Re: Docket Number 01N-0256 9/6/01

Dear Ms. Topper,

I am writing to the FDA Anesthetics and Life Support Drugs Advisory Committee regarding the medicaluse of opiate analgesics in patients with chronic pain of nonmalignant etiology, including pediatric patients.

I am on the Board of Directors of "Medical Professionals with CFIDS (Chronic Fatigue & Immune Dysfunction Syndrome)" CFIDS or CFS is a misnomer for a very serious, debilitating disease. In my position, and own health, I can speak of countless victims of CFS in severe, excruciating pain. Joint pain & muscle pain & headaches that leave us bedbound or housebound days, weeks or months without any medication. Physicians are reluctant to order opiates because of "fear of addiction". I have read a number of articles that explain opiates are not addictive in people with severe pain. It (opiates) only allows them to feel human again, instead of mere shadows of a life with no "quality of life". Before CFS disabled me, I was an RN for 27 years and saw the suffering in the eyes of my patients who didn't have adequate pain control due to doctors fear of addiction.

Healthful Wishes.

Anita Burger RN - MPWG