THE GLOBAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (GCCRC) INTERNATIONAL, COLLABORATIVE, PRODUCTIVE; RESILIENT AND LARGELY UNFUNDED.

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Introduction/Issues: In the current research environment category one grant success is strived for and appropriately lauded when won. Yet there is not much recognition of research collaborations and success stories that are largely unfunded but exist because of a shared interest and commitment to conduct research that is unlikely to be funded by government or competitive funding bodies.

Approach: This paper describes the makeup and work of the GCCRC, which was formed by a multidisciplinary group of researchers who had a shared interest in understanding the evolving phenomenon of small-scale cannabis cultivation. In 2012-2013 we conducted the first global survey of cannabis cultivators aiming to understand this phenomenon and inform policy responses to it. The Survey reached 6530 eligible respondents in from eleven countries and in the next two years was run in two other countries with 451 growers.

Key Findings: Insights from the GCCRC’s research will be summarised. Outputs include some 19 refereed journal articles, 4 book chapters and a special issue of a journal. The work has informed cannabis policy considerations in a number of countries and provided unique data on this and under-researched phenomenon. In the last 2 years the GCCRC has expanded to incorporate researchers from some 18 countries and the next Survey is being prepared to be launched in these countries in 10 languages in late 2019.

Discussions and Conclusions: The GCCCRC continues to grow as more researchers from other countries seek to join the group to survey cannabis growers in their countries.

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