The United States may soon enter into a new era of medicine, after the Drug Enforcement Administration voted to make it easier for researchers and private companies to grow or obtain marijuana for study.

The move opens the door to broader university research of the active chemicals - called cannabinoids - that make marijuana tick. The cannabinoids found in marijuana mirror chemicals produced by the human body to regulate everything from mood to appetite to sleep, and researchers have long been curious about how they can be deployed medically. In addition, the DEA said that private companies working on new drug development will be able to apply to grow marijuana, meaning that, for the first time in generations, for-profit companies could develop marijuana-based medicines in America with the federal government's approval.

"I regard this as a red-letter day," said Robert Sievers, a chemistry professor at the University of Colorado who studies cannabinoids. "If things work as they should, this will be the first day of a cannabinoid pharmaceutical industry." That's the optimistic view, at least.

But, also by deciding to keep marijuana in the most restricted class of controlled substances, the DEA left significant hurdles in place for researchers hoping to study cannabis. And, because of that, some scientists are uncertain about how much actually will change. Any company or university hoping to grow marijuana with the DEA's blessing will still have to receive multiple approvals, undergo several inspections and lay out serious money on security equipment over a multiyear application process. What's more, the DEA's announcement does nothing to change what some researchers in Colorado have said is the biggest problem facing them: They can't test or study the kinds of marijuana products people are buying from stores in the state because the federal government considers those products illegal.

The split opinions mimic the deeply schismatic state of marijuana policy in the country. While 25 states and the District of Columbia have approved marijuana for medical use, the DEA's announcement reaffirmed the federal government's view that marijuana has no accepted medical use. While stores selling marijuana line the streets near many of Colorado's research institutions, the only federally legal place for scientists in Colorado to obtain marijuana for study was, until the DEA's announcement, a laboratory at the University of Mississippi.

That monopoly was a frequent source of complaints from researchers, who said the laboratory struggled to produce marijuana of the potency or precise chemical composition that they required. In lifting the monopoly the DEA's goal is to diversify the marijuana supply available to researchers. University and private researchers hoping to grow marijuana must first apply for permission from the DEA. They must also obtain additional OKs from the DEA before distributing any of that marijuana to approved researchers. A major question is whether investigators or universities actually want to grow marijuana? When CU studied the idea in recent years, the university concluded that the cost - the space, the electricity demands, the security requirements - was just too much.
**RESEARCH CORNER**

Maria Elena Buszek, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Art History in the College of Arts and Media, where she teaches courses on modern and contemporary art history. She is the author of the 2006 book Pin-Up Grrrls: Feminism, Sexuality, Popular Culture and edited the 2011 anthology Extra/Ordinary: Craft and Contemporary Art, both published by Duke University Press. She has also contributed writing to numerous, international exhibition catalogs and scholarly journals and anthologies: most recently, essays in the catalogs Mark Mothersbaugh: Myopia, and In Wonderland: The Surrealist Adventures of Women Artists in Mexico and the United States, and the Smithsonian anthology Nation Building: Craft and Contemporary American Culture. Maria is currently at work on two different book projects related to contemporary art.

Her monograph Art of Noise: Art and Music in Concert Since 1977 is a history and analysis of artists and writers from popular-music history that proposes their relevance to the history of art. Maria's particular focus is on art/music hybrids that were inspired by or emerged from the feminist, civil rights, and gay rights movements. She was also invited by the Stamford, Connecticut gallery Franklin Street Works to curate an exhibition based on the book, which will open on July 23rd.

With British art historian Hilary Robinson, she is editing A Companion to Feminist Art Practice and Theory. This anthology of new essays on feminist art will be part of Blackwell’s Companions to Art History series which, in the press’ words, “brings together a team of respected international scholars to debate the state of research within traditional subfields of art history as well as in more innovative, thematic configurations. Representing the best of the scholarship governing the field and pointing toward future trends and across disciplines, the series provides a magisterial, state-of-the-art synthesis of art history.”

Maria received her BA in 1993 in Art History and Mass Communication from Creighton University and her MA in 1996 in the History of Art from the University of Kansas. She received her PhD in 2003 in the History of Art from the University of Kansas. Prior to coming to the University of Colorado Denver as Associate Professor of Art History in 2010, she was Assistant Professor of Art History at the Kansas City Art Institute.

**COLORADO MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (COMIRB)**

Dr. Meredith Mealer steps down as COMIRB Director

Dr. Meredith Mealer has stepped down as Director of COMIRB. Meredith has been COMIRB's Director for the past two years and we are grateful for the job she has done over that time. Prior to accepting the Director’s position, Meredith was a Chair of one of our IRB committees for many years, where she also did an outstanding job. During the past year or so, Meredith’s research activities have increased and she has received great press for her research work. She has published well and her work has been well-funded, and at this time she would like to return to her research activities on a more full-time basis. We would like to thank Meredith for serving as COMIRB Director and as an IRB Chair over these past many years. She and her work will surely be missed.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY (EHS)**

Safety Fair

Join us on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. for the 5th Annual Safety Fair Presented by Environmental Health & Safety! The fair will be at the Richard D. Krugman MD Conference Hall located on the 2nd Floor of RC2. The Safety Fair emphasizes and promotes workplace safety and compliance, safety at home, and recreational safety. Come chat with EHS and various vendors about ways to keep yourself safe. Prizes and refreshments will be included!