

July 13, 2005

Dear International Colleagues,

This is to inform you that the 2000 World Health Organization guidelines, “Achieving Balance in National Opioids Control Policy” are now available via our public access website in Bulgarian, German, Lithuanian, Polish, and Ukrainian as well as English, French, Italian, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish. As you may know, WHO designed these guidelines for governments and healthcare professionals to assess national opioids control policies and their administration to determine if they contain the provisions, administrative procedures and cooperation that are necessary to ensure availability of opioid analgesics for pain relief and palliative care. These guidelines are an essential tool in our ongoing work in Eastern Europe to improve patient access to pain medications.

The WHO guidelines, now available in all 11 languages, can be found at <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/00whoabi/00whoabi.htm>

We are grateful to the Open Society Institute for its ongoing support of work in Eastern and Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union countries. For more information, please contact Karen Ryan at kmryan2@wisc.edu.