**Cannabis and science at the observatory again this year. The general partner is Zenplanto**

Prague/Brno, April 17, 2024 - **This year**, **the Brno Planetarium will again host leading experts in cannabis and research. The prestigious conference is held under the auspices of Ing. Vlastimil Vajdák, Director of the St. Anne's University Hospital in Brno. This year's general partner is the Czech company Zenplanto. The conference will bring together leading Czech and foreign experts. Lumír Hanuš, a star of cannabis research, will again come from Israel**.

A packed programme with top experts from all over the world is prepared for the participants. The theme of collaboration will be central to this year's event.

*"'Cannabis and Science' has been one of the five most prestigious conferences in the world for several years now, and we definitely want to maintain this status. In addition, compared to other events, which are often of a business nature, it focuses primarily on science and brings world-class capacities to the Czech Republic. Next year we will celebrate our tenth anniversary. This year we want to confirm that we are among the pioneers of science and cannabis,"* comments Aleš Hrabák, one of the founders of Zenplanto, the general partner of the 9th edition of the conference.

**Sharing experience with foreign countries**

Visitors can look forward to a renowned chemist, scientist in the field of natural substances research Lumír Hanus, who will arrive at the event from Israel, where he has lived and worked for more than 30 years. The President of the International Association for Cannabinoid Therapy (IACM) and neuropsychopharmacologist Ilya Reznik will be visiting us from the same country, along with Nirit Bernstein from the prestigious Volcani Institute of Agricultural Engineering. Professor Jan Halámek, who works at the Institute of Forensic Science and is involved in the detection of substances and their residues in biological materials, will come from the United States.

Katarzyna Woźniczka, a PhD student from the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Medical University of Gdansk, will also present at the conference. *"The scope of our Cannabis Facility's involvement is really broad, as it allows us to connect with foreign experts, for example, even on topics of high school theses. One of them will be shared with us by a student Eva Matěnová from the Blansko Gymnasium, who collaborated with colleagues from a Polish university,"* revealed Václav Trojan, head of the Clinical Pharmacology Unit of the FNUSA-ICRC.

Research and education are examples of an advanced and developed society. Supporting them also makes sense in terms of investment in the future. That is why Zenplanto supports the scientific and research exchange of the Cannabis Facility, currently with Gdansk for example.

Our experts managed to establish a unique cooperation with the Polish university. The cannabis market there is in its infancy, so the experts are both helping with its development and, for example, jointly developing procedures on how and when to determine the optimum maturity of plants grown for the production of medicinal cannabis.

**Theory and practical examples from treatment, research and legislation**

Professor Alexandra Šulcová, a pharmacologist from Brno, will present a paper on the polypharmacology of cannabidiol. Richard Rokyta from the Institute of Physiology, 3rd Faculty of Medicine, Charles University will speak about homeostasis and cannabis. The upcoming plans for changes in cannabis legislation will be presented by the National Drug Coordinator Jindřich Vobořil. Pavel Kubů from Rational Regulation z.s. will present a paper on the potential benefits of cannabis for public health and budgets. Jitka Götzová from the Food Safety Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic will speak about CBD from the perspective of current legislation.

News from Brno cannabis research and treatment will be presented by Václav Trojan, the main organizer and head of the local Cannabis Research Center, which also includes the hospital's cultivation facility. This has already had its second harvest, which is now going to the hospital's pharmacy.

Petr Babula, a representative of the Institute of Physiology, Masaryk University, Faculty of Medicine, will present his paper "In vitro production of cannabinoids". Petr Tarkowski from the Catrin Science Centre of Palacký University in Olomouc will present the topic Critical view of the entourage effect. Petra Mištríková, Head of the Neurological Department of the Military Hospital Brno, will share her experience with the use of cannabis in medical neurological practice.

**The number of prescriptions is slowly increasing in the Czech Republic**

In January this year, 916 more prescriptions were written than in the same period last year. Similarly, the number of doctors prescribing cannabis is increasing. There were 197 in January, 33 more than last January. According to Ales Hrabak, our progress is not as progressive as in other countries. The Czech Republic used to be a pioneer in the cannabis segment. Now it is rather freezing, while foreign countries are moving forward in terms of development. An example is the legalisation of cannabis in neighbouring Germany. Will this trend be reversed? This will also be one of the main topics.

The conference is suitable for both professional and general public. Students and teachers of secondary schools and universities are also welcome.

**Where**: Brno Observatory and Planetarium
Kraví hora 552/2
616 00 Brno-střed

**When**: 24 April 2024 from 9 a.m.

**Full programme:** <https://konopi-a-veda.webnode.cz/program-2023/>

**Registration until:** 19 April 2024 at <https://konopi-a-veda.webnode.cz/registrace/>

\*\*\*

**About Zenplant:**

Zenplanto was founded in 2022. We focus on the healthcare sector, specifically the production of cannabis-related goods and services. The project is co-founded and majority owned by eMan Innovations, a venture capital fund that focuses on domestic and international technology projects with global potential and is backed by the technology company eMan. eMan is a leading Czech software supplier, and its shares have been publicly traded on the PX Start market of the Prague Stock Exchange since 2020. More at [www.zenplanto.com](https://www.zenplanto.com/) and www.zenplanto-farms.com.

**Media contact:**

Renata Faltejsková

renata.faltejskova@abbba.cz

+420 774 888 900

ABBBA Consulting, s.r.o.

Nicole Baron

nicole.baronova@abbba.cz

+420 776 204 565

ABBBA Consulting, s.r.o.