

## OPIOID AVAILABILITY ON-LINE COURSE ANNOUNCED

The Pain & Policy Studies Group is pleased to announce our new on-line course,

### *Increasing Patient Access to Pain Medicines around the World: A Framework to Improve National Policies that Govern Drug Distribution*

This course is about the relationship between government policies that affect the medical availability of opioid analgesics and patients who experience moderate to severe pain. It is critically important for health care professionals, government drug regulators, and advocates involved in palliative care and pain relief to understand the government policies that control opioid analgesics and how they can block or ensure patient access to opioid analgesics.

It was designed to provide a synthesis of the critical background material and current methods that have been developed to improve national policies governing medical availability of essential pain medicines for cancer and HIV/AIDS patients. The course includes examples of improvements in opioid availability in many countries: China, Colombia, India, Italy, Mexico, Philippines, Romania, Serbia, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and others. It is intended for an international audience of health care professionals, local and national policy makers, palliative care advocates, government drug regulatory personnel, national health policy advisors, and health policy scholars with an interest in pain management or palliative care.

The course is accessible at no cost and is self-paced so that it can be taken at any time that is convenient for the learner. It has 7 lessons each with required readings. Upon successful completion of the course the learner will receive a certificate.

Lesson 1	Understanding the Relationship between Pain and Drug Control Policy
Lesson 2	The Role of International and National Law and Organizations
Lesson 3	Barriers to Opioid Availability and Access
Lesson 4	WHO Guidelines to Evaluate National Opioids Control Policy
Lesson 5	WHO Guidelines to Evaluate National Administrative Systems for Estimating Opioid Requirements and Reporting Consumption Statistics
Lesson 6	WHO Guidelines on Procurement and Distribution Systems for Opioid Analgesics
Lesson 7	How to Make Change in your Country

Representatives of the Secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board, the World Health Organization, as well as pain and palliative care experts from around the world were consulted during the process of preparation of the course.

The development of this course was supported by the [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#) and the [Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa](#).

For more information, and to access the course, please visit: [http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/on-line\\_course/welcome.htm](http://www.painpolicy.wisc.edu/on-line_course/welcome.htm)