Marijuana A Cancer Risk

John Hoffman
Dental Tribune International

Smoking marijuana may significantly raise a person’s risk of developing cancers of the head and neck, according to a recent study from UCLA’s Jonsson Cancer Center. Dr. Zuo-Feng Zhang, a professor of epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health, says that marijuana use is often overlooked as a cancer risk, but the drug contains stronger carcinogens than tobacco.

Marijuana is the most popular illegal drug in the U.S., and more than 50 percent of all Americans 12 or older are estimated to have tried it. Zhang and his fellow researchers found that the more marijuana a person smokes, the greater the risk of developing neck and head cancers, and people who use marijuana habitually face much larger risks than non-marijuana smokers whose DNA repair function operates properly.
Dear Reader,

This December marks my fifth year handling the Dental Tribune Asia Pacific Edition as a Managing Editor for Dental Tribune International (DTI). I am honored to have had the opportunity to oversee the development of this newspaper from a mere three editions in 2005 to the ten editions it does now. Over the years I’ve had the pleasure of working with and getting to know my many license partners around the globe as they launched their editions and sought my assistance on editorial matters within the DTI network.

It has been a delight to meet all of our readers over the years as well—either at dental events or via email, phone and fax. The biggest debt I owe, however, is to the authors featured within our pages who have given freely of their time and knowledge, and have educated me about the world of dentistry. To each and every one of you I give my heartfelt thanks for your time and patience.

Like all things in life, change is inevitable, but it is something I have always welcomed due to the new opportunities it brings. Beginning in January 2008, Daniel Zimmermann will take over as Managing Editor for the DTI network of guiding this publication into its sixth year and effecting the positive changes that you will soon see within these pages.

I will happily remain a part of the DTI network as I take on expanded duties for DT America as the Group Editor for a team of five editors and one staff writer. DT America joined the DTI network in 2006 with a DFT U.S. weekly edition and the specialty editions of Endo Tribune, Implant Tribune and Ortho Tribune. As the DTI network continues to grow and meet the needs of our most important ally—our readers—I hope you will continue to send us your feedback about how we are doing no matter which edition you read.

I wish you every bright and beautiful thing as the calendar year comes to a close, and send you my sincerest wishes for good health and a peaceful spirit in the year ahead.

Namaste,

Robin Goodman
Group Editor
Dental Tribune America LLC
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