

NEWSLETTER # 43 – December 2006

PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES COMITE INTERNATIONAL

One year ends, another begins. Our wishes remain the same—for the right to health to be respected and for all people to have access to essential medicines.

While there is insufficient funding to resolve this fundamental problem, funding for military spending continues to rise. Over 1,118 billion dollars were spent on military expenditures in 2005. Less than 10% of these funds would be enough to solve most of the problems of access to essential medicines.

Who are those decision-makers who, in our names, invest into war instead of into life?

We hope very much that in 2007 they will become more aware of their responsibilities.

Happy New Year to you all!

EVENTS

Full text of the request of M. Fodé Oussou Fofana to the French Minister of Health:

« Mr Minister, as Mrs Victoire Benao put it in 2005, African pharmacists, organised in colleges, struggle with determination against the illicit market of medicines and counterfeiting in their countries. This illicit market provides non pharmaceutical actors having little concern for public health issues with significant revenues. Its consequences on the health of local populations are now evident: inappropriate counselling by newcomers; improper use of medicines, unmet conditions of storage.... Several sources feed this market: theft in procurement centre warehouses, import of counterfeit medicines or collection of unused medicines in developed countries.

Consequently, Mr Minister of Health and Solidarity, in order for an illusion of solidarity not to be at the expense of health and the proper use of medicines, the IOPA would like to take advantage of your presence here to renew its call for the cessation of shipment of unused drugs from France, and we reaffirm the declaration adopted on 4 November 2004 regarding the dangers of shipping therapeutic waste from Northern countries..

While acknowledging the good faith of most charities, we observe that these medicines; which are already unmanageable in Europe, create more problems than they solve in Africa.

It is time that France put an end to this activity like other European countries.

Instead, we urge that an essential drug policy be favoured with appropriate medicinal safety.

Mr Minister, all these requests merely take the World Health Organisation's guidelines for drug donations”.

Information from Montreal: online course on avian flu and influenza pandemics for pharmacists

The objectives of this training are to:

- Distinguish seasonal influenza from avian flu
- Know about the modes of transmission of influenza
- Identify the characteristics of a pandemic and know the different phases
- Be able to make appropriate recommendations on antivirals, vaccines and personal protective measures
- Be able to prepare to respond to pandemic influenza
- Identify the reliable sources to which pharmacists may refer in order to provide accurate and relevant information to their patients.

For more information, please contact Sylvain Tremblay (fstremblay@videotron.ca)

Bioforce, a training centre focussing on international solidarity (logisticians, administrators, project managers...), will make a selection of candidates in Bobo Dioulasso (Burkina Faso) and Bujumbura (Burundi) in May 2007.

Web Site: <http://bioforce.asso.fr>

Email: communication@bioforce.asso.fr

Counterfeiting

For Frédérique Ries, Belgian member of the European parliament, the causes for the development of such a parallel market are no mystery: *“First, there has been, until recently, an apparent lack of will by the governments to combat this scourge, and a lack of deterrent legislation in many countries. There is also the low cost of making counterfeit products, but, above all, there is poverty. The impossibility for the most vulnerable populations to have access to health care systems and their high need for affordable medicines.”*

Appeal from the French medical journal Prescrire

If you know of patient assistance programmes, run by pharmaceutical companies, which you find particularly questionable in their health or trade aspects, please inform us and send any relevant documentation to:

La revue Prescrire

Influences-Cheval de Troie de l'observance

83 bd Voltaire

75558 Paris Cedex 11

France

A validation workshop that brought together a group of experts was organised in Ouagadougou on 21-23 November to approve the draft code of ethical conduct for **research in health** in Burkina-Faso.

MISSIONS

The PSFCI programmes in progress in 2006 that will continue through 2007:

- Burkina-Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Southern Sudan, Chad
- Cambodia, Haiti, Tajikistan

Funds are currently being sought for development programmes in Indonesia and for an awareness programme on the dangers of street medicines in Burkina Faso to combat counterfeiting and the illicit trade in medicines.



In compliance with the French data protection act in the law of 6 January 1978 (CNIL), you have the right to access and correct information about yourself. You can exercise this right by writing to PSF-CI Service informatique 4 Voie Militaire des Gravanches 63100- Clermont-Ferrand (France).