

**Karen M. Ryan, MA**  
**Director, International Program**  
**Pain & Policy Studies Group**

Karen Ryan is Director of the International Program at the Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG), located within the Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. Ms. Ryan has been working in the pain field for 15 years, first with the Pain Research Group in the Department of Neurology, and then subsequently with the PPSG in the Paul P. Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center. As Director, she leads all aspects of the international program in policy analysis, outreach and technical assistance.

Ms. Ryan has been involved in efforts to improve opioid availability and patient access to pain medications via multi-country workshops, bilateral country projects, and most recently, the development and implementation of an International Pain Policy Fellowship. Ms. Ryan is the Project Officer for the PPSG's International Pain Policy Fellowship which involves managing the selection of Fellows from low and middle income countries through a competitive application process, organizing a rigorous one-week training session in Madison, Wisconsin where the Fellows study the relationship between opioid policy and patient access to pain medications, leading the process of action planning to address barriers to opioid pain medications, and providing ongoing technical assistance for two years. The current class of Fellows represent Armenia, Georgia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kenya, Moldova, and Nepal.

Ms. Ryan has also assisted to develop international tools to address barriers to patient access to opioid analgesics. For example, in 1999, she participated in drafting the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, "Achieving Balance in National Opioids Control Policy," to be used by countries to evaluate their national drug control policies for "balance."

Ms. Ryan received a master's degree in Public Affairs from the University of Wisconsin La Follette Institute of Public Affairs, with an emphasis on policy analysis and financial administration. She received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Finance) with a second major in French from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ms. Ryan has studied and worked in Aix-en-Provence, France; Marseille, France; and Istanbul, Turkey.