

2008 ACS CAN STATE PAIN GRANT AWARDS: SUMMARY INFORMATION

Purpose: The American Cancer Society and ACS CAN have partnered to accelerate a variety of activities to improve pain policy, practice and care, beginning with collaborative funding of the University of Wisconsin's Pain & Policy Studies Group (PPSG) Pain Policy Progress Report Card in 2006 with Lance Armstrong Foundation and Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation.

PPSG's report card serves as the backdrop for the Society's Nationwide Pain Control Objective for all 50 states and DC to improve pain policy grades to a "B" by 2015, with 10 of those states to achieve an "A." This goal was approved by the Society's National Board in November 2006. At the release of the 2007 PPSG report card, 32 states had a B and 4 states had an A. PPSG's final report card under the current grant will be released this summer. Additional grade improvements are expected.

ACS CAN has been assisting Divisions in developing tiered strategic plans for each of the 50 states and DC to help improve PPSG policy grades and also undertake activities to advance pain practice. Many staff in states expressed interest in convening multidisciplinary pain stakeholders following the successful summit/forum models used in Connecticut, Texas, Montana and Georgia to help refine their pain strategic plans and put them into action. Widespread interest also exists among states to work with their medical boards in promoting efforts to distribute the new *Responsible Opioid Prescribing: A Physician's Guide* book published by the Federation of State Medical Boards, which is a "how to guide" sponsored by the Society and many others to address gaps in medical training and help improve pain practice.

ACS CAN Grants: With generous support through a Healthcare Grant to ACS CAN from Purdue Pharma LP, ACS CAN issued an RFA and announced in early April grant awards to five states at \$12k each for pain activities to take place in 2008:

- **California:** The Northern California Pain Initiative, a project of the ACS California Division, will use the funds to re-energize efforts to improve pain policies and practices by convening two stakeholder meetings to begin planning for a statewide Pain Summit to be held in 2009 or 2010. California's PPSG grade in 2007 was a B.
- **West Virginia:** The West Virginia Pain Initiative, established in 1991 by ACS and others, will use the funds to revitalize WVI membership by providing free "Pain Management 101" trainings in four regions across the state and hosting a WVPI membership meeting to develop its 2009 strategic action plan. West Virginia's PPSG grade in 2007 was a B.
- **South Carolina:** The South Carolina Pain Initiative partners with ACS and others, and will use the funds to host one-day forums in each of the main regions of the state to advance SCPI's action plan, secure broader participation in SCPI, and build support for policy changes to improve PPSG grade from a C+ to at least B. Information from these regional forums will be used in planning a statewide Forum on State Pain Policy in 2009.
- **Connecticut:** The Connecticut Pain Initiative was established in 1988 as a volunteer committee of the ACS. CPI will use the funds to provide information to CT's healthcare professionals about the new state electronic prescription monitoring program to promote understanding about its use and use the educational campaign to expand membership and rejuvenate CPI activities. Connecticut's PPSG grade in 2007 was a B.
- **Montana:** The Montana Pain Initiative partners with the ACS Great West Division. MTPI will use the funds to build on the success and momentum of its April 2007 pain conference. This will include strategic partnering with the Board of Medical Examiners to disseminate the FSMB Responsible Prescribing book, begin planning for a follow up conference targeting 250 stakeholders who influence pain management and policy, and build support to improve MT's PPSG grade up from C+.

ACS CAN has prepared and provided to these awardees a template press release for their use with local outreach in announcing these awards. Under the grant agreements, these states will provide periodic updates and other information as their projects move forward.