



March 7, 2025

To Members of The Expert Committee,

On the behalf of United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), the leaders of the UCP Research Council strongly supports the application submitted by the International Cerebral Palsy Society (ICPS) to include baclofen, in both intrathecal and oral forms, on the World Health Organization (WHO) Model Lists of Essential Medicines. This medication is crucial for the treatment of spasticity in children and adults with cerebral palsy, a condition that affects 50 million people worldwide.

Spasticity can lead to debilitating pain and its management is essential for improving the quality of life for those affected. Baclofen has been proven to be an effective treatment for improving motor function, thereby enabling individuals to achieve greater independence and engage more fully in daily activities.

The inclusion of baclofen on the Model Lists of Essential Medicines would be a significant step towards ensuring that this vital, cost effective medication is accessible for all who need it, regardless of circumstances. By recognizing baclofen as an essential medicine, the WHO would not only acknowledge its importance in the management of spasticity but also promote global equity in healthcare by supporting its widespread distribution. This action would undoubtedly lead to better health outcomes and improved quality of life for many individuals living with cerebral palsy.

We, the undersigned, urge the WHO to approve the addition of baclofen to the Model Lists of Essential Medicines, thus endorsing its critical role in the treatment of ensuring that individuals living with cerebral palsy worldwide can benefit from its therapeutic effects.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Kruer

Valerie Pieraccini *Valerie Pieraccini*

*Armando Contreras*

Armando Contreras, President & CEO of United Cerebral Palsy