Discussion Reply

[Name of the Writer]

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**Discussion Response 1**

The post has rightly identified that excessive use of certain stimulants and drugs hike the amount of dopamine being stimulated. However, not all drugs account for increased levels of dopamine.

There are some drugs that make the amount of dopamine to plunge (Volkow, Fowler & Wang, 1999). Additionally, the associations of pleasure for certain activities take place in the VTA-NAc pathway. But, excessive use of drugs tends to damage this pathway (Volkow, Fowler & Wang, 1999).

As a result of this irreparable damage, the brain becomes less responsive to normal.

**Discussion Response 2**

Certainly, the excessive use of drugs makes the D2 dopamine availability rare. Brains of cocaine addicts have fewer numbers of D2 receptors than the brain of a healthy individual (Volkow, Fowler & Wang, 1999).

The effects of this phenomenon disclosed that due to the excessive use of cocaine, the brains of the cocaine addicts had less availability of dopamine.

Although the study was conducted on monkeys, it is yet to ascertain what makes the availability of these D2 receptors to reduce.

**Discussion Response 3**

There are numerous reasons for the cannabis to still appear on the schedule I. First, there is no proven medical advantage. Second, there is a high risk that the individuals using it for the so-called medical use may start to abuse it (Bostwick, Reisfield & DuPont, 2013).

Though the stance of the Federal Drug Regulatory Authority has been unflinching, they are willing to allow controlled cultivation to establish the link behind cannabis and medication.

However, despite their promises to grant licenses for controlled cultivation, the FDA is yet to grant any license.

**Discussion Response 4**

It was on the direction of the then-President, Richard Nixon, that the government scaled a full-blown war against drugs to emancipate the American society from it (Bostwick, Reisfield & DuPont, 2013).

This war saw the creation of a drug schedule that placed marijuana on it. If marijuana has proven medical benefit, then it must be removed from the schedule I.

**References**

Bostwick, J. M., Reisfield, G. M., & DuPont, R. L. (2013). Medicinal use of marijuana. *N Engl J Med*, *368*(9), 866-8.

Volkow, N. D., Fowler, J. S., & Wang, G. J. (1999). Imaging studies on the role of dopamine in cocaine reinforcement and addiction in humans. *Journal of psychopharmacology*, *13*(4), 337-345.