



# Missouri Pain Initiative

*a member of the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives*

April 24, 2006

Greetings

You are invited to attend a first-time collaborative effort to change a serious health care problem in Missouri.

The under-treatment of pain is a major national public healthcare problem, and the state of Missouri is no exception. In the fall of 2004, the Missouri State Advisory Council on Pain and Symptom Management convened six town hall meetings across the state and received testimony from chronic and acute pain sufferers, health care providers, and health care educators. The conclusion was that clinical practice of pain management has not kept pace with scientific knowledge about how pain can be treated. The elderly, children, minorities, the rural and urban indigent, and patients with psychiatric issues were identified as particularly vulnerable populations for under-treatment of pain.

To address these gaps in effective pain assessment and treatment, the Missouri Pain Initiative is teaming up with the Advisory Council to launch ***Changing the Face of Pain in Missouri***, a statewide collaborative strategic planning initiative. The Missouri Pain Initiative is a statewide, interdisciplinary, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of Missourians in pain. We are contacting health and advocacy related organizations across the state like yours to invite you to join us for a discussion about how we might collectively combine our interests, knowledge and resources to better understand and improve pain care in Missouri. And, while we recognize that pain management may not be the primary focus of your organization, we believe it falls within the scope of interests you support. Our hope is that by pooling our ideas and resources we will more positively impact the quality of pain care in Missouri than what our organizations could accomplish operating independently of one another.

We have scheduled an initial meeting on Tuesday June 13, 2006 at the Truman Office Building in Jefferson City, Missouri. While we have not yet finalized an agenda, our primary goal for the day will be to take the initial steps towards establishing an alliance among like-minded organizations. Tentative plans are to convene at 10 am and adjourn around 4 pm. Depending on the outcome of this meeting, we have reserved the large room in the Governor's Office Building in Jefferson City for Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. This way, should additional meetings be necessary, the space and dates will already be reserved.

Please consider your organization's interest in this collaboration and respond to me the end of April whether or not you plan to attend the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. You may respond via E-mail, phone, or by returning the RSVP portion of this letter. If you are unavailable on that date or feel there is someone in your organization better suited to participate, please send an alternate.

This initiative is being supported through a grant from the American Alliance of Cancer Pain Initiatives and matching funds from the State Advisory Council. As such, there will be a limited

number of \$100 travel stipends available on a first-come first-served basis to participants whose travel expenses will come out of their own pockets **and** who will be traveling over 200 miles round trip to attend the meeting. If you qualify for and want to request a travel stipend, please indicate so when you RSVP. Stipend awards will be announced in mid-May.

As we get closer to the June 13<sup>th</sup> date, you will be receiving a packet with a meeting agenda and other background materials. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. I also invite you to check out the Missouri Pain Initiative's website at [www.missouripain.org](http://www.missouripain.org) to learn more about our organizational goals, initiatives and leadership.

Regards,

Ann J. Corley, Coordinator  
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Please check the appropriate box(es) and return to the Ann Corley, c/o MOPI, 225 SE Sumpter Drive, Lee's Summit, MO 64063

I plan to attend the June 13 meeting, *Changing the Face of Pain in Missouri Strategic Planning Initiative*:

Name:

Address:

I am not able to attend but am sending an alternate:

Your Name:

Alternate's Name:

Alternate's Address:

No one from my organization is available to attend on June 13<sup>th</sup> but we are interested in the topic and would like to be kept informed:

Name:

Address:

I meet the qualifications for and am interested in a travel stipend.