

The Pain & Policy Studies Group is pleased to announce publication of “Improving Cancer Pain Relief in the World: Report for 2004.” The report describes the work accomplished by the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Policy and Communications in Cancer Care (the Center), which is sponsored by the Pain & Policy Studies Group at the University of Wisconsin Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Highlights of the report include:

- Policy research and development projects in India with state governments and palliative care professionals to improve access to opioid analgesics for treating cancer pain.
- Reform of narcotic control policies in Romania, which included visits to the country to study the Romanian health and regulatory system for making opioid analgesics available for pain relief, and a study visit to the Center by a team from the Romanian Ministry of Health to draft new national opioid regulations. A monograph is available at <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/monograp/romania04.pdf>.
- Assistance to the Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC) sponsored by the United States National Cancer Institute. A presentation about improving access to opioid analgesics for pain relief in the Middle East was given at a workshop in Cyprus for the countries of Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Turkey. A monograph of opioid consumption trends for the Middle East, highlighting the participating countries, can be accessed at <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/monograp/cyprus04.pdf>.
- A Spanish-language monograph was prepared for the 2nd Latin American Congress of Palliative Care in Montevideo, Uruguay and is available at <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/monograp/uruguay04.pdf>. The brief monograph contains a table of the 2001 milligrams per capita consumption of certain opioids for all of the countries participating in the Congress.

A pdf version of the Center’s full report can be seen at <http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/painpolicy/publicat/04report/04report.pdf>. Comments, suggestions and questions are welcome.