

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Academic and Research Excellence Committee
June 12, 2019**

SUBJECT: Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Consider approval of the lead institution for the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 1004.4351, Florida Statutes, authorizes the Board of Governors to designate a State University System institution to lead the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research. The purpose of the consortium is to conduct rigorous scientific research and disseminate such research. The consortium shall include both public and private universities and research must include tracking clinical outcomes, certification standards, dosing standards, routes of administration, efficacy, and side effects; and the study of the effects of smoking marijuana to treat debilitating medical conditions (section 1004.4351, Florida Statutes).

Chapter 2019-1, Laws of Florida, provides \$1.5 million in recurring funds to the Board of Governors to award to the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research established for the 2019-20 fiscal year. The funding will be provided to the lead institution to administer the Consortium consistent with the provisions in section 1004.4351.

Board staff sent out a request for applications in April 2019. Upon review, Board staff is recommending that the Board of Governors authorize the University of Florida (UF) to be the lead institution for the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research.

In its application, UF demonstrated an extensive portfolio of funded projects that encompass research related to clinical outcomes and mechanistic pathways of medical marijuana. The university also has direct experience with the state's medical marijuana program, by collecting treatment plans from ordering physicians (as required by

Florida Statute) so that the university could research the safety and efficacy of low-THC cannabis.

UF is proposing the Consortium include three core pillars of activities: a new and unique data repository, a clinical research core, and a grants program. UF is proposing to create the Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research Repository (MEMORY), which links registry medical marijuana dispensing data with a variety of data sets that allow the longitudinal study of health outcomes, considering dose and routes, and related medication use and associated diseases. Another pillar of this proposed Consortium will be a clinical research core that will provide infrastructure support for prospective studies involving the collection of new data. Third, the university is proposing offering \$600,000 from the state appropriation to award research grants to participating institutions.

Finally, UF plans to reach out to the presidents of all public and private universities in the state to invite their participation. Per statute, each participating university will select a representative for the Consortium's Research Board, who will need to have experience in a medical or scientific field relevant to medical marijuana clinical outcomes research. One core Consortium activity will be to connect researchers in the field, and UF anticipates that researchers from universities with less developed research infrastructure will be able to form new collaborations that can greatly enhance scientific reach and ultimately enhance the state's prominence in the field of medical marijuana clinical outcomes research.

For the fiscal year 2019-20, the Legislature allocated \$1.5 million to the Board of Governors to award to the lead institution of the Consortium for Medical Marijuana Clinical Outcomes Research. If approved by the Academic and Research Excellence Committee, this item requires approval by the full Board of Governors.

Supporting Documentation Included:

University of Florida Application
Ch. 2019-01, Laws of Florida

Facilitators/Presenters:

Governor Alan Levine