

## PREFACE

At the 7th World Congress on Pain in Paris, France, August 1993, a Topical Seminar was devoted to cancer pain and its treatment. In juxtaposition with this Topical Seminar was a Satellite Symposium which discussed the most recent developments in the use of opioid drugs for cancer pain treatment, namely transdermal administration of the opioid fentanyl (TTS-Fentanyl).

The World Congress on Pain was sponsored by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), a large multidisciplinary group of basic scientists and clinicians whose focus is basic and clinical research into the causes and treatment of all forms of pain, including cancer pain. It is significant to note that this premier research organisation saw fit to establish an official relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO) in order to facilitate a joint interest in improving the treatment of cancer pain throughout the world. Thus the reader will find a number of important issues of relevance to patients, doctors, the general community and government agencies which are raised in a number of the papers in this volume. These are issues that have stood in the way of effective use of opioid drugs for the control of cancer pain and have been highlighted by international organisations such as the WHO, International Narcotics Control Board, and IASP. All of this points to the fact that the effective treatment of cancer pain is an issue of importance in the developed as well as the developing world.

Objective data now make it clear that many patients with cancer pain require more than one route of opioid administration and often require more than

one opioid during the course of their cancer pain treatment. Thus, although the oral use of the time honoured drug morphine has proven to be valuable for the large majority of patients, it is clearly necessary to have alternative opioids and alternative routes available to patients with cancer pain.

Overall the reader will find useful up-to-date information about the causes of cancer pain, methods of studying pharmacological treatments, current controversies in the use of opioids and other drugs, and the place of alternative routes of administration, including the transdermal route, in the treatment of cancer pain.

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