

RSMj 2026 Annual Meeting Recap

Written by the Conference Program Committee

July 17-19, 2026 | Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

The Research Society on Marijuana (RSMj) hosted its 10th annual scientific conference at Hotel Albuquerque, drawing researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and trainees. Marking a decade of the society, the meeting showcased new work on the determinants, contexts, consequences, and measurement of cannabis use, along with advances in cannabis policy and in treatment for cannabis use disorder.

A Decade of Cannabis Science

Over two and a half days, attendees moved through a full schedule of keynotes, symposia, paper sessions, poster presentations, and social events. The program spanned the breadth of the field, with sessions on subjective drug effects, adolescent and lifespan development, co-use with alcohol and nicotine, protective behavioral strategies, derived intoxicating cannabis products, and the intersection of cannabis policy and regulation.

Trainees and early career scientists maintained a core focus in our program. The Trainee Program Committee hosted an official conference Discord group so trainees could connect before and during the meeting, and a Trainee Mentorship Breakfast on Saturday paired students, fellows, and postdocs with mentors spanning academic and industry career paths.

Insights from the Keynotes

Two keynote addresses anchored the meeting. On Friday, Dr. Matthew R. Pearson (University of New Mexico), founding president of RSMj and director of the MATEO laboratory, traced the origins of the society and reflected on his lab's use of ecological momentary assessment to study cannabis harm reduction, delivered with his trademark humor. On Saturday, current RSMj president Dr. Adrian J. Bravo (William & Mary) spoke on cross-national marijuana research and the society's continued expansion, drawing on his international work through the Cross-Cultural Addiction Study Team.

Highlighted Symposia and Paper Sessions

The symposium program reflected the range of contemporary cannabis science. Notable sessions included:

- *Warning about Cannabis Liking and Wanting: Linking Subjective Effects from Acute Response to Longitudinal Risk*, chaired by Jane Metrik

- *Cannabis in Context: Polysubstance Use Profiles, Mental Health, and Social Determinants Among Adolescents*, chaired by Verlin Joseph
- *Understanding Adolescent and Adult Cannabis Co-use with Alcohol and/or Nicotine*, chaired by Holly K. Boyle
- *Weeding Through the Complexities of the Cannabis Continuum*, chaired by Elizabeth R. Aston
- *The PBSM 10 Years Later: Advancing Cannabis Protective Behavioral Strategy Measurement*, chaired by Eric R. Pedersen
- *Derived Intoxicating Cannabis Products: An Overview of Retail, Marketing, Perceptions, and Use Behaviors*, chaired by Dan Petrovitch

State regulators and academic researchers shared the stage in a panel on applied cannabis policy across New York, Illinois, Maryland, and Massachusetts. Paper sessions addressed interventions and therapeutics, neuroscience and biomarkers, community and patient-oriented research, and three separate sessions on cannabis policy, regulation, and marketing.

***Cannabis* Impact Factor**

Cannabis is the open access, peer-reviewed journal for RSMj focused on publishing high-quality empirical science. After eight years, Eric Pedersen (Editor-in-Chief), announced the exciting news that *Cannabis* received its first impact factor of 1.5! Please continue to consider *Cannabis* as an outlet for publishing your scholarly work.

Celebrating Emerging Scholars

The conference again recognized outstanding trainee contributions through its Student Award Program. Winners included:

- **Student Research Award:** Veronica M. Bucci, Dan Petrovitch, and Claire L. Pince
- **Underrepresented Student Award:** Nathan Meredith, Sara Mills, and Cassandra Richardson
- **Honorable Mentions:** Mohammad I. Habib, Gillian Rossmann, and Alexia Obrochta

Several honorees presented during Friday's Student Award Flash Talk session, chaired by Stephanie Penta.

Networking and Community Building

Social events framed the science. A pre-conference gathering on Thursday evening eased attendees into the meeting, and a Friday happy hour at Outpost 1706 offered space to connect over appetizers and conversation. Two poster sessions featured a wide spectrum of research, from ecological momentary assessment and experimental studies to policy analyses and qualitative work. Beyond the sessions, the meeting encouraged collaborations that continue to define the society's commitment to rigorous, unbiased cannabis research and its translation into practice and policy.

Next Stop: Montreal!

In her concluding remarks, incoming RSMj president Dr. Jane Metrik announced that the 11th annual conference will be held in Montreal, Canada on July 16 - 18, 2027. We look forward to welcoming back RSMj members and new attendees for another year of research and collaboration in the field of cannabis.