

## **First international data on opioid availability published in Annals of Oncology**

Untreated cancer pain shown a 'scandal of global proportions' by ESMO-led collaborative opioid survey

Results from the Global Opioid Policy Initiative (GOPI) project have just been published in Annals of Oncology and reveal that due to a lack of access to inexpensive and effective essential opioids more than 4 billion people (that is, over half the world population) live in countries where regulatory barriers leave cancer patients suffering excruciating pain.

"National governments must take urgent action to improve access to these medicines," says the European Society for Medical Oncology, leader of a group of 22 partners including the European Association for Palliative Care.

"The next step is for international and national organizations working alongside governments and regulators to thoughtfully address the problems," agree the two lead authors of the study, Nathan Cherny, Chair of the ESMO Palliative Care Working Group, and James Cleary, Director of the Pain and Policy Studies Group in Wisconsin, USA.

- [Take a look at the international survey results](#)
- [Watch video interview with Prof. Kazuo Tamura, JSMO Immediate Past President](#)