

campaign appropriately boasts the slogan, "Bring back the laughter."

The emotional bias pervading the conference was understandable considering that many attendees had been personally affected by ill-informed or irresponsible GHB use. Some had lost loved ones to overdose or addiction; others had been victim to GHB-facilitated sexual assault. People are in need of truthful information to prevent these tragedies from happening in the future, but some are caught in an unfortunate cycle. Their personal experiences motivate them to seek out information, but at the same time prevent them from finding the impartial information that is needed.

In order for the MAPS community to fully realize its goals of honestly evaluating psychedelics as potential medicines, and educating the public about the risks and benefits of these substances, we must find a way to work with people who vary in personal and political beliefs. If advocates and dissenters of GHB and other psychedelics can work together more closely, we can exchange feedback on each other's blind spots and biases. Attending the National GHB Conference allowed me to have compassion for drug war proponents, and identify possible points of connection with the MAPS community. Hopefully, we can build on common ground and meet somewhere in the middle — before seeking out new information together. ■

THE THIRD NATIONAL CLINICAL CONFERENCE ON CANNABIS THERAPEUTICS

MAY 20-22, 2004
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Patients Out of Time is pleased to announce that it will serve as a co-host along with the University of Virginia School of Nursing, the Pain Clinic of the University of Virginia's Health System, the Virginia Nurses Association and the University of Virginia School of Law for The Third National Clinical Conference on Cannabis Therapeutics to be held on May 20-22, 2004, at the Charlottesville Omni Hotel in Charlottesville, VA, USA.

The conference is designed for physicians, nurses, healthcare professionals, legal professionals and patients. The conference theme, "Cannabis Use Throughout the Life Span" focuses on the current research and clinical applications involving cannabis as one of the therapeutic options for health problems that include: behavioral problems, general pediatric applications, use during pregnancy, dependence and addiction risk, pain, traumatic brain injury treatment and movement disorders. The educational sessions facilitated by researchers and clinicians from the United States, Canada, Israel and the United Kingdom provide a platform for discussion that include the pros and cons for considering cannabis as a therapeutic option, varied delivery modalities, modern clinical research, use in the hospice setting, and other medical and legal issues related to this therapy.

The conference provides AMA Category 1 credit to physicians, and CEUs to nurses and other healthcare professionals through the Office of Continuing Medical Education of the University of Virginia School of Medicine.