



NATION'S FIRST LEGAL CHALLENGE TO ALLOW PSILOCYBIN THERAPY IN END-OF-LIFE CARE UNDER "RIGHT-TO-TRY" LAWS MOVES FORWARD

Cancer patients seek relief from anxiety and depression in alignment with ongoing research on the effectiveness of psilocybin in mental health care

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What: Q & A for Media

When: 1 PM EST / 10 AM PST, March 9, 2021

Where: Via ZOOM

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81221260726?pwd=T1NaeC9wVDRKbGJTtmpzUW1IVTUrZz09>

Meeting ID: 812 2126 0726

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SUMMARY

Two patients with advanced cancer and their palliative care physician challenge the Drug Enforcement Administration's position denying patients with life-threatening medical conditions from accessing therapy with psilocybin (a naturally occurring psychedelic), which has been

shown remarkably effective in alleviating depression and anxiety.

A Petition for Review has been filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on behalf of the Seattle-based Advanced Integrative Medical Science (AIMS) Institute, Dr. Sunil Aggarwal, M.D., Ph.D., and patients Michal Bloom and Erinn Baldeschwiler on Monday March 8, 2021.

Psilocybin is currently classified as a Class I Substance by the DEA. Research by some of the world's leading academic institutions is showing dramatic promise of psilocybin therapy in relieving anxiety and depression for patients with cancer.

Petitioners seek review of a Decision by the DEA denying access to psilocybin, an eligible investigational drug, for therapeutic use, as contemplated by federal and state Right to Try laws. Defendants include the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the DEA Administrator and the U.S. Attorney General.

PATIENTS

Erinn Baldeschwiler is a 49-year-old mother of two teenagers. She has stage IV metastatic triple negative breast cancer that was found throughout her body. She was informed she had two years left of life. The main focus of treatment and care are to maintain the highest quality of life for as long as possible. Erinn would like to try psilocybin to alleviate emotional suffering, anxiety and depression.

Michal Bloom is now retired, due to medical disability. She formerly practiced law as an attorney with the United States Trustee Program, within the United States Department of Justice. She has advanced, BRCA+, ovarian cancer with metastasis to her lymph nodes. She has endured multiple rounds of chemotherapy resulting in severe and persistent intestinal distress and multiple hospitalizations. Michal understands that she may have a limited time to live. She does not have the luxury of waiting for the full FDA new drug approval process to run its course in order to access a promising investigational drug. Michal would like to try psilocybin to improve her quality of life.

Note: Erinn Baldeschwiler will be available on Zoom; Michal Bloom will not.

PHYSICIAN

Sunil Aggarwal, M.D., Ph.D., FAAPMR, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, is an inaugural member and co-director of the AIMS Institute. Dr. Aggarwal is a hospice and palliative medicine and physical medicine and rehabilitation physician and medical geographer. His primary clinical work is as an Integrative Pain, Palliative Care, and Rehabilitation Physician in private practice at AIMS Institute (Seattle, WA) and as an on-call Physician with MultiCare Palliative Care and an Associate Medical Director of MultiCare Hospice (Tacoma, WA). He was named a Top 20 Emerging Leader in

Hospice and Palliative Medicine in 2020 by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and is a founding member of the Safe Use of Psychedelic Assisted Therapies Forum.

ATTORNEY

Kathryn Tucker, Esq., special counsel, [Emerge Law Group](#), Portland, OR, is one of the nation's leading patient rights advocates. Kathryn is Special Counsel at Emerge Law Group, where she co-chairs the Psychedelic Practice Group. Kathryn is also executive director of the End of Life Liberty Project (ELLP). Tucker served two decades as Director of Advocacy and Legal Affairs for Compassion & Choices, working to improve care and expand choice at the end of life. She has held faculty appointments as Associate Professor of Law at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, and as Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Washington, Seattle University and Lewis & Clark Schools of Law. Tucker was counsel representing patients before the SCOTUS in *Glucksberg v WA*, *Quill v NY*, and *Oregon et al v Gonzales*.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kathryn Tucker
Emerge Law Group
D: 206.595.0097
kathryn@emergelawgroup.com

Brad Bawmann
[The Bawmann Group](#)
D: 303.870.3949
brad@goteamtbg.com

Kathryn Tucker
Emerge Law Group
+1 503-227-4525
kathryn@emergelawgroup.com

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