

A.J. MORRIS, M.D., P.A.

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 complete with gripping headlines and fear inducing content is provoking feelings of anger and derision from 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, it now seems that the inaccurate preconceptions and oversensitivity regarding opioid analgesics have stalled progress. We must not permit this to occur.

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. I implore you not to rob America's tortured pain patients from blessed relief of their agony! We must not endure the spectacle of another Dr. Kevorkian as our preferred form of pain treatment when so many positive alternatives are available.

It is imperative 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 which is currently under threat remains alive and is actively being perpetuated for the benefit of all patients still suffering from untreated pain.

Sincerely,



Arnold Morris, MD