

NEWSLETTER # 26 –May 2005

PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES COMITE INTERNATIONAL

“Tiim” served as a visual aid in two meetings organised under the 58th World Health Assembly held in Geneva from 16-25 May.

- on 18 May at the Palais des Nations during an NGO briefing on rational use of medicines organised by EPN (Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network) and HAI (Health Action International). Discussion was based on the negative effects of the irrational use of medicines and on prevention which depends on **well-developed and followed drug policies on the supply and use of drugs**. To avoid increased drug resistance (that we see today) and health risks due to substandard or even counterfeit medicines or aggravations of diseases due to self-medication, following these policies is not just a “desirable goal”, it is a “current imperative”.
- on 24 May, during the official technical briefing organised by the WHO Secretariat on rational use of medicines and possible.

EVENTS

PSFCI Congress 2005 at the Centre des Congrès - Chamonix Mont-Blanc - France

You can still register for the Congress! congres@chamonix.fr or psfodettepion@wanadoo.fr

Malaria

“Both a health and development problem, malaria represents a loss of 12 billion dollars a year to Africa’s Gross Domestic Product, while three billion dollars a year would suffice to control this disease world wide” Paul Benkimoun,-Le Monde 27/04/05

Malaria kills a child every 7 seconds (officially every 30 seconds). According to Dr Pierre Druilhe, Head of the bio-Medical parasitology unit at the Institut Pasteur, *“Official numbers are very far from reality. They greatly underestimate the seriousness of the situation”*.

Charlotte Joos, funded by PSFCI for her 3-year thesis research at the **Institut Pasteur in Dakar** on the development of functional and reproducible tests to quantify the natural immune response against the malaria parasite and to consider the development of a vaccine, will present the **first results of her research at the PSF’s 20th anniversary congress on 11 June**.

EPSA

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors of **EPSA-European Pharmacy Students’ Association** www.epsa-online.org elected at the 28th EPSA Congress held on 18-24 April in Romania. The new director of the humanitarian working committee of the association -which represents over 120,000 pharmacy students in 32 European countries- is Thomas Valentin.

Awareness campaign on the dangers of street medicines

The annual campaign is underway in all French-speaking African countries.

On 28 May, key day of the second campaign on the dangers of the illicit drug market in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the former and current Minister of Health received the “Caducée d’Honneur” of the DRC to recognize their efforts in implementing a new essential generic drug distribution system through the establishment of generic essential drug procurement and distribution centres and the **FEDECAME**.

PSFCI and Pilbox

Partnering agreement signed between PSFCI and **Pilbox** for greater compliance and adherence to treatments everywhere in the world. Pilbox's web site is under construction.

2005 No more excuses:

www.2005plusdexcuses.org, is the French web site of the world campaign against poverty launched at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre on 27 January.

Awareness efforts involve thousands of associations around the world. The symbol is a white band worn around your arm, wrist, head... anywhere you like. The first key date of the campaign is **1st July 2005**. Do not forget your white band.

MISSIONS

Chad

The NGOs working in the district of Mandelia in Chad (PSFCI and World Vision) were called in emergency to deal with the outbreak of measles that occurred in the administrative region of Chari Baguirmi and to participate in the mass vaccination campaign around the source of the outbreak. Toukra, Koundoul, Kournari, Mandélie, Logone Gana, Douvoul, Hollom were under the responsibility of the PSFCI team and all children aged 6 months to 5 years were immunised to reduce the impact of the epidemic in the area.

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

Christophe Barranco, desk officer for Africa, will conduct a supervision of PSFCI programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 2 to 17 June.

PSFCI seeks a logistics coordinator for its emergency program in Eastern Kasai.

Southern Sudan:

PSFCI seeks a pharmacist for Lokichoggio. The successful applicant will speak English.

Haiti:

A pharmacist/medical coordinator is needed to carry out monitoring on the three bases (Port au Prince, Gonaives and Port de Paix). The successful candidate will have experience in humanitarian activities and speak French.

Field visit of PSFCI's financial partner (ECHO) on 19 May in Port au Prince, on 21 May in Gonaives and on 24 May in Port de Paix to evaluate the actions carried out. This includes: analysis of the relevance, quality, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the action, outcomes and lessons learned.

Indonesia:

In parallel to the management program, a study of donations is currently underway. It is carried out by a PSFCI expert in Public Health and an expert of the Indonesian Ministry of Health.

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