



APhA-ASP/IPSF

Collaboration with Pharmabridge

International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

Represented in the U.S.A. by The American Pharmacists Association - Academy of Student Pharmacists

-DAYL ECCLES, APhA-ASP/IPSF NATIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR, 2011

The Pharmabridge Project was formed in 1999 by Dr. Agathe Wehrli after her retirement from the World Health Organization. The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) supports this project to promote the advancement of pharmacy in developing and transitional countries. As of August 2011, over 1400 parties from 91 countries have registered with Pharmabridge. Most of these registered parties are from Africa or Asia asking for support, and range from faculties/schools of pharmacy to pharmacy departments in Ministries of Health.

One of the easiest and most impactful ways to contribute to sustainably improving the pharmacy profession in developing countries is to hold a textbook drive to help pharmacy schools educate their practitioners. The back of this information sheet provides a step-by-step guide to sending books to one of these universities.

However, keep in mind that the Pharmabridge Project is more than just a textbook drive. If you feel your local IPSF Chapter is unable to hold a book drive or fundraiser event to purchase textbooks, there are other ways to become involved. Pharmabridge also accepts offers for audiovisual material, journals, computers, photocopy equipment, academic contacts between institutions, advice in specific fields, training activities, and exchange visits. Please consider offering the following:

- ◆ Creation of an elective course at your university. This was done successfully at Ohio Northern University in the mid-2000's. Please see the course description: "A service-oriented program focusing on making relationships with pharmacists in developing countries and providing those pharmacists with needed reference materials for their practices. Research on the chosen country, assessment of the practice of pharmacy standards in that country, communication with the pharmacist noted, and provision of reference materials, if needed."
- ◆ Sponsorship of Continuing Education (C.E.) or licensure/certification exams. This was performed successfully by the University of Arizona, which was able to provide an Oncology Program through the American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) to an Egyptian pharmacist. The program included CD-ROM, Print Book, and C.E. Credit for Board Certified Oncology Pharmacist Recertification.
- ◆ Provision of a free month of training at a pharmacy practice site to a pharmacist from a developing country. You can also supplement travel or conference costs for a pharmacist to have this exposure. This is similar to serving as a Host Site to IPSF's Student Exchange Program (SEP), and the Student Exchange Officer (SEO) may be able to offer some insight.
- ◆ Encouragement of your faculty to participate in an exchange or offer a lecture in their area of expertise (e.g. clinical pharmacy, compounding, quality control, drug information, GMP, telepharmacy).

HOLDING A BOOK DRIVE FOR PHARMABRIDGE

- ◆ Visit <http://www.pharmabridge.org> to become familiar with the history, purpose, and aims of the Pharmabridge Project.
- ◆ Choose one of two options:

Collection of Used Books:

- ◆ Advertise the book drive by requesting only recent editions of texts. If old editions are donated, a local donation site may be able to collect these materials for use.
- ◆ Collect books or journals and organize into list format by book title, edition, year of publication, author(s), and ISBN number.
- ◆ Fill out the Pharmabridge Questionnaire Form on the pharmabridge.org website under Registration and Participants with your contact information and offer details. You may also email the list of books collected to Dr. Agathe Wehrli at wehrlia@bluewin.ch to describe your offer.
- ◆ Dr. Wehrli will respond with a list of which various international parties have requested your offer(s).

Purchase of Specifically Requested Books:

- ◆ Advertise and hold the book drive fundraiser event.
- ◆ Consider choosing a particular recipient country for the books. Though not required, having a named pharmacy school in a developing or transitional country to donate books to is particularly appreciated. Naming a school will allow you to buy books that you know will provide optimal assistance. This has been done by the University of Washington in the case of pharmacy schools in Ethiopia and Uganda.
- ◆ Fill out the Pharmabridge Questionnaire Form on the pharmabridge.org website under Registration and Participants with your contact information and offer details. You may also email Dr. Agathe Wehrli at wehrlia@bluewin.ch to describe your monetary offer and provide details as to which school you would like to purchase textbooks for.
- ◆ Dr. Wehrli will respond with a list of requested books for your chapter to purchase. Requestors send a prioritized list of books needed to the Pharmabridge Coordinator; if you have specified a particular recipient, Dr. Wehrli will send you their list.
- ◆ Purchase second-hand books over the internet. A good website to compare prices is <http://isbn.nu>.

- ◆ Contact the requesting party to ensure delivery to the correct address, and to send them a notice when the books are being sent.
- ◆ Pack and mail the books with appropriate customs forms. Pharmabridge does not provide shipping; this cost must be accounted for when planning your book drive.
 - ◆ Shipping from the USA: It may be easiest to bring the loose books to the post office, or obtain USPS Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes from your local post office to pack books into on your own. Expect rates for a Large Flat Rate Box (maximum weight of 20 pounds to international destinations) to be close to \$60 with a delivery time of 6-10 business days. Each of these boxes will fit 3-4 texts. An Express Mail International Flat Rate Envelope will be around \$30 with a delivery time of 3-5 business days; the envelope can fit 4-5 journals. Mailing 20 pounds in your own packaging could come to over \$200 per box, so please be aware that the Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes are the most viable option! The post office employees can help you fill out the appropriate customs forms. You are encouraged to check flat rate shipping options with UPS and FedEx as well.
 - ◆ Other options of delivery: Your Global Health department or pharmacy faculty may know of someone traveling to a specific country in the months after your book drive that could personally pack the books in luggage to save on shipping. This option of hand-delivery is highly appreciated because it fosters the personal relationship being formed between the donating and receiving parties.
- ◆ Fill out the IPSF Event form and send to your country's Contact Person. In the USA, the Event Form is found on the pharmacist.com website under Student Pharmacists > IPSF > Campaigns and Projects. Please also forward this Event Form to the National Project Coordinator.