

**BETHESDA - CHEVY CHASE ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATES, L.L.P.**

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**IRA D. FISCH, M.D.**

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**Attention: Anesthetic And Life Support  
Drugs Advisory Committee**

Kimberly Topper  
Food and Drug Administration, CDER  
Advisors and Consultant Staff, HFD-21  
5600 Fisher's Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Committee Members:

I am an orthopedic sponsor who has been practicing in Bethesda, Maryland. My practice is made up of many patients who suffer from chronic lower back pain. In addition, I do spine surgeries that generate severe post-operative pain. These two groups of patients require aggressive and caring pain management. In years past we had only medications that were able to give pain relief for three hours at a time.

Fortunately, OxyContin was developed, which finally gave patients relief for 8 – 12 hours at a time. This has been a Godsend to countless painless. Unfortunately, it has now become apparent that many people are abusing this drug. There must be tight controls on this medication to prevent the abuse. However, to outlaw this medication would be as absurd as closing down all highways because there are some drunk drivers on the road. This medication is extremely important for patients who are suffering from debilitating pain. It has given the life back to some people who had no ability to control their pain in the past. They have been able to return to work because they have finally been able to gain relief of their pain. In addition, for patients in the post-operative phase, it has made the difficult surgery that they have undergone more tolerable. This has allowed the recovery to go by much more smoothly and allowed for a better long-term result.

Please don't make the masses suffer because of the misdeeds of a few. This drug must be left on the market.

Sincerely,



Ira D. Fisch, M.D.

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