Arlington Family Health Pavilion, P.A.
707 North Fielder Rd., Ste. A
Arlington, Texas 76012
Office: 817-277-2671

August 14, 2001

Food and Drug Administration
Advisors and Consultants Staff
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

To whom it may concern,

In recent weeks it seems as if there's a more sensational story every day regarding a relatively new product in our pain management arsenal, namely Oxycontin. All of the media hype concerns a growing group of physicians such as myself who strive daily to improve the quality of life for chronic pain sufferers. For years the area of medical treatment known as pain management has been largely ignored and underemphasized. Despite some of the advances we have seen in this area during the past decade, we are worried that the oversensitivity regarding opioid analgesics will hinder our ability to treat our patients pain.

Legitimate pain patients such as the ones I am currently treating should always have access to the medications they need in order to live a comfortable productive life. We would encourage you to continue to make oxycontin available for those who truly need it.

We wish to ensure that those of us involved with the treatment of unrelenting and debilitating pain make our voices heard. We must all do our part to ensure that the pain management movement is alive and is actively being perpetuated for the benefit of all patients still suffering from untreated pain.

Sincerely,

Mark Rodgers, MD