What Do We Know About the Health and Safety Effects of Marijuana - Medical, Recreational, or Otherwise?  
a discussion with  
**Theodore Parran Jr. MD.**  
Isabel and Carter Wang Professor and Chair in Medical Education  
April 26, 2019 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.  
Dampeer Room, 2nd Floor, Kelvin Smith Library  

**John Prine's "Illegal Smile" seems to be getting more legal all the time.** Ten states and the District of Columbia have approved adult recreational use of cannabis; thirteen other states have decriminalized possession of small amounts (this includes making possession subject only to a fine); and thirteen others have some sort of provision allowing use for medical purposes.  

There are good reasons to view federal and state policies that treated marijuana possession as similar to using heroin, ecstasy, LSD, or mescaline as absurd on their face and part of an incarceration disaster. But the reaction against extreme inherited policies begs key questions:  
* Are there situations – such as driving – for which marijuana use is clearly unsafe?  
* What are effects on developing brains, so legitimate concerns about age of users?  
  * What are long-term effects of use? Is this product all that good for people?  
  * Are there safe and unsafe dosages – and how can dosages be regulated?  
* Shouldn't this drug be subject to the same safety testing regime as other drugs, if it is being approved for medical reasons?  

**Join us as Dr. Parran considers what we do know, don't know, and should want to know.**

The **Friday Public Affairs Discussion Lunch** is an opportunity for students, faculty, staff, emeriti and other members of our communities to learn and question each other about public policy issues at the international, national, and local levels. Faculty and other speakers share their research and experience to get beyond the headlines and repetition in the mass media, and the wild rumors of the internet. Lunch is brown bag, but cookies and some beverages are provided by the Center for Policy Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.  
[http://fridaylunch.case.edu/](http://fridaylunch.case.edu/)