

# Scythian Chief Medical Officer Professor Michael Barnes Expands Global Influence as a Cannabis Key Opinion Leader

written by Raj Shah | July 25, 2018

✖ July 25, 2018 ([Source](#)) – Scythian Biosciences Corp. (to be renamed Sol Global Investments Corp.) (the “**Company**” or “**Scythian**”) (TSXV:SCYB) (Frankfurt:[9SB](#)) (OTC – Nasdaq Intl:SCCYF) today announced that its Chief Medical Officer, Professor Michael Barnes, is rapidly expanding his international strategy and influential reach.

Professor Barnes, MD, FRCP, is a leading world authority in neurological rehabilitation and has emerged as an influential voice in medical cannabis policy in Europe. He played a critical role in the development of Sativex®, a proprietary product developed by GW Pharmaceuticals, and is a co-author of a report entitled Cannabis: The Evidence for Medical Use (the “Barnes Report”), an expert independent opinion commissioned by the United Kingdom’s All-Party Parliamentary Group on Drug Policy Reform.

The Barnes Report concluded, based on a literary review of more than 20,000 research papers concerning the use of drugs containing cannabinoids, that cannabis-based medication helps with a wide range of conditions. The Barnes Report has influenced law makers in Ireland, Jersey and Guernsey. Ireland is considering legalizing the use of cannabis for treating specific medical conditions, due, in part, to the conclusions of the Barnes Report. Professor Barnes has also been involved in the campaign to legalize medical cannabis in Ireland and

presented the case to the Irish Parliament. Both Jersey and Guernsey are reviewing laws around cannabis.

Professor Barnes actively campaigns for the medical use of cannabis in the United Kingdom – including through [endourpain.org](http://endourpain.org), as well as the United Patients Alliance and Clear, all of which are working towards having medical cannabis legalized. He is also a member of the medical cannabis steering group at Volteface. He has lectured extensively on medical cannabis around the world and has recorded several live TV, radio, print and social media interviews on the topic.

Professor Barnes is expanding the reach of his influential opinion on the efficacy of cannabis with major inroads including:

### **Major Broadcast coverage**

- BBC Breakfast (14/07/2018)
- [The Victoria Derbyshire Show](#) (12/07/2018)
- BBC South East Today (18/07/2018)
- Channel 5 News (12/07/2018)

### **Major Radio coverage**

- BBC RADIO 4: The Today Programme (12/07/2018)

### **National newspaper coverage**

- [BBC News](#): (12/07/2018)
- [Daily Mail](#): (19/07/2018)
- [The Telegraph](#): (19/07/2018)
- [ITV News](#): (19/07/2018)
- [METRO](#): (19/07/2018)
- [The Scotsman](#): (19/07/2018)
- [Politics.co.uk](#) (12/07/2018)

## **Social media engagement**

- Live Q&A video on Facebook with Hannah Deacon
  - 11,000 views (in 2 days since posting)
  - 249 shares / 158 comments
- Tweets on average reaching audiences of 3,000 +

## **Political engagement**

After being formally appointed as a member of the U.K.'s All-Party Parliamentary Group on Medical Cannabis under Prescription alongside 45 parliamentarians, Professor Barnes attended the inaugural meeting of Vice-Chairs, which was convened so the group could discuss its aims over the next 6 months. Outcomes from the meeting included producing a guide for patients across the UK who need access to medical cannabis and submitting a call for evidence of the efficacy of medical cannabis.

End Our Pain / APPG co-hosted an informal drop-in for MPs and their Parliamentary staff to engage with Professor Barnes about his experience with medical cannabis. The event was extremely well attended with around 20 MPs attending and many more requesting notes from the meeting if unable to attend.

"We are extremally fortunate to have Professor Barnes, an influential leader in the medical cannabis sector, as our Chief Medical Officer," said CEO Rob Reid. "As we move forward with strategic investments and regional partnerships across the globe, we look forward to continuing to utilize his insight and influence."

Professor Barnes said: "I am focused on bringing awareness of the medical efficacy of cannabis and expanding Scythian into new global markets where the company will work hand-in-hand with patients to give them access to the valuable medical cannabis products they need."

## **About Scythian Biosciences Corp.**

Scythian is an international cannabis company with a focus on the world's leading markets outside of Canada. Its fast tracked growth has come through a number of strategic investments and regional partnerships in cultivation, distribution and branded products across Europe, United States, South America and the Caribbean. These significant endeavors complement the company's R&D partnerships with some of the world's leading universities. It is this comprehensive approach that is positioning Scythian as a future global frontrunner in the medical cannabis industry.

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## **Cautionary Statements**

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*Readers are cautioned to not place undue reliance on forward-looking information. Forward-looking information is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that may cause actual*

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