

----- Original Message ----- From: "Robert N. Golden" <rngolden@wisc.edu>  
To: <xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx>  
Cc: "Carolyn Martin" <biddy.martin@chancellor.wisc.edu>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 3:18 PM  
Subject: The UW Pain and Policy Studies Group

Dear Mr. Jackson,  
Chancellor Martin forwarded to me your recent email regarding our Pain and Policy Studies Group, and I am responding on behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The PPSG is one of several organizations to advocate for greater availability globally of certain medications that are essential for the management of pain in some patients. The PPSG promotes the idea of balance: that these medications must be available for those who need them – especially for cancer pain – and that misuse, abuse and diversion must be controlled. I believe there is room for discussion and disagreement among reasonable people about how such medicines are prescribed, but there is little question that these medications can greatly benefit people in severe pain. The PPSG has helped cancer patients all over the world by working through the legislative framework in countries where patients need access to these medicines.

This group has applied for external support for its work, including unrestricted gifts from the private sector. In all instances, the accepted support conformed to university regulations and standards.

In September 2010, PPSG successfully reapplied to be a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Center for Pain Policy and Palliative Care, to continue to address the lack of access to opioids for pain relief endured by 90 percent of the world's population of patients suffering from severe pain. To continue this important work with the WHO's Cancer Control and Access to Controlled Medications programs, PPSG decided to meet the WHO's new conflict of interest standards and to no longer accept funding from industry involved in the sale and marketing of opioids. This decision was made prior to the recent newspaper story, which described past support but failed to mention the decision to no longer accept industry support.

Thank you for sharing your interest and concerns.

Best wishes,  
Bob Golden

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