OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COLORADO CANNABIS RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE

The **Colorado Cannabis Research Roundtable** held this past November was a uniquely groundbreaking event developed by the **Institute of Cannabis Research** which brought together sixty leading cannabis experts from Colorado's regulatory, policy, scientific and industry sectors for the purpose of **identifying the most important priorities needed to guide future cannabis research that will inform best outcomes for Colorado.** Outcomes provided research priorities to guide development of Colorado's regulated cannabis marketplace with aims to ensure economic sustainability, protection of public health, and informed evidence-based policymaking that will benefit, serve, and protect our citizens. The full Roundtable report will be available on the ICR's website soon.

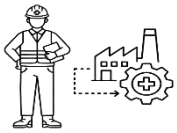
RESEARCH PRIORITIES IDENTIFED INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING

Research aimed at health, safety & consumer protection for special populations.



This reflects recognition that special populations, such as older adults, pregnant women, and cancer patients are an important and understudied cannabis-using population with unique safety and therapeutic considerations. Understanding how therapeutic applications differ in these groups in important medical research that is greatly needed.

Research to support occupational and workforce safety.



This cross-cutting priority to better understand factors that promote worker safety highlights growing awareness of health risks facing cannabis industry workers and the need for research on exposure hazards, protective measures, and long-term health impacts.

Research to support development of medical and therapeutic applications.



There was a consistent emphasis on the need to do research for pain management, to understand routes of administration, to do more placebo-controlled studies, and to involve minor cannabinoids. The need for research to standardize product dosing and potency was also identified as foundational to advancing both research and regulatory objectives.

Research to ensure high quality standardized product testing.



These priorities reflect the need for research to support testing laboratory reliability, access to quality reference materials, and involve an ancillary component of the need for centralized, accessible data systems to inform research, regulatory, and clinical decision-making.

Research on driving-related safety, defining impairment, and impaired driving thresholds.



This consistent emphasis on driving safety reflects ongoing challenges in understanding and measuring cannabis-related impairment, particularly regarding recency of use, chronic user tolerance, and distinctions between medical patients and recreational consumers.

Research to identify best practices for adult education on safe consumption practices.



These priorities emphasize the need to understand how consumers receive information, improve educational resources, and also involve ensuring product information accuracy through research on data transparency and label integrity.

The need for interdisciplinary research received substantial support.



Cannabis research challenges cannot be addressed through single-discipline approaches alone. This priority resonates with broader themes emerging throughout the roundtable discussions, including calls for whole-body approaches to understanding cannabis effects, integration of social sciences with hard sciences, and consideration of how agricultural practices interact with economics, policy, and sociology.