Join us for a discussion on the importance of medical marijuana research. As we see public support for medical marijuana continue to rise, we continue to face many federal legislative roadblocks. Hear from the District’s cannabis professionals that work every day to promote marijuana for medicinal use.

Panelists

Michael Correia - the Director of Government Relations at the National Cannabis Industry

Bio: Michael Correia is director of government relations for the National Cannabis Industry Association. His focus is raising awareness and building support for the cannabis industry’s issues on Capitol Hill. In addition, Michael works with other national organizations to increase the cannabis industry profile nationally. Prior to joining NCIA, Michael spent many years working on Capitol Hill, including working for Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA), who retired in 2010, and the House Committee on Resources, serving three different Chairmen. Previously, he was director of federal affairs for the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and senior project manager for the Committee for Responsible Federal Budget. In both positions, he advocated for policies in Congress. A campaign veteran, he has worked and volunteered on numerous political campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels over the past two decades. Michael is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego. A native of San Diego, he resides in Washington, D.C.

2. Gail Rand - CPA, Patient Focused Certified for cultivation, CEO and Patient Advocate for ForwardGro

Bio: Gail Rand is a certified public accountant, serving as Chief Financial Officer and Patient Advocate for ForwardGro, the first licensed entity to cultivate medical cannabis in Maryland.

As a former auditor and consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers and telecommunications companies, Rand has experience in finance, systems, and process improvement.
Rand first immersed herself in medical cannabis advocacy as a parent advocate on behalf of her son who suffers from epilepsy, autism, celiac disease, and ADHD. Since 2013, she has played an integral role in the passing and implementing of the medical cannabis legislation in Maryland. She has been passionately involved in the Maryland cannabis laws and regulations as a co-founder of StopTheSeizures.org. In 2015, she received the Courage Award given by Americans for Safe Access.

In March 2015, Gail began working in the cannabis industry on business plans, applications for licenses, project management, and strategic management. In 2016, Rand became CFO and Patient Advocate for ForwardGro, the first of fifteen companies licensed to cultivate cannabis in Maryland.

3. David T. Mangone, Esq. - Legislative Analyst for Americans for Safe Access

Bio: David T. Mangone, Esq. is the Legislative Analyst for Americans for Safe Access, the largest non-profit in the United States dedicated to advancing legal medical cannabis therapeutics and research. He is a co-author of “Medical Marijuana Access in the United States: A Patient-Focused Analysis of the Patchwork of State Laws,” a publication that analyzes and grades every state’s medical cannabis laws and regulations. David has provided written and oral testimony for the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Department of Justice, and the United States Congress. Prior to joining Americans for Safe Access, David served as a Legislative Fellow for Congressman Charles Rangel (D. N.Y.) where he handled a legislative portfolio that included veterans’ issues, criminal justice reform, taxes, and employment discrimination under the jurisdiction of the House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee. He is admitted to the bar in the District of Columbia and South Carolina.

4. Sue Sisley, MD - President, Scottsdale Research Institute

Bio: Dr. Sue Sisley MD is an Arizona-based physician practicing Internal Medicine and Psychiatry. She works as Medical Director for medical cannabis license holders in 11 different states from Hawaii to Puerto Rico to New York. Sue serves as Site Principal Investigator for the only FDA-approved randomized controlled trial in the world examining safety/efficacy of whole plant marijuana in combat veterans with treatment-resistant post traumatic stress disorder PTSD. Dr. Sisley is on faculty at Colorado State University, recruited for core planning team to organize the CSU "Cannabis Center of Excellence" in Pueblo, Colorado. Dr. Sisley has been a Member of Nevada ILAC Medical Cannabis Commission for the past two years outlining regulations for laboratory testing including limits on pesticides, residual solvents and other guidelines that are currently being used as a model for other states medical cannabis laws.