



European Federation of Crohn's
and Ulcerative Colitis Associations - EFCCA



Crohn's and Colitis
Foundation of Canada

Fondation canadienne des
maladies inflammatoires
de l'intestin



March 17, 2010

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Endorsement of World Digestive Health Day

On behalf of the undersigned inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) patient groups, we are honored to work with the World Gastroenterology Organization on World Digestive Health Day to promote worldwide understanding of IBD.

By working in collaboration with the over 50,000 gastroenterologists represented by the WGO, patient groups are aiming to increase worldwide visibility and knowledge of these disabling digestive diseases that are often misunderstood or unknown by the general public. The 29 May 2010 special day will link into the patient groups' World IBD Day on 19 May 2010 through cross-promotion and awareness activities on both organizations' websites as well as during Digestive Disease Week in New Orleans, 1-5 May 2010. Educational materials and other tools designed to increase public awareness will be distributed at the conference.

It is estimated that there are over 5,000,000 people living with Crohn's disease and colitis world-wide, but this number predominantly reflects developed nations where epidemiological information is more readily available. We congratulate the WGO organizers for their efforts – in part through World Digestive Health Day – in highlighting digestive health and in particular IBD, and helping ensure that support and treatments available in developed countries become accessible to areas where these diseases are now emerging.

Sincerely,

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America – CCFA

Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada - CCFC

Crohn's and Colitis Australia – CCA

National Association for Colitis and Crohn's Disease - NACC

Brazilian Association for Colitis & Crohn's disease - ABCD

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