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An: 'phisecretariat@who.int'
Cc: IAPO (policy@patientsorganizations.org)
Betreff: your Second Public Hearing on Public Health Innovation and Intellectual Property

Secretariat for Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property,
World Health Organization
20 avenue Appia
CH - 1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

To whom it may concern

Dear Sirs,

The German Pain League is the largest patient organisation for pain sufferers in Germany and is a member of the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO). We recently became aware of your Second Public Hearing on Public Health Innovation and Intellectual Property and would like to add our comments to the proceedings as we are concerned about the threat to innovation posed by weakened international patents.

As the German Pain League, we know how important pharmaceutical companies are in helping to alleviate pain for patients. Millions of people in Germany suffer unnecessarily from acute and chronic pain. Pain, however, is not some inescapable fate which patients have to bear - they have the right to competent therapies. The German Pain League campaigns for this right and stands up for the interests of patients who need drugs.

We are a German organisation but do not restrict our concerns to Germany. We also follow international developments with great interest and are committed to working with IAPO. We are also founder members of the Neuropathic Pain Network
<http://www.neuropathicpainnetwork.org/english/index.asp>.

In the interests of patients, we realise that we must also respect the interests of pharmaceutical manufacturers as they are carrying out research on behalf of patients. It is important that innovation and interest in innovation on the part of pharmaceutical companies, is strengthened so that patients in Germany and throughout the world can receive effective and modern drugs. For this reason - namely in the interests of patients - we care about the incentives for research-based pharmaceutical companies. We realise that pharmaceutical research is dependent on a great many factors but with respect to this work, we should like to point out that patent protection also protects patients.

The German Pain League recommends that a global strategy for international patents should include the following:

- Supporting intellectual property right protection
 - Supporting availability, acceptability, accessibility and quality which were the four interrelated components outlined in the WHO report
 - Providing international patent provisions to act as incentives for the pharmaceutical industry .
- We are certain that you will do everything to ensure that patients everywhere continue to have access to innovative drugs. Please feel free to ask should the German Pain League be able to help you further in any way at all.

Yours sincerely

Harry Kletzko
Vicepresident

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