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## AMERICAN KRATOM ASSOCIATION

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### **American Kratom Association Commends Leading Researchers for New Statement Reporting on Current Kratom Science**

*[“Statement on the science of kratom products and their US regulation”](#) identifies the progress of research that expands the public’s understanding of kratom and supports consumer access based on responsible regulation of kratom products.*

**WASHINGTON, DC (April 3rd, 2024)** – The American Kratom Association (AKA) encourages legislators, policy makers, and all groups interested in kratom in America to thoughtfully review the “Statement on science of kratom products and the US regulation” released by a number of the leading kratom researchers in the world, Oliver Grundmann, PhD, FCP; Christopher R. McCurdy, PhD, FAAPS; Abhisheak Sharma, PhD, and Kirsten Smith, PhD. The statement provides a concise review of what is known and potential areas of future research into kratom. This statement on the current state of kratom research supports the conclusion that “US adults should have access to kratom products that are regulated.”

The new statement speaks to currently available kratom science, especially regarding the primary kratom alkaloid, differentiates types of kratom products available to consumers in America, and provides public policy makers a roadmap for appropriate regulation of kratom products. The statement highlights the most important conclusions from research:

- Mitragynine is the major alkaloid in kratom and because of this, it has been the subject of most scientific reports;
- Mitragynine is not a classical opioid, like morphine, but rather is unique in that it has partial agonist activity and relatively low abuse liability;
- With a diverse kratom product marketplace in the US, it is important to distinguish between products;
- In the years that kratom whole leaf and extract products have been sold in the US, there have been, to date, few clinical case reports of adverse effects;

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- Like many psychoactive products (e.g., caffeine), kratom products can be habit-forming as indicated by users who consume large quantities of kratom with greater frequency over an extended period of time;
- The severity of physical dependence is mild to moderate;
- It is important to ensure consumers have access to kratom products that are adequately labeled to inform their consumption;
- Based on the currently available scientific and public health knowledge about kratom, we (the paper’s authors) believe that US adults should have access to kratom products that are regulated.

An accurate review of the current science on kratom from America’s leading kratom researchers is exactly what the kratom community, legislators, and public policy leaders need. For the last decade media reports and the FDA has repeatedly released sensationalized, misleading, and contradictory reports about kratom. The FDA itself has relied on opinions on kratom that former Assistant Secretary of Health at HHS, Dr. Brett Giroir, characterized as “embarrassingly poor evidence and data”<sup>1</sup> in its prior recommendations to schedule kratom under the federal Controlled Substances Act. Unfortunately, the FDA continues to restate that discredited information on kratom that materially misleads the public.

The AKA has consistently advocated for scientific findings to drive public policy on kratom and encourages FDA officials, state and federal legislators, and the media to speak with scientists and researchers to fully understand and appreciate what the current state of research on kratom actually is. The AKA also supports continuing research on kratom. America cannot afford more public policy, particularly in regard to natural products, that is motivated by fear or designed to increase prohibitions and criminalization. Americans deserve consumer protection policies driven by science.

The AKA applauds the extraordinary contribution made by these kratom experts to help policy makers understand the most current science on kratom.

**“Statement on the science of kratom products and their US regulation” can be read in its entirety by visiting [Americankratom.org/science](https://Americankratom.org/science) or [clicking here](#).**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/DrGiroir/status/1395874443726102533>