomes obtained in Phase 2. The result will be a comparative pharmacology and toxicology data set across the most common routes of cannabis administration. This data will be invaluable for informing basic behavioral pharmacology of cannabis, cannabis policy and forensic interpretation of biological specimen analyses as they relate to behavioral outcomes.

Presently, there is considerable interest in inclusion of oral fluid as a test matrix in the US Federal workplace drug-testing program. This study will provide important information on how long various doses of orally consumed cannabis can trigger positive oral fluid (and other biological matrices) drug tests. Additionally, the parallel assessment of cognitive performance and quantitative toxicology testing may help inform guidelines for assessing impairment in suspected "drugged driving" cases involving oral cannabis use.

**2. Objectives** (include all primary and secondary objectives)

Objective 1: Examine the time course of the effects of orally ingested cannabis on results of drug tests using "native" oral fluid, urine, blood and hair specimens collected from individuals without any recent (past 3 months) cannabis use.

Objective 2: Examine the influence of dose on the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of orally ingested cannabis, and on results of drug tests using "native" oral fluid, urine, blood and hair specimens.

Objective 3: Examine the dose effects of oral cannabis on subjective, physiological, and cognitive performance assessments, and correlate these outcomes with quantitative biomarkers in multiple biological matrices.

Objective 4: Determine the comparative pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of oral, smoked, and vaporized cannabis.

**3. Background** (briefly describe pre-clinical and clinical data, current experience with procedures, drug or device, and any other relevant information to justify the research)

Understanding the pharmacokinetics of cannabis and comparative pharmacodynamics effects is important for a number of reasons. First, the pharmacokinetic profile of cannabis is essential to understanding and interpreting toxicology testing for detection of use. Detection of cannabis use is important for the conduct of controlled clinical trials of treating cannabis use disorders and for workplace and roadside drug testing programs. Establishing behavioral and subjective effect profiles in parallel with pharmacokinetics will be important for determining biological concentrations associated with intoxication/impairment and distinguishing between acute/recent use and residual levels of cannabinoids from long-term use. Such data is important for advising regulations related to driving under the influence, and can be used to reinforce early abstinence behavior in patients engaging in a quit attempt in a formal treatment setting.

In substance abuse treatment programs, contingency management (CM) is an effective, evidence-based, treatment based on the principles of behavior analysis. Patients trying to quit are provided rewards for providing objective evidence of drug abstinence. Typically, this is done using urine drug testing, and for substances like cocaine, tobacco, and opiates, this is very effective. Using CM for the treatment of

111 cannabis use disorders is more difficult because cannabis remains detectable at high levels for much  
112 longer periods of time after use, and may last longer depending on the route of administration. Research  
113 is needed to determine whether biological matrices other than urine have a shorter window of detection  
114 following long-term chronic use, but still register reliable "positive" results with recent use episodes.

116 Workplace drug testing is practiced broadly in the United States in both the Federal Government and the  
117 private sector. More than 17 million people over age 18 were illicit drug users in 2007, according to the  
118 U.S. Department of Labor, and more than 75 percent were currently employed. Drug use can contribute to  
119 workplace accidents and cause an increase in absenteeism. Thus, it is clear that drug testing is necessary  
120 to maintain a safe, drug-free workplace. Although urine is the only biological specimen currently approved  
121 for use in the Federal workplace program, oral fluid is tested for drugs in the private sector. In addition,  
122 there is interest in adding oral fluid as an alternate test matrix in the Federal Program.

124 Although urine has been the predominant specimen of choice for conducting drug tests, it has clearly  
125 defined collection weaknesses that have been recognized since its first use. Drug abusers have found  
126 ways to foil the drug test in a variety of innovative ways. Prior to showing up for a drug test, drug abusers  
127 know that by "water-loading" they may escape detection by providing a highly dilute specimen thereby  
128 lowering drug concentrations below detection thresholds (1). A second dilution method is simply adding  
129 fluid to the specimen during collection. However, laboratories have become adept at detecting a "dilute"  
130 specimen; therefore, many drug abusers take additional precautions to improve their chances of escaping  
131 detection. Many commercial products are now available that can be added to urine during collection,  
132 thereby adulterating the specimen and producing a false negative result when tested.

134 The use of oral fluid as a test matrix may overcome some of the weaknesses found in the urine drug  
135 testing program. Oral fluid is primarily saliva and is easily collected with an absorptive device placed in the  
136 mouth or collection of "spit" in a sterile container. Collection takes only a few minutes and the collector  
137 observes the entire process from start to finish, thus eliminating attempts by the donor to beat the test.  
138 Oral fluid testing preserves individual privacy while allowing for direct observation without embarrassment  
139 (2). If an additional specimen is desired, either simultaneous collection or sequential collection can be part  
140 of the routine procedure. Oral fluid collections also eliminate gender collection problems and "shy bladder"  
141 issues associated with urine collection.

143 Salivary glands on the cheek and under the tongue supply the major fluid component to oral fluid. These  
144 glands have high blood flow; consequently drugs migrate rapidly from blood to salivary glands and appear  
145 in saliva within minutes of drug administration (3). For many of the major drugs of abuse, clinical studies  
146 have demonstrated parallel drug/metabolite relationships between oral fluid and blood. Thus, oral fluid  
147 serves as a "window" into the body for most drugs. Detection times for drugs in oral fluid tend to be similar  
148 or longer than detection times in blood but generally shorter than in urine. A review of detection times of  
149 drugs of abuse in blood, urine and oral fluid, concluded that drugs can be detected for 5 to 48 hours in oral  
150 fluid as compared to 1.5 to 4 days in urine following a single drug dose and for a week or longer following  
151 chronic drug use (4).

152 Hair is another type of biological matrix that can be tested for drugs. Head hair grows at an average rate of  
153 1.3 cm/month although there is some variation according to sex, age and ethnicity. There are multiple  
154 possible pathways for drug incorporation into hair including: 1) passive diffusion from blood into the hair  
155 follicle; 2) excretion onto the surface of hair from sweat and sebum; 3) passage from skin to hair; and 4)  
156 from external contamination. Drug entering hair via blood from the capillary plexus of the follicle is not  
157 detectable by standard hair cutting methods until hair grows to the skin surface. In controlled dosing  
158 studies with cocaine and codeine, these drugs were detectable in "unwashed" human head hair  
159 approximately eight days after the first drug administration (5). Environmental contamination of hair also  
160 can occur and confounds interpretation of drug tests involving hair.

161 Cannabis (marijuana) is the most commonly used illicit drug worldwide. Rates of use have been  
162 increasing in recent years, corresponding with greater social acceptability, decreased perceived harm,  
163 increased use of "medical marijuana", and legalization in some jurisdictions. The principal psychoactive

164 constituent of cannabis is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC also is found in pharmaceutical  
165 preparations, e.g., dronabinol, a light yellow resinous oil insoluble in water and formulated in sesame oil.  
166 The primary route of administration of cannabis is by smoking, but ingestion of cannabis products as  
167 foodstuffs is not uncommon. THC appears rapidly in plasma following the smoking of marijuana (6). Oral  
168 ingestion generally produces lower blood concentrations and delays in time to peak effects (7,8). The  
169 highly lipophilic nature of THC allows rapid tissue uptake with concomitant decreases in plasma. THC  
170 appears to be released slowly from tissue resulting in a prolonged half-life of THC and metabolites. THC  
171 is metabolized by hydroxylation to an active metabolite, 11-hydroxy-THC, which in turn, is oxidized to 11-  
172 nor-9-carboxy- $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THCCOOH). THCCOOH is excreted in urine as the water-  
173 soluble glucuronic acid conjugate.

174 THC is found in oral fluid following smoked (9,10) and oral ingestion (11) of cannabis. THCCOOH is also  
175 found in oral fluid at very low concentrations. Based on evidence to date, it appears that THC is present in  
176 oral fluid primarily as a result of deposition in the oral cavity, rather than from transfer from blood (12).  
177 Following ingestion of hemp oil liquid containing THC and capsules of dronabinol, positive oral fluid tests  
178 for THC did not occur (13), but it is unknown whether or not deposition occurs after consuming cannabis  
179 plant material orally, such as via a cannabis brownie. Also lacking in the published literature are careful  
180 studies in which the dose effects of orally administered and vaporized cannabis are characterized in oral  
181 fluid, including a full time course evaluation.

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183 Evaluation of dose effects is important because the potency of cannabis has risen steadily over the last 15  
184 years. ElSohly, et al. reported the mean  $\Delta^9$ -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) of all confiscated cannabis  
185 preparations to be 8.8% in 2008. Currently, the average potency is about 10% THC, compared to 1983  
186 when it was less than 4%. Consequently, many of the older clinical studies that formed the knowledge  
187 basis for interpretation of drug tests are outdated and need to be repeated with the higher potency  
188 cannabis that is representative of current use. The stronger cannabis is of particular concern because of  
189 the higher THC concentrations. While experienced cannabis users may limit their intake of potent  
190 cannabis, young and inexperienced users may not moderate their intake and possibly suffer from  
191 dysphoria, paranoia, irritability and other negative effects. This may be particularly true with orally  
192 consumed cannabis since it is much more difficult to self-titrate to a desired dose, as peak effects occur a  
193 considerable amount of time after oral administration.

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195 Presently, there is considerable interest in inclusion of oral fluid as a test matrix in the US Federal  
196 workplace drug-testing program, and as an alternative to urine drug testing in clinics conducting controlled  
197 research in the treatment of cannabis use disorders. This study will provide important information on the  
198 time course of cannabis triggering positive oral fluid (and other biological matrices) drug test results  
199 following oral consumption, and inhalation of smoked and vaporized cannabis. Additionally, the parallel  
200 assessment of cognitive performance and quantitative toxicology testing may help inform guidelines for  
201 assessing impairment in suspected "drugged driving" cases involving suspected cannabis use across  
202 different routes of administration.

#### 203 204 205 **4. Study Procedures**

- 206 a. Study design, including the sequence and timing of study procedures  
207 (distinguish research procedures from those that are part of routine care).

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209 Protocol Overview. The proposed study will be conducted at the Johns Hopkins Behavioral Pharmacology  
210 Research Unit (BPRU) and the Johns Hopkins Bayview Clinical Research Unit (CRU). Participants will  
211 complete the study in 3 separate phases. Phase 1 will be a 9-day session, consisting of a 6-day (130  
212 hour) residential stay at the CRU and a 3-day outpatient period. The purpose of Phase 1 is to fully  
213 characterize the pharmacokinetics of oral cannabis at 3 different active cannabis doses (conditions 1-3  
214 below) in "native" oral fluid, whole blood, urine and hair. Phase 2 will consist of 4 outpatient sessions  
215 conducted at the BPRU, each separated by at least one week. The purpose of Phase 2 is to characterize  
216 the pharmacodynamic dose-effects of oral cannabis (conditions 1-4 below) using a placebo controlled  
217 within-subject crossover design.

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- Condition 1: A chocolate brownie containing approximately 10mg of THC (prepared with 100mg of cannabis that contains approximately 10.0% THC).
  - Condition 2: A chocolate brownie containing approximately 25mg of THC (prepared with 250mg of cannabis that contains approximately 10.0% THC).
  - Condition 3: A chocolate brownie containing approximately 50mg of THC (prepared with 500mg of cannabis that contains approximately 10.0% THC).
  - Condition 4 (Placebo): A chocolate brownie containing 0mg of THC (prepared with 250mg of cannabis from which THC and other psychoactive cannabinoids have been extracted).

227 Phase 3 will consist of 6 outpatient sessions conducted at the BPRU, each separated by 1 week, and  
228 following the same protocol as Phase 2. In Phase 3, cannabis plant material containing 0 mg, 10mg, and  
229 25 mg will be smoked and vaporized by study participants.

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231 For Study Phase 1, research volunteers will be recruited until each active dose condition (Conditions 1-3)  
232 is administered to 6 unique study participants (Total N = 18; N = 6 per dose condition). Immediately  
233 before (baseline) and following each exposure, a battery of assessments including biological fluid  
234 collection and testing, subjective questionnaire administration, and performance testing will be conducted  
235 for all study participants. Post-exposure testing will be conducted in two phases: a 6-day (130 hour)  
236 residential stay, and a 3-day outpatient period, for a total of 9 days. Participants who drop out of the study  
237 prior to completion of the residential study period will be considered "incomplete" and replaced. Data from  
238 Phase 1 will be used to complete Objectives 1 and 2 of the study.

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240 For Study Phase 2, research volunteers will be recruited until up to 18 participants have completed each  
241 of the four study sessions (received Conditions 1-4). Participants who successfully complete Phase 1 will  
242 be invited to complete Phase 2. In Phase 2, participants will complete four outpatient study sessions,  
243 lasting approximately 10 hours each, separated by at least one week. Oral cannabis doses will be  
244 administered in a randomized order so that a full dose-ranging crossover is achieved for each participant.  
245 Similar to Phase 1, a battery of assessments including biological fluid (oral fluid, whole blood and urine)  
246 collection and testing, subjective questionnaire administration, and performance testing will be conducted  
247 at baseline and for 8 hours post-drug administration for all study participants. A wireless wearable  
248 electrocardiogram monitor will be used to continuously record cardiac signals for assessment of  
249 autonomic signatures of cannabis in each session. Phase 2 will be used to complete Objective #3 of the  
250 study.

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252 For Study Phase 3, research volunteers will be recruited until up to 18 participants have completed each  
253 of the six study sessions. Participants who successfully complete Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 will be invited  
254 to complete Phase 3. In Phase 3, participants will complete six outpatient study sessions, lasting  
255 approximately 10 hours each, separated by at least one week. Sessions will be blocked such that the  
256 three doses of cannabis will be smoked in sequential sessions and vaporized in sequential sessions. The  
257 order of smoked versus vaporized administration will be counterbalanced across participants. Doses  
258 within each route of administration block will be administered in a double blind and random order. Route  
259 of administration will not be blinded. Similar to Phases 1 and 2, a battery of assessments including  
260 biological fluid (oral fluid, whole blood and urine) collection and testing, subjective questionnaire  
261 administration, and performance testing will be conducted at baseline and for 8 hours post-drug  
262 administration for all study participants. A wireless wearable electrocardiogram monitor will be used to  
263 continuously record cardiac signals for assessment of autonomic signatures of cannabis in each session.  
264 Phase 3 will be used to complete Objective #4 of the study.

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267 There are several reasons to conduct the study in 3 separate study phases. First, to achieve the  
268 pharmacokinetic objectives (Objectives 1 and 2), a lengthy residential stay (6 days) and total period of  
269 assessment (9 days) is required, which is associated with significant cost and participant burden. The  
270 residential stay will ensure that participants are not exposed to additional cannabis during the period of  
271 evaluation, and the total time of 9-days will ensure that we get the full time course of detection across

272 biological matrices. Because we are only recruiting participants who have not used cannabis for at least 3  
273 months at the time of study enrollment (and have no detectable cannabinoids in bio-specimens), there  
274 would be no value in conducting a 9-day pharmacokinetic evaluation of participants following  
275 administration of placebo. In order to properly achieve the pharmacodynamic objectives (Objectives 3 and  
276 4), on the other hand, placebo drug administration is required to properly interpret drug effects and  
277 eliminate effects of expectancy and non-pharmacological factors (e.g. fatigue, hunger, etc.). In addition,  
278 due to individual variability in pharmacodynamics outcomes (e.g. subjective ratings of drug effects and  
279 cognitive ability), statistical power to detect differences between doses is significantly increased when  
280 using a within-subjects design versus a between subjects design. However, pharmacodynamic  
281 assessments require a shorter period of evaluation compared with complete pharmacokinetic evaluation  
282 because the time course of intoxication is approximately 4-6 hours, but biological detection may last for  
283 several days. Thus, the pharmacodynamic evaluation sessions can be conducted repeatedly within a  
284 much shorter time frame and with less time between sessions.

285 Participants. We will recruit and consent up to 40 research volunteers in order to obtain 18 study  
286 completers for each study phase (Total of 120 volunteers and 54 study completers total). We anticipate  
287 that some participants may drop out of the study before completion. It is estimated that we will need to  
288 enroll 24 participants to achieve 18 completers in each study phase. Those who complete the 6-day  
289 inpatient study phase will be considered evaluable for Phase 1, those who complete all 4 sessions of  
290 Phase 2, and those who complete at least all 3 doses of one route of administration in Phase 3 will be  
291 considered evaluable. We anticipate that most Phase 1 study completers will elect to complete Phase 2,  
292 and most participants who complete Phase 2 will elect to complete Phase 3, but, if needed, separate  
293 individuals will be screened to participate only in Phase 2 or Phase 3 in order to reach the completion  
294 target. Volunteers who drop out prior to completing the inpatient stay in Phase 1 or who do not complete  
295 the required number of sessions in Phase 2 will be replaced.

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298 The target demographic for study participation are healthy adults who: 1) have a history of intentionally  
299 consuming cannabis, 2) have not used cannabis in the past month (desire is to have participants free of  
300 cannabinoids in biological matrices at the time of initial drug administration), and 3) who are not currently  
301 dependent on or seeking treatment for use of cannabis or other psychoactive drugs.

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303 Participant recruitment. Participants will be recruited into the study via media advertising (e.g. newspaper,  
304 internet) and word-of-mouth communication. Advertisements will seek healthy adults who occasionally  
305 use cannabis and are not currently trying to quit. Interested participants will receive a brief screening over  
306 the telephone and will be scheduled for an in-person assessment if they meet initial eligibility criteria.

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308 Prior to the in-person assessment, written informed consent to administer the assessment will be  
309 obtained. The assessment will be comprised of interviews and self-report surveys that provide participant  
310 information regarding health status including physical, mental health, and recreational drug use history.  
311 Urine specimens will be obtained and tested for evidence of recent use of commonly abused drugs.  
312 Participants must test negative for metabolites of THC, the primary psychoactive constituent of cannabis,  
313 and self report no cannabis use during the prior month. Participants must provide a government-issued  
314 photo ID confirming they are 18-45 years old, report prior use of cannabis at least once in their lifetime,  
315 and report no allergies to any of the ingredients used to prepare the brownies (e.g., chocolate, egg, wheat,  
316 etc.). Study participants will also undergo a physical exam including clinical chemistry, hematology,  
317 serology, and serum pregnancy test (females only). An electrocardiogram (EKG) reading will be obtained  
318 and reviewed by a physician or nurse practitioner to assess current cardiovascular health. Additionally,  
319 participants will be required to demonstrate that they can expectorate at least 3 mL of "native" oral fluid  
320 (saliva) over a 5-minute period. Those who appear eligible for participation will receive training on the  
321 study assessment measures (e.g. exposure to subjective questionnaires and cognitive performance  
322 tasks). Participants who successfully complete Phase 1 of the study will be invited to participate in Phase  
323 2, and those who complete Phase 1 and/or 2 will be invited to participate in Phase 3. Separate written  
324 informed consent to participate will be obtained for all study phases. If more than 60 days passes  
325 between participation in Phase 1 and Phase 2, Phase 2 and Phase 3, or between any individual sessions  
326 in Phases 2 or 3, participants will be re-screened for eligibility to continue.

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**Experimental Session Procedures.** The same general study procedures will be used for all 3 study phases for ease of comparison. For all study sessions, participants will be scheduled to arrive early in the morning on the day of cannabis exposure. All participants will complete a breath alcohol test on arrival. Participants with a positive BAL will be immediately discharged from the study. Urine drug and pregnancy testing will then be conducted for all participants to test for evidence of recent illicit drug use (e.g. cannabis, cocaine, opioids) and pregnancy. Volunteers must have negative urine drug screens on the day of the cannabis exposure session to participate. During Phases 2 and 3, the one-week minimum interval between sessions should be sufficient for eliminating cannabinoids between test days in such a manner that positive urine drug screens from the prior study exposure is not a concern. Participants will be fed a standardized low fat breakfast (e.g. toast and jam) each morning prior to cannabis administration. Participants will wear a cardiac signal recording device on their chest.

**Baseline Assessments.** Prior to cannabis administration, baseline oral fluid, urine, and blood will be obtained from all participants. A baseline hair specimen will also be obtained in Phase 1. Baseline cardiovascular, subjective, and performance assessments will also be conducted (see below for details), and the TLFB will be conducted to record substance use since the last study visit (intake assessment or prior to experimental session). Concomitant medications, including vitamins and herbal supplements taken within 14 days prior to experimental session will be recorded. Changes in medication occurring between the screening assessment and experimental session will be reviewed by a study investigator and medical staff prior to cannabis administration to ensure the volunteer is still eligible to participate.

**Cannabis Exposure.** After baseline assessments are completed, participants will self-administer cannabis measured to produce targeted THC doses of 0, 10mg, 25mg, or 50mg. In Phase 1, participants will be randomized to receive one of the 3 active cannabis doses (10, 25, or 50mg THC) administered in cannabis containing brownies. In Phase 2, participants will receive each of the 4 doses in a cannabis containing brownie (one per session) in a randomized order. In Phase 3, dried cannabis will be smoked using a small commercial pipe. Placebo (<1% THC) and active (10% THC) cannabis will be prepared by the BPRU pharmacy such that the same volume of cannabis will deliver 0 mg, 10 mg, or 25 mg of THC across the three dosing sessions (placebo and active cannabis will be blended together to create each dose). Using the same cannabis preparations, dried cannabis will also be administered via commercial vaporizer. We will use The Volcano (Storz and Bickel, GmbH & Company (Oakland, CA), a vaporizer that has become the standard for controlled cannabis research involving vaporization. The Volcano is an approved medical device in several countries including Canada and Germany) and meets U.S. regulatory standards for an electric medical device. It has been demonstrated to reliably deliver doses of THC from dried cannabis. Either a pipe or vaporizer, filled by the pharmacy with the appropriate dose, will be dispensed to study participants for self-administration. On smoking days, they will be instructed to smoke the entire contents of the pipe. For vaporization sessions, The Volcano will be used to vaporize the entire dose into a balloon, the contents of which will be inhaled completely by the study participant. Cannabis brownies will be prepared using individual baking trays for each study participant. Baking will occur using a small oven located in the BPRU pharmacy and a commercial brownie mix (e.g. Duncan Hines Double Fudge Brownie Mix). The mix will be prepared according to manufacturer's instructions, with a measured dose of finely ground cannabis added to a portion the brownie batter mixture sufficient to make one cannabis brownie. The left over brownie mix will be discarded. Preparing brownies individually in this manner will allow us to ensure that cannabis doses are exact (vs. preparing multiple brownies at once where some error in plant matter distribution throughout the batter mixture is a possibility). Dose assignment will be conducted by the BPRU pharmacy in a manner that most balances gender, BMI, and race/ethnicity across dose conditions in Phase 1. This is not a concern for Phases 2 or 3 because they are within-subject crossover studies. Study participants and research staff will be blind to dose assignment. Participants will be provided with cannabis and drinking water approximately one hour after finishing their standardized low fat breakfast, and will be instructed that they need to self-administer the cannabis (eat brownie or inhale smoked/vaporized plant material) within 5 minutes. The conclusion of cannabis consumption will be considered the "0 hour" by which remaining protocol assessments will be scheduled. Cannabis smoking and vaporization will occur in a specially ventilated room in the BPRU

381 designed for the conduct of research with smoked/inhaled drugs that minimizes staff exposure to second-  
382 hand smoke/vapor.

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384 For the remainder of the study, participants will complete a battery of assessments that includes biological  
385 specimen collection, subjective ratings on computerized questionnaires and cognitive performance. The  
386 period of evaluation for Phase 1 will be a single session lasting 9 consecutive days (6 days residential, 3  
387 days outpatient). The period of evaluation for Phases 2 and 3 will be 4 and 6 outpatient sessions  
388 respectively, each lasting approximately 10 hours and separated by at least 7 days. Use of tobacco  
389 products will not be allowed during the study. Study participants who regularly use tobacco products will  
390 be provided nicotine patch upon request.

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392 **Phase 1 Inpatient Discharge.** During Phase 1, participants will be discharged after completing final  
393 residential assessments (130 hours post-exposure). This is well past the time that any intoxicating effects  
394 of cannabis will have subsided (intoxication following oral cannabis/THC rarely exceeds a 6 hour time  
395 course). In cases in which a study participant indicates the desire to be discharged from the study early,  
396 research staff will review the self-reported rating of "drug effect" on the most recent subjective drug effect  
397 assessment and conduct a brief interview with the participant prior to discharge. If the participant reports  
398 a drug effect or exhibits behavior indicative of impairment/intoxication, the participant will be asked to  
399 remain at the BPRU/CRU until the drug effects subside and they can pass a field sobriety test. Taxi  
400 transportation home will be provided upon request or at the discretion of the research staff.

401  
402 **Phase 1 Outpatient Observation Period.** Following discharge from the CRU, participants will be asked  
403 to return to BPRU/CRU once per day on 3 consecutive days in order to provide one urine and one oral  
404 fluid specimen at each visit.

405  
406 **Phase 2 and 3 Outpatient Discharge.** Participants will be discharged after completing final assessments  
407 (approximately 8 hours post-exposure). This is expected to exceed the time course of intoxicating effects  
408 (intoxication following oral cannabis/THC rarely exceeds a 6 hour time course and inhaled cannabis  
409 effects usually resolve in 3-4 hours). If a study participant indicates the desire to be discharged from the  
410 study early, BPRU medical staff will review the self-reported rating of "drug effect" on the most recent  
411 subjective drug effect assessment and conduct a brief interview with the participant prior to discharge. If  
412 the participant reports a drug effect or exhibits behavior indicative of impairment/intoxication, the  
413 participant will be asked to remain at the BPRU until the drug effect subsides and they can pass a field  
414 sobriety test. All participants will be instructed not to drive home and to make alternative transportation  
415 arrangements. If a participant fails to arrange a ride, taxi transportation home will be coordinated by study  
416 staff and provided free of charge.

417  
418 Study Measures. A battery of measures will be used to assess participant characteristics and drug effects  
419 during the study.

420  
421 **Screening.** During the laboratory screening assessment, a battery of measures will be administered to  
422 collect background demographic data (age, gender, self-reported race and ethnicity, height, and weight)  
423 and to determine study eligibility (e.g. Medical History Interview, Drug-History Questionnaire, and Time-  
424 line Follow-Back (TLFB)). A physical examination will be performed on each subject during the Screening  
425 Visit. All major organ systems, including head, eyes, ears, nose, and throat (HEENT); cardiovascular  
426 system; lungs; abdomen (liver/spleen); extremities; skin; central nervous system (CNS); musculoskeletal  
427 system, and general appearance. A 12-lead EKG will be conducted to ascertain cardiovascular health  
428 and biological specimens will be tested for routine clinical chemistry, hematology, serology, serum  
429 pregnancy test (females only), and for evidence of recent illicit drug use.

430  
431 **Experimental Sessions.** In Phase 1, vital signs (heart rate, systolic blood pressure (SBP), diastolic blood  
432 pressure (DBP)) will be measured in the seated position at baseline, 10 minutes after ingestion (time  
433 participants finish consuming brownie and rinse with water) and 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 22, 26, 30,  
434 34, 46, 50, 54, 58, 70, 74, 78, 82, 94, 98, 102, 106, 118, 122, 126, and 130 hours post exposure. Data  
435 collection for Phases 2 and 3 will be identical to that for Phase 1 except that assessments will stop at 8



436 hours post exposure.

437  
438 For Phase 1, blood sampling (10ml per specimen) will occur at baseline, 10 minutes after ingestion, and  
439 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 22, 26, 30, 34, 46, 50, 54, 58, 70, 74, 78, 82, 94, 98, 102, 106, 118, 122,  
440 126, and 130 hours post exposure. Data collection for Phases 2 and 3 will be identical to that for Phase 1  
441 except that assessments will stop at 8 hours post exposure. Participants will have an indwelling  
442 intravenous catheter inserted prior to the start of the exposure session. Ten milliliters of blood will be  
443 collected by catheter at designated times into vacutainer tubes (gray top). Blood will be divided in half and  
444 transferred to two plastic cryotubes, labeled and stored frozen at -20 °C until shipped frozen on dry ice to a  
445 designated laboratory for analysis. The maximum amount of blood to be collected during Phase 1 is  
446 320ml, which is about two-thirds the amount typically collected during a routine blood donation (473ml).  
447 During Phases 2 and 3, 110ml of blood will be obtained per session, for a total of 440ml of blood across  
448 the 4 outpatient sessions in Phase 2 and 660ml of blood across 6 sessions in Phase 3. Due to the volume  
449 of blood collected, we will require a minimum of 30 days to pass between participation in study phases.  
450 This duration of time is adequate for blood to be replaced by healthy adults.

451  
452 For Phase 1, oral fluid sampling will occur at baseline, 10 minutes after ingestion, and 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4,  
453 5, 6, 8, 12, 22, 26, 30, 34, 46, 50, 54, 58, 70, 74, 78, 82, 94, 98, 102, 106, 118, 122, 126, and 130 hours  
454 post exposure. Three additional specimens will be obtained during the outpatient visits on Days 7, 8, and  
455 9 after ingestion. Data collection for Phases 2 and 3 will be identical to that for Phase 1 except that  
456 assessments will stop at 8 hours post exposure. Collection of native oral fluid specimens will be  
457 performed by expectoration for a period of up to 5 minutes per sample into a labeled, 15-mL plastic  
458 centrifuge tube. No food or drink will be allowed during collection and for a period of 10 minutes prior to  
459 each scheduled collection. Each specimen will be sealed with a plastic screw cap and stored refrigerated  
460 until shipped to a designated laboratory.

461  
462 A pre-dose urine sample (minimum of 60 mL) will be collected immediately preceding oral cannabis  
463 administration. Participants will be asked to attempt to void immediately after cannabis consumption and  
464 at 1, 2, 3, and 4 hrs post exposure. If participants need to urinate additionally over the first 4-hour period,  
465 their specimens will be labeled and stored as separate specimens. After the first four hours, pooled urine  
466 collections will be made over the following post-exposure intervals; 4-6 hours, 6-8 hours, 8-10 hours, 10-  
467 12 hours, 12-22 hours, 22-26 hours, 26-30 hours, and 30-34 hours, etc., up until the 130 hour time point  
468 for Phase 1 and stop after 8 hours post exposure for Phase 2 and 3 sessions. For Phase 1, three  
469 additional specimens will be obtained during the outpatient visits on Days 7, 8, and 9 after ingestion.  
470 During each collection period, either at designated times or as needed over the scheduled collection  
471 intervals, each participant will be asked to void their bladder into empty, clean, plastic collection  
472 containers, labeled with their identification number, date, and collection time. Each urine sample collected  
473 will be transferred to a labeled plastic pooling vessel (collection container provided with each collection kit)  
474 of adequate capacity for each scheduled collection interval. The plastic pooling vessels (with cumulative  
475 urine per interval) will be kept on ice or refrigerated by the study personnel during each collection interval.  
476 The volume of each collection pool will be recorded and 2 urine aliquots (minimum of 30 ml each; labeled  
477 #1 and #2) will be transferred to polypropylene bottles and frozen.

478  
479 During Phase 1, participants will provide two hair specimens, one prior to cannabis ingestion and the  
480 second prior to discharge on the last residential study day (approximately hour 126). Hair specimens will  
481 be collected from the vertex area of the head. The collector holds strands of hair and cuts them with  
482 scissors near the root area (approximately 1-2 mm near the scalp). Approximately 80 mg of hair should be  
483 collected (80-100 hair strands). If the hair is sufficiently long (six centimeters (cm) or longer), the  
484 orientation of the cut hair should be maintained and identified. For example, if the hair is approximately 6  
485 cm long, the collector should grasp the bundle of hair (80-100 hair strands) between their fingers and cut  
486 the hair bundle close to the scalp. The collector places the hair bundle in a piece of aluminum foil, folds  
487 the foil to secure the hair in the foil pouch, and marks the root end of the foil "root" and the other end "tip".  
488 The foil pouch will be placed in a small plastic bag, labeled, and stored in the refrigerator until shipped to  
489 the analytical laboratory. For very curly hair, it may be difficult to maintain root/tip orientation. In these  
490 instances, the same collection procedures will be carried out with the exception of designation of "root/tip"

491 orientation of the sample. Hair samples will not be collected during Phase 2.

492  
493 The BioPatch cardiac monitor (data sheet in supplementary information) is a FDA Class 2 Medical Device  
494 available by prescription or for research purposes by IRB approval (supplementary data sheet has been  
495 added to the eIRB application). The device will be attached to study participants via two disposable  
496 electrodes. Participants will be instructed on how and where to place the sensor on their chest and  
497 research staff will ensure it is properly placed. The sensor will be applied at baseline and will be worn  
498 continuously throughout each session. The device will log 1 lead electrocardiogram and 3-axis  
499 accelerometer data to memory. After the device is removed from the participant the data will be uploaded  
500 to a computer for analysis.

501  
502 A 15-item Drug Effect Questionnaire will be used to obtain subjective ratings of intoxication. Individual  
503 items include ratings of drug effects (i.e. drug effect, good effect, bad effect) and behavioral/mood states  
504 often associated with marijuana intoxication (i.e. relaxed, paranoid, hungry/have munchies). Participants  
505 will rate each item using a 100mm visual analog scale (VAS) anchored with "not at all" on one end and  
506 "extremely" on the other. This questionnaire will be administered at baseline, immediately after exposure  
507 and 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 hours post exposure. It is expected that all subjective drug effects will  
508 subside by Hour 8, but if a participant reports a drug effect beyond this time the questionnaire will continue  
509 to be administered at other time points until the participant no longer reports a drug effect.

510  
511 Performance assessments will be conducted on aspects of cognitive/psychomotor functioning known to be  
512 sensitive to the acute effects of smoked marijuana and relevant to functioning in the workplace and/or in  
513 operating a motor vehicle or heavy machinery. All participants will be trained on the performance tasks to  
514 a stable baseline level during the screening session. Tasks include: 1) Divided Attention Task (DAT):  
515 Participants simultaneously perform two different simple tasks based on visual stimuli presented on a  
516 computer screen. Primary outcome is the accuracy with which they perform the two tasks; 2) Digit Symbol  
517 Substitution Task (DSST): Participants must hand type patterns presented to them on a computer screen  
518 for 90 seconds. Primary outcomes are accuracy and total number of patterns completed in the allotted  
519 time; and 3) a computerized version of the Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task (PASAT): Participants are  
520 provided a string of single digit numbers on the computer and must add the total of the prior to integers  
521 presented and respond by selecting the answer using the computer mouse on the screen. The primary  
522 outcome is a summed score of the number of correct trials during the task. Performance assessments will  
523 be completed at baseline and 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 hours post exposure.

524  
525 b. Study duration and number of study visits required of research participants.

526  
527 All participants will complete a visit for screening evaluation. Completion of Phase 1 requires a 6-day  
528 residential visit during the conduct of the experimental session and 3 outpatient study visits on three  
529 consecutive days following discharge from the 6-day residential visit. Phase 2 requires 4 outpatient drug  
530 administration sessions, lasting approximately 10 hours each, and spaced at least one week apart. Phase  
531 3 requires 6 outpatient drug administration sessions, lasting approximately 10 hours each, and spaced at  
532 least one week apart. A minimum of one month must elapse between participation in Phases 1 and 2 and  
533 Phases 2 and 3.

534  
535 c. Blinding, including justification for blinding or not blinding the trial, if applicable.

536  
537 Cannabis dose assignment will be blinded in this study, but route of administration will not. It is standard  
538 procedure for appropriate scientific control in studies evaluating dose effects of psychoactive drugs to  
539 blind dose assignment. Blinding of route of administration is not necessary and would be difficult to  
540 manage in this study given the immediacy of effects via inhaled routes and the unpredictable delay in drug  
541 onset effects following oral administration.

542  
543 d. Justification of why participants will not receive routine care or will have current therapy  
544 stopped.

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546 Participants in this study will be healthy volunteers. Routine care for any medical illness that may arise  
547 during participation will not be affected.

- 548  
549 e. Justification for inclusion of a placebo or non-treatment group.

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551 A placebo dosing session will be included to help interpret active drug effects on pharmacodynamic  
552 outcomes. Placebo dosing provides a control for expectancy effects on subjective reports and cognitive  
553 performance as well as non-pharmacological factors such as fatigue, hunger, and learning effects on  
554 performance tasks. Placebo dosing is standard for research studies involving evaluation of acute drug  
555 effects.

- 556  
557 f. Definition of treatment failure or participant removal criteria.

558  
559 This is not a treatment study. Participants may quit participation at any time of their own volition. The  
560 study investigators will discharge study participants for failing to attend their scheduled session, failure to  
561 follow the protocol requirements, or for other reasons not known at this time.

- 562  
563 g. Description of what happens to participants receiving therapy when study ends or if a  
564 participant's participation in the study ends prematurely.

565  
566 This is not a treatment trial; there is no direct course of therapy related to the participant population being  
567 targeted. We are recruiting healthy adults with experience using cannabis and who are not seeking  
568 treatment for substance use problems. Should any report the desire for treatment they will be referred to  
569 appropriate community service centers. Premature termination of participation may result in the need to  
570 recruit additional research volunteers, but should have no impact on the study volunteer directly.

## 571 572 **5. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria**

573  
574 Participants will meet the following eligibility criteria:

### 575 Inclusion Criteria

- 576 1. Have provided written informed consent
- 577 2. Be between the ages of 18 and 45
- 578 3. Be in good general health based on a physical examination, medical history, vital signs, 12-  
579 lead ECG and screening urine and blood tests
- 580 4. Test negative for recent cannabis use in urine at the screening visit (confirmed by GC/MS  
581 laboratory test) and at clinic admission
- 582 5. Test negative for other drugs of abuse, including alcohol at the screening visit and at clinic  
583 admission
- 584 6. Demonstrate ability to expectorate 3-5 mL of "native" oral fluid over a 5-minute period
- 585 7. Not be pregnant or nursing (if female). All females must have a negative serum pregnancy  
586 test at the screening visit and a negative urine pregnancy test at clinic admission.
- 587 8. Have a body mass index (BMI) in the range of 19 to 36 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- 588 9. Have head hair that is at least 4 cm (approximately one and a half inches) in length on the  
589 back of the head.
- 590 10. Blood pressure at Screening Visit does not exceed a systolic blood pressure (SBP) of 150  
591 mmHg or a diastolic blood pressure (DBP) of 90 mmHg
- 592 11. Have no allergies to any of the ingredients used to prepare cannabis brownies (chocolate,  
593 eggs, wheat, etc.).

### 594 Exclusion Criteria

- 595 1. Non-medical use of psychoactive drugs other than, nicotine, alcohol, or caffeine 3 months  
596 prior to the Screening Visit;
  - 597 2. History of or current evidence of significant medical or psychiatric illness judged by the  
598 investigator to put the participant at greater risk of experiencing an adverse event due to  
599 exposure or completion of other study procedures.
- 600

3. Use of an OTC, systemic or topical drug(s), herbal supplement(s), or vitamin(s) within 14 days of experimental sessions; which, in the opinion of the investigator or sponsor, will interfere with the study result or the safety of the subject.
4. Use of a prescription medication (with the exception of birth control prescriptions) within 14 days of experimental sessions; which, in the opinion of the investigator or sponsor, will interfere with the study result or the safety of the subject.
5. Use of hemp seeds or hemp oil in any form in the past 3 months.
6. Use of dronabinol (Marinol) within the past 6 months.
7. History of xerostomia (dry mouth), or the presence of mucositis, gum infection or bleeding, or other significant oral cavity disease or disorder that in the investigator's opinion may affect the collection of oral fluid samples.
8. History of clinically significant cardiac arrhythmias or vasospastic disease (e.g., Prinzmetal's angina).
9. Abnormal EKG result that in the investigator's opinion is clinically significant.
10. Enrolled in another clinical trial or have received any drug as part of a research study within 30 days prior to dosing.

## 6. Drugs/ Substances/ Devices

- a. The rationale for choosing the drug and dose or for choosing the device to be used.

All cannabis will be obtained specifically for use in this study from the Federal Drug Supply System. During Phases 1 and 2 of the study, cannabis-containing brownies will be provided to and ingested by each study participant. Brownies will contain target THC doses of 0, 10, 25, or 50mg (i.e., 100, 250, or 500mg of cannabis material that is approximately 10% THC by volume; or 250mg cannabis for which THC and other cannabinoids has been extracted). During Phase 3 of the study, dried cannabis will be smoked and vaporized by study participants. In this study phase, THC doses of 0, 10, and 25mg will be administered via both routes. Smoking will occur using a hand-held pipe. Vaporization will be administered using a commercial vaporizer called The Volcano (Storz and Bickel, GmbH & Company (Oakland, CA). To preserve the blind, we will mix active and placebo cannabis so that the same amount of plant material is placed in the pipe and vaporizer at each session. The placebo dose will contain 250mg cannabis for which THC and other cannabinoids has been extracted. The 10mg THC dose will contain 100 mg cannabis with 10% THC and 150mg cannabis for which THC and other cannabinoids has been extracted. The 25mg dose will contain 250mg cannabis with 10% THC. Selection of doses was conducted to balance participant safety and tolerability based on our previous experience while maximizing the likelihood that we will administer doses that approximate current use patterns. The maximal dose (50mg) represents exposure to approximately half of a cannabis cigarette weighing 1 gram and containing 10% THC plant material. Research in our lab and others suggest that this is an average amount for a person to consume. Also, oral cannabis products sold in medical dispensaries often contain 50-100mg THC according to the package labels. A maximal dose of 25mg will be used for the smoked and vaporization routes of administration. This is because initial results from Phase 1 and 2 of the study suggest little difference between the 25 and 50mg doses on most study outcomes. Thus, we will eliminate one dose to reduce the total number of sessions required, and the highest dose will be eliminated because it would likely have an increased rate and severity of side effects compared with the 25mg THC dose.

Potential risks of consuming cannabis in the present study are stomach/gastrointestinal irritation and adverse effects associated with cannabis intoxication. We have considerable experience administering smoked cannabis and oral THC (dronabinol, Marinol) in our laboratory. In prior studies, we have safely administered acute THC doses up to 80mg and daily doses up to 240mg to daily cannabis users without significant adverse events. A minority of study participants reported nausea and discomfort following doses at or above 60mg. A colleague of ours, Dr. Joshua Lile at the University of Kentucky, has administered acute doses up to 90mg THC to weekly cannabis users. In that study, 5 of 7 participants tolerated all doses up to 90mg. Nausea and vomiting occurred in one participant following administration of the 30mg dose and in another participant following a 60mg dose. In a previously published study, Abrams and colleagues (2007) administered THC doses of 0, 7.6mg, 15.3mg, and 30.6mg via smoking and vaporization with The Volcano. Participants in that study were current cannabis users (at least once

656 in the past 30 days), but not heavy/daily users (maximum of 10 cannabis cigarettes or equivalent amount  
657 of plant material in the prior 30 days). All doses in that study were well tolerated. Thus, we believe that  
658 most study volunteers will be able to tolerate the proposed doses in the present study. If initial testing in  
659 this sample of less frequent cannabis users indicates difficulty then we will revise the proposed doses  
660 accordingly. Adverse events beyond nausea and vomiting are unlikely given the relatively safe  
661 pharmacological profile of THC (partial agonist), which has no history of being directly associated with  
662 fatalities. In cases where a participant experiences panic and or paranoid reactions, research staff will  
663 engage the person in relaxation exercises and will suspend research procedures until the volunteer has  
664 regained comfort. These types of effects are typically of short duration. In the case of an extreme  
665 adverse reaction, participants will be taken to the Johns Hopkins Bayview ER for treatment.

- 666
- 667 b. Justification and safety information if FDA approved drugs will be administered for non-FDA  
668 approved indications or if doses or routes of administration or participant populations are  
669 changed.

670 Not applicable to this protocol.

- 671
- 672
- 673 c. Justification and safety information if non-FDA approved drugs without an IND will be  
674 administered.

675 Not applicable to this protocol. An IND has been obtained for the administration of cannabis.

#### 676 **Study Statistics**

- 677
- 678
- 679 a. Primary outcome variable.

680 The primary outcome variable for Phase 1 is the quantitative level of THC and its metabolites in different  
681 biological matrices (blood, oral fluid, urine, hair) from the three different doses of oral cannabis.

682 The primary outcome for Phase 2 is the subjective rating of "drug effect" on the DEQ.

683 The primary outcome variable for Phase 3 is the quantitative levels of THC and its metabolites in oral fluid,  
684 and subjective rating of "Drug Effect" on the DEQ.

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- 689 b. Secondary outcome variables.

690 Secondary outcome variables include subjective drug effect and mood ratings on additional items of the  
691 DEQ, vital signs, and cognitive performance.

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- 695 c. Statistical plan including sample size justification and interim data analysis.

696 The sample size estimation for Phase 1 was based on a confidence interval of 4 ng/mL (proposed oral  
697 fluid cutoff concentration), which requires a minimum of 6 exposed subjects. Oral fluid, blood, urine and  
698 hair specimens will be analyzed by an independent laboratory with validated analytical procedures that are  
699 specific and accurate for measurement of marijuana constituents and related metabolites. Data will be  
700 summarized by calculation of mean concentrations and standard deviation over time for each type of  
701 specimen.

702

703

704 The sample size estimate for Phases 2 and 3 was based on previous work in our laboratory evaluating  
705 dose effects of acute drug administration using a within-subjects design. A meta-analysis was previously  
706 conducted comparing the statistical power of 13 drug effect assessments from six dose-effect studies, with  
707 14 participants each, evaluating a range of abused drugs in our laboratory (14). The analysis showed that  
708 average effect size for primary measures (i.e. subjective drug effect ratings, staff ratings and  
709 behavioral/cognitive performance measures) ranged from approximately 0.87 to 1.0. Based on this  
710 estimate of effect size, the proposed sample size of 18 should be adequate to assess the expected

711 effects. This sample selection methodology has been consistent in our long history of studies investigating  
712 dose-effects comparisons of different drugs, which have demonstrated excellent external validity and have  
713 become the FDA recommended standard for human abuse liability assessment. Subjective drug effect  
714 and mood ratings, vital signs and cognitive performance outcomes will be assessed using multiple  
715 regression analyses appropriate for repeated measures testing based on the final characteristics of the  
716 data set (e.g. normal distribution, skewness, kurtosis).

717  
718 d. Early stopping rules.

719  
720 The study will be stopped if new information is learned that indicates a serious risk to study participants.

## 721 **7. Risks**

722  
723 a. Medical risks, listing all procedures, their major and minor risks and expected frequency.

724  
725 Potential risks of cannabis exposure include dizziness, change in blood pressure, red or irritated eyes,  
726 drowsiness, easy laughing, euphoria, rapid heart rate, dry mouth, jitters, headache, nausea, vomiting,  
727 increased appetite, perceptual difficulties, memory lapse, hallucinations, confusion, depression, paranoid  
728 reaction, depersonalization, and rash. Additional potential risks of orally consuming cannabis are  
729 stomach/gastrointestinal irritation. We feel that the risk of serious adverse events related to cannabis  
730 exposure in this study is minimal, participants are experienced users and the doses we are administering  
731 are within the range by which most participants in our prior studies have had good tolerance to the drug.  
732

733  
734 Venous blood sampling may cause pain, tenderness, bruising, or bleeding at the needle puncture site.  
735 Some subjects may feel transient lightheadedness or dizziness, or lose consciousness (syncope),  
736 because of anxiety and vasovagal reaction. The only risk associated with oral fluid collection is dryness of  
737 the mouth.

738  
739 A further risk is that participants may mistake the proposed studies as treatment or may delay treatment  
740 seeking in order to participate, although this is unlikely since we are targeting occasional users.

741  
742 The Biopatch cardiac sensor should not be worn by subjects with a pacemaker or defibrillators.

743  
744  
745 Breach of confidentiality about self-reported drug use and biological tests indicating recent drug use is also  
746 a risk.

747  
748 b. Steps taken to minimize the risks.

749  
750 Participants are not a "vulnerable population" as defined by human subjects protection guidelines; that is,  
751 they are not minors, pregnant women, under legal coercion or restriction, or mentally impaired. They are  
752 competent adults who provide their voluntary informed consent. Participants will be recruited via media  
753 advertisements and posters that clearly state the nature and intent of the study. The consent process will  
754 inform the participant in detail of the procedures, time involvement, compensation, risk, and treatment  
755 options other than participation in our study. Particular emphasis will be given to providing information  
756 regarding the potential risks involved with taking the study drugs. Volunteers will also be instructed that  
757 they may withdraw from participation at any time without losing any of the compensation that they have  
758 earned to that point.

759  
760 It is unlikely that any adverse event should arise that requires immediate medical or psychiatric treatment.  
761 However, in case of an adverse event, participants will be under the supervision of medical/nursing staff  
762 throughout the study. The medical and nursing staff at BPRU are trained in CPR and mobile emergency  
763 crash carts are available on the same corridor where all experimental procedures will be conducted. The  
764 research facility (BPRU) is located directly across the street from the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical

Center Emergency Department, and, in case of an adverse event, participants will be taken for immediate care. The Principal Investigator will be immediately notified of any serious adverse events that arise.

If participants develop nausea or vomiting after consuming cannabis, study staff will assist the affected participant(s) appropriately and contact a study physician located in the building should the PI and/or study staff decide the participant would benefit from medical attention.

Blood collection risk will be minimized by performing venipuncture while participants are sitting down, and by having them remain under staff observation until it is clear that no acute adverse effects occur as a result of the procedure. The risk of infection is negligible because standard sterile technique will be used. Placement of indwelling venous catheters poses a risk of infection or thrombophlebitis, which increases with duration of placement. This risk is minimized by use of careful sterile technique, having nursing staff check the catheter at least once per shift (with prompt removal if there are clinically significant signs or symptoms such as tenderness, swelling, or redness), and limiting placement to 130 hours. Participants will also have the option of having catheter removed after Day 1 of the study when blood collection frequency is decreased. The risk of anemia is negligible because the total amount of blood to be collected within any 30-day period during the study is less than the amount (473 mL) collected within one hour during a single blood donation session. The amount of blood loss will be readily replaced without harm to study participants.

Individuals with a pace maker or defibrillator will not be given a heart rate monitor to wear during sessions. It is unlikely that any study volunteer with such devices would meet study eligibility requirements.

All advertisements and the informed consent process will clearly indicate that this research is designated only for those not seeking treatment, that participation is not a substitute for treatment, and that participation offers no clinical benefit. They will be clearly informed that they will be asked to ingest cannabis brownies during their participation. Any participant who expresses an interest in receiving immediate treatment for cannabis or other substance use will be referred to a community treatment clinic. If this occurs during the study, their participation in the study will be terminated. As previously described, participants will be instructed that should they withdraw from the study at any point to pursue treatment they will still be compensated for their participation up until that point in the study.

c. Plan for reporting unanticipated problems or study deviations.

The PI will also follow ICH regulations (detailed in *Clinical Safety Data Management, Definitions, and Standards for Expedited Reporting*) regarding reporting of adverse events and all study deviations to the IRB and study sponsor.

d. Legal risks such as the risks that would be associated with breach of confidentiality.

Participants' names will be recorded only on the screening, informed consent, and necessary medical and payment forms. Anonymous participant identification numbers will be used on all other forms and labeling of biological fluids and test results. All information gathered will be kept in locked research staff offices or file cabinets. All medical information obtained will be handled in accordance with HIPAA regulations. Only research staff will have access to participant records. The limits of confidentiality (e.g. suspected child abuse or neglect, or harm to self or others) will be discussed in detail with the participants during the informed consent process. To reduce the likelihood of patient records disclosure we have obtained a Certificate of Confidentiality.

e. Financial risks to the participants.

This study does not involve patients receiving treatment; therefore, the financial risks are minimal. Participants will be fairly compensated for their time and effort in complying with the study protocol.

## 8. Benefits

- 820 a. Description of the probable benefits for the participant and for society.

821  
822 The primary benefit of the proposed research is in the knowledge gained regarding the relative biological,  
823 subjective and behavioral dose effects of exposure to cannabis administered orally, when smoked, or via  
824 vaporization. The knowledge will be used to advise the establishment of new drug testing guidelines  
825 across different biological matrices, and will inform the relevance of oral administration vs. inhalation on  
826 interpretation of workplace or roadside drug testing. The study will also extend the extant literature  
827 investigating the acute dose effects of cannabis, including subjective effects, cognitive performance, and  
828 their correlation with biological cannabinoid levels. Because we anticipate relatively minor risks to these  
829 cannabis experienced study participants, we feel that the proposed research has a positive risk benefit  
830 ratio.

831  
832 **9. Payment and Remuneration**

- 833 a. Detail compensation for participants including possible total compensation, proposed  
834 bonus, and any proposed reductions or penalties for not completing the protocol.

835  
836 All participants will be compensated \$30 for completing the screening assessment. Compensation for full  
837 participation in Phase 1 is \$2450, for Phase 2 is \$1400, and Phase 3 is \$2000. For participants who  
838 complete all 3 study phases \$5880 of total earnings is possible. Compensation of this magnitude is  
839 appropriate given the length and nature of this study.

840  
841

Screening Visit:	\$30
Phase 1 Study Days 1-6:	\$300/day (\$1800 total)
Phase 1 Study Days 7-9:	\$50/day (\$150 total)
Phase 1 Completion Bonus:	\$500
Phase 2_Sessions:	\$300/session (\$1200 total)
Phase 2 Completion Bonus:	\$200
Phase 3_Sessions:	\$300/session (\$1800 total)
<u>Phase 3 Completion Bonus:</u>	<u>\$200</u>
Total Compensation:	\$5880

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852 **10. Costs**

- 853 a. Detail costs of study procedure(s) or drug (s) or substance(s) to participants and identify  
854 who will pay for them.

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856 The only direct costs to the participants will be their transportation to and from Bayview for each study  
857 visit. That cost has been factored into the compensation for participating.

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