

November 7, 2003

Dear Colleagues,

Cordial greetings from the Pain & Policy Studies Group in Madison, Wisconsin. We are happy to provide you with a link to a new section of our website that contains new educational resources about opioid consumption trends.

In June of this year, we sent you an update about activities since the February 2002 WHO workshop that a team from your country attended in Budapest, Hungary. At that time, we promised to send you opioid analgesic consumption statistics for each of the participating countries and also for the region. This information is available on the PPSG web site at http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/internat/E.Europe/Eastern_Europe.htm. Please have a look and let us know if it is useful information for you.

In this new Eastern Europe section of our website, you will also find the WHO Budapest Workshop report, including the country reports and action plans, as well as the detailed monograph that we presented at the workshop. You can view these materials, or download and print them. We will add more information in the next months. We hope that you can use the information in education programs for policy makers and your colleagues to emphasize the need to improve availability and patient access to pain relief.

We are very happy to receive your comments on this information, including how it can be improved. As always, please keep us informed of any progress or changes, and tell us how we may be of assistance. Karen Ryan can be contacted at kmryan2@wisc.edu.