



State University of New York at Stony Brook
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Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees
Graduate School
SUNY at Stony Brook
Long Island, New York 11794

Dear Committee Members,

Dr. Dale Deutsch has nominated **Dr. Raphael Mechoulam** of the Faculty of Medicine of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for an Honorary Degree at this year's commencement. I endorse his nomination with enthusiasm. Recognition of Professor Mechoulam's extraordinary achievements in medicinal chemistry, especially in the most difficult chemistry of botanicals, is well deserved.

I first met Dr. Mechoulam in 1970 when I was the Principal Investigator in an NIMH contract on the study of the chronic and acute effects of inhaled cannabinoids in human subjects, both in Athens, Greece and New York. We were asked to examine the behavioral, psychologic, and electroencephalographic effects of different cannabinoids to assess which were the most active in altering behavior and their dependence liability. It was from Dr. Mechoulam that we received large sample amounts of various cannabinoids derived from special samples of hashish provided by Dr. Costas Miras of Athens and marijuana from U.S. government offices. Based on his cooperation, we were able to demonstrate the activity of Δ^9 and Δ^8 cannabinoids, and contrast these with other complex compounds.

His recent identification of a natural cannabinoid-active compound in the brain has sustained a good part of the academic research into cannabis, at a time and under conditions of national and international confusion about its risks.

Such an honor is well deserved and I am delighted to join Dale Deutsch in this nomination.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
and Neurology