



August 6, 2001

**JOHN D. GOVER, M.D.**  
Internal Medicine

**JAMES O. JARVIS, M.D.**  
Internal Medicine

**RICHARD D. WELCH, M.D.**  
Family Practice

**JOSEPH R. ALLEN, M.D.**  
Family Practice

**JUDY WADDELL**  
A.R.N.P.

Kimberly Topper  
Food and Drug Administration, CDER  
Advisors and Consultant Staff, HFD-21  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockfield, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

This letter is in regards to the upcoming meeting on September 13 and 14, 2001 to discuss chronic pain management. I am a practicing physician of internal medicine in Bowling Green, Kentucky. I understand there is a large public interest in the issue of narcotics abuse. At this point, I feel OxyContin is receiving a lot of attention because of its potential abuse. There may be a tendency to remove this drug from the market.

My feeling is that medicines like OxyContin and other long acting narcotics have been very important in chronic pain management. I believe the focus on narcotic use should not be on a specific drug but at the abuse issue in general. A task force type approach with specialists would be quite helpful in addressing this issue. Working together we can help battle the problems of narcotic abuse without limiting the access of particular medicines to people who actually need them for chronic pain management.

990 Wilkinson Trace, Suite 100  
Bowling Green, KY 42104  
(Tel) 270-781-4043  
(Fax) 270-781-4196

Sincerely,

John D. Gover, MD

JDG:lb