



Khat Research Program (KRP)

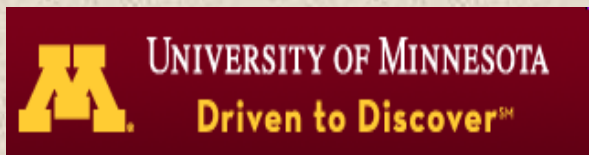
University of Minnesota

With partners from several international universities

Supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health*

You are invited to the inaugural symposium of the Khat Research Program.

This symposium will be conducted within the 9th SONA Conference, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, December 11, 2009



FOCUS OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Recent reports indicate dramatic increases in the prevalence of khat use among the young and among women in many countries in Africa and the Middle East, increasing the threat of grave consequences for health and sustainable development in these countries. Khat use has also grown significantly among immigrants in several countries in

Europe and North America. In this symposium we inaugurate the launch of the first international research initiative on the consequences of khat use on health. The program will set the stage for the development of a larger research program to guide subsequent efforts to prevent or intervene with khat use in the region. During this extended symposium we plan to introduce the details of the program, present recent pilot studies related to khat, and discuss opportunities for collaboration among investigators interested in khat research in the region.



Agenda:

1. Introductory comments to describe the Khat Research Program (KRP), its focus, and long-term goals
2. Discussion among attendees focusing on opportunities and future initiatives in khat research
3. Individual presentations of the symposium titled Khat in Afrabia: Human and Animal Studies. Topics will include the following:

- Introductory comments on khat effects on health and the brain
- Trait anger and anger expression in khat users and nonusers in Yemen
- Working memory in regular khat users
- Behavioural and physiological effects of khat extract in rats
- Effects of cathinone on rat behaviour and on the self-selected circadian rhythm in the canary
- Khat (*catha edulis*): functional use and effects on psychotic disorders

Speakers

- Mustafa al'Absi (KRP director; University of Minnesota, U.S.A.)
- Stephan Bongard (Frankfurt University, Germany)
- Richard Hoffman (Univ. of Minnesota, U.S.A.)
- Nilesh Patel (University of Nairobi, Kenya)
- Abdul Mohammed (Vaxjö University, Sweden)
- Michael Odenwald (Univ. of Konstanz, Germany)

KRP partners and invited international speakers will participate in this symposium.

For more information about KRP please contact Nancy Dold: ndold@d.umn.edu

*Khat Research Program: Neurobehavioral Impact of Long-Term Use
(PI: Mustafa al'Absi, Professor, University of Minnesota)