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Aaron M. Gilson, MS, MSSW, PhD, is Research Program Manager at the Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG), a division of the Carbone Cancer Center at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

The mission of the PPSG is to improve policies that affect pain management for people with cancer and other chronic conditions. This work is accomplished through a program of policy research, education, and communications.

Dr. Gilson has published and presented about topics relevant to healthcare professionals and medical regulators both in the United States and abroad. His recent activities have involved developing a methodology to evaluate federal and state controlled substances and healthcare practice policies, reviewing the trends in medical use and abuse of opioid analgesics, and evaluating changes in knowledge and attitudes of state medical regulators and Wisconsin physicians and pharmacists regarding issues of pain management and the use of controlled substances. He has researched the extent that prescription opioid analgesics are being diverted by pharmacy thefts, and is working to promote a public health approach to prescription medication abuse by identifying the sources of diversion. Finally,

Dr. Gilson currently is working with members of the University of California-Davis to examine the circumstances under which prescription opioid analgesics are identified in the California prescription monitoring program. Dr. Gilson currently is a member of an expert panel to develop evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the use of opioid analgesics for chronic non-cancer pain, jointly sponsored by the American Pain Society and the American Academy of Pain Medicine. He is a member of the American Pain Society and of its Public Policy Committee, and is a Board member of the American Pain Foundation. Dr. Gilson also is a member of the Liaison Committee on Pain and Addiction, which is a joint committee of the American Pain Society, the American Academy of Pain Medicine, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine. He is an Advisory Board member of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the U.S., Inc. Research & Education Foundation to create a practice guide for physicians when prescribing opioid analgesics, for which he was an Associate Editor. Finally, Dr. Gilson serves on the editorial advisory board for the *Journal of Pain & Symptom Management*.

Dr. Gilson also is involved in global efforts to achieve more balanced drug control policies to improve patient access to opioid medications for pain relief. To accomplish this objective, he has worked with government officials, regulatory agencies, and pain and palliative care organizations, guided by the WHO Guidelines which were prepared by PPSG staff and endorsed by the International Narcotics Control Board. He has contributed to projects leading to successful policy reform in India, and is involved in an ongoing project in Romania. He is currently assisting with a project to create a morphine-equivalence statistic for each country based on their consumption of strong opioids. He is a life member of the Indian Association of Palliative Care. Dr. Gilson also is faculty for the PPSG's International Pain Policy Fellowship, for which representatives from low and middle income countries are chosen to participate in a one-week training session to study the relationship between opioid policy and pain medications availability, develop an action plan to address policy barriers, and provide ongoing technical assistance.

Dr. Gilson received a PhD degree in social welfare and an MS degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he had a dual concentration in social policy and in child maltreatment, with emphases on prevention, theory, and survey research. He also received an MS degree from Villanova University, with a major in experimental psychology and a concentration in clinical psychology.