

**May 19, 2004**

Dear Colleague,

1) WHO Cancer Control Initiative, including palliative care and opioid availability: This is to inform you that on 24 May 2004 the World Health Organization Executive Board will consider a draft resolution on cancer prevention and control. In an unprecedented move, the WHO calls for action to be taken in the face of the increasing burden of disease caused by cancer and the availability of effective interventions adaptable to different resource settings. WHO has made the document available for download at [http://www.who.int/gb/EB\\_WHA/PDF/EB114/B114\\_3-en.pdf](http://www.who.int/gb/EB_WHA/PDF/EB114/B114_3-en.pdf). (Our recent attempts to download this document have been unsuccessful; if you need a fax or scan copy, please contact Ms. Jody Garthwaite ([jgarthwaite@wisc.edu](mailto:jgarthwaite@wisc.edu)) at the Pain & Policy Studies Group. The list of Member States and their delegates to the Executive Board is available at [http://www.who.int/governance/eb/eb\\_members/en/](http://www.who.int/governance/eb/eb_members/en/).

2) International Narcotics Control Board Opioid Availability Initiative: In addition, we understand that the International Narcotics Control Board will make a presentation to the WHO Executive Board about its concerns regarding the continuing inadequate availability of opioids for medical purposes in many low and middle income countries, including for pain and palliative care.

Cooperation between the international narcotics regulatory agency and the World Health Organization cancer control program is a most welcome development and will be followed closely.

Sincere regards,

David E. Joranson  
Senior Scientist, Director  
Pain & Policy Studies Group  
World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Policy and Communications  
University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center  
406 Science Drive, Suite 202  
Madison, Wisconsin 53711-1068  
tel 1 608 263 7662  
fax 1 608 263 0259  
email: [joranson@wisc.edu](mailto:joranson@wisc.edu)  
websites  
<http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy>  
<http://www.WHOcancerpain.wisc.edu>