Research on marijuana’s potential for medicinal use has been hampered for years by federal restrictions, even though nearly half of the states and the District of Columbia have legalized medical marijuana in some form.

An analysis by News21 shows that $1.1 billion of the $1.4 billion the National Institutes of Health spent on marijuana research from 2008 to 2014 went to study abuse and addiction. Only $297 million was spent on its effects on the brain and potential medical benefits for those suffering from conditions like chronic pain.

(News21 is a Carnegie-Knight national student-reporting project based at Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism.)

“We don’t have new things to treat pain,” said Todd Vanderah, PhD, head of the Department of Pharmacology at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. “We’re still dealing with narcotics that have been around for thousands of years, and it’s led to the issue of people abusing drugs, and the rise of heroin.”

Read more

More Clinical Trials Bring Valley Cancer Patients Fresh Hope
More than 16 million people visit Arizona each year to relax and escape cold weather. But starting Aug. 24, the University of Arizona Cancer Center at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center will give people even more reason to love the Valley of the Sun. The date marks the opening of the new Center, a collaboration between the UA Cancer Center and Dignity Health St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center that will bring significantly more clinical trials to Phoenix-area cancer sufferers and survivors. “The only way that we improve the success rates is by doing clinical trials,” says Peter Lance, MD, medical director of the UA Clinical Research Unit and interim deputy director of the University of Arizona Cancer Center at St. Joseph’s. Read more

The Weather Channel
Is It Valley Fever? Eight Symptoms You Should Know

Summer is often the season for weather-related infections, as populations of insects, rodents and plants “come out of hiding” and often come in contact with humans. In some cases, these interactions result in crippling disease or death. Coccidioidomycosis, or valley fever, is one such infection, though its host is a bit more pervasive than your typical backyard pest. Cocci, as it's known, is carried through the air; the spores of the fungus live in dry soil, such as that of the Southwestern United States, and travel and spread when the weather conditions are favorable. Although some studies link valley fever incidence to wind events, such as haboobs, or powerful dust and sandstorms, John N. Galgiani, MD, director of the Valley Fever Center for Excellence at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson, told weather.com the data actually more strongly links Cocci infections with rain, at least in Arizona, where most data are collected. "If it rains in the wintertime, or in the off-season, the idea is that the fungus blooms in the environment, and you increase the harvest of spores during the dry season when people have a seasonal increase of cases, and vice-versa," Dr. Galgiani said. "If it rains during [the dry season] when most people get valley fever, you dampen down the spores, and people don't get as many infections." Read more
Arizona Republic

UA Ranked Among World's Top Research Universities

The University of Arizona ranked among the top 100 research universities in the world, according to an academic rating that measures faculty achievements, such as publication in highly rated journals. The Academic Ranking of World Universities ranks research universities on academic "output" factors, including the number of articles faculty members publish in such journals as Science and Nature and the number of alumni and staff who have won Nobel Prizes. This year, the UA is ranked No. 90. Harvard University was No. 1, followed by Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California-Berkeley and the University of Cambridge. Read more

Phoenix Business Journal

Banner Health Construction Projects Total $1.5 Billion This Year

Banner Health is Arizona’s largest private employer – and is about to get bigger. With operations in seven states, Banner has 337 active projects on its books totaling $1.5 billion, with $1.2 billion of those projects in Arizona. That's not counting the $500 million patient tower the company is building in Tucson as part of its new relationship with the University of Arizona. Earlier this year, Banner completed its $1.2 billion purchase of UA Health Network, making it the largest private employer in Arizona. Banner also is preparing to build a 16-story patient tower and emergency room on its Banner – University Medical Center Phoenix campus, which formerly was called Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center before the UA acquisition. Read more
eNewsletter subscription form: http://ahsc.arizona.edu/sign-up

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