

**October 2, 2002**

The Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG)/World Health Organization Collaborating Center, would like to inform you of additions to its web site pertaining to international opioids policy and access to opioid analgesics.

(1) The World Health Organization's 2000 publication, "*Achieving Balance in National Opioids Control Policy: Guidelines for Assessment*" is available in English, French, Italian, and Spanish. The Guidelines explain why national governments are obligated to ensure adequate availability of opioid analgesics, and provides 16 guidelines and a checklist that can be used by governments and health professionals to assess "balance" in the national opioids control policies of any country. Please see <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/00whoabi/00whoabi.htm>.

(2) PPSG monographs are now available that present key resources as well as trends in opioid consumption: global, regional (Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe) and selected countries. The monograph for Latin America is available in English and Spanish. A fact sheet on the availability of morphine in India is available. Go to <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/monograp/globaltrends.htm>.

(3) The World Health Organization Collaborating Center's report about activities to improve cancer pain relief in the world during 2001 is available at <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/01report/intro.html>. The report details the continuing progress of the WHO Demonstration Project in India; it reports on the Center's assistance to the Italian Ministry of Health in developing a proposal in 2000 to reform national policy, including simplification of opioid prescribing requirements; and it reviews activities with national governments and non-governmental organizations in several countries in Europe and Asia. We also report on the activities of the global communications program, the centerpiece of which is the publication of *Cancer Pain Release*, a quarterly WHO newsletter.