

July 14, 2008

International Fellows train in Madison

The Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG) recently completed a week-long training program for its 2008 class of International Pain Policy Fellows. The Fellows, selected by a competitive application process, came from 7 countries with very limited access to opioid pain medicines (<http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/IPPF/2008/08monograph.pdf>), including Armenia, Georgia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kenya, Moldova, and Nepal. The Fellows were accompanied by a governmental representative from their Ministry of Health. Together they trained with the PPSG and other international experts in Madison, Wisconsin, USA during the week of 16-20 June 2008. The IPPF curriculum was based on the new [PPSG internet course](#) and consisted of lectures and discussion with international experts in the field of drug regulation, pain management and palliative care. The Fellows developed action plans to improve opioid availability and access that they will implement during the next two years. The PPSG will provide ongoing technical assistance.

Wisconsin's Governor Jim Doyle issued a [proclamation](#) commending the PPSG and the Fellows. The local NBC affiliate broadcasted a live interview about inadequate access to pain medicines with the director of the PPSG's international program and two fellows, physicians from Guatemala and Nepal. More information about the IPPF is available at <http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/internat/IPPF/index.htm>.

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