Pharmabridge

Building the global bridge

Building the global bridge, with opportunities, resources and knowledge in pharmacy

Pharmabridge is a voluntary initiative supported by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), aimed at strengthening pharmacy services in developing and transitional countries with the support of established pharmacy resources from the developed world. Founded in 1999, Pharmabridge aims to foster communication and transfer of information, resources, and experiences between pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, and pharmacy educators from many corners of the globe, leading to the betterment of pharmacy services, and in turn improved patient care and overall enhanced community health.

Pharmabridge was established to offer an avenue of ACTIVE participation for those involved in pharmacy practice, pharmaceutical science, pharmaceutical industry and professional pharmacy education to both inform and learn from global colleagues. It links those in need of training and instructional and/or consultative resources, most often in less developed areas, to individuals who may provide them in the form of books, journals, electronic resources, and internship training opportunities. It also offers those with information and expertise to share to provide opportunity to visit areas of need in order to provide lectures, workshops, and training seminars. An important focus of interest is clinical pharmacy/pharmacy practice and the development of drug information services.
Pharmabridge welcomes participation from all those involved in the global pharmacy workforce, those with both needs and offers, in order to create a globally comprehensive network of individuals working towards improved pharmacy practice.

HOW IT WORKS
On the basis of information collected via online questionnaires which identify the pharmacy practice area, demands and offers, and twinning wishes, profiles are matched by the programme coordinator who, in turn, submits needs to a corresponding offering party. The latter has the option to choose the receiving party it would like to link up with and once the party has been chosen, it is the offering party that initiates the contact. In this way links are created with pharmacists that may result in access to information sources (book donations, instructional CDs, continuing education coursework, etc), access to faculty and other exchange opportunities, training and knowledge building in industry and Good Manufacturing Practices, computers and software, and countless other critical resources being shared across borders.

People who have specifically agreed to have their e-mail address on the Pharmabridge website can access a list and search for participants in a given country and practice category and establish direct contact without going through the coordinator. The information accessible on the website is limited to name and e-mail address, city, country, practice category, field of activity and date of registration.

The activities conducted under the Pharmabridge umbrella cannot be accomplished without financial support.

Organizations and individuals wishing to provide activities under Pharmabridge should consider the resources required to do so, whether they be financial and human resources, or the donation of time and practical materials.

People living in the USA can make tax deductible donations for Pharmabridge by writing a check out to IPF-USA Pharmabridge and mail it to Henri Manasse, FIP Professional Secretary and CEO of ASHP, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists(tm), 7272 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

Offer options might include:
- Provide access to information by donation of current pharmacy books, CDs and videos for continuing professional development
- Offer a practice site for free to a pharmacist from a developing country for a one month training period
- Make a contribution towards meeting expenses for air ticket, accommodation and daily living expenses
- Lecture at a workshop to be organized locally by an interested party in response to your offer of expertise (e.g. clinical pharmacy, drug information, GMP) or just to give a punctual lecture if you are planning to travel to a developing country
- Involve the faculty and students of your school of pharmacy: offers for faculty exchange are welcome, as well as student offers for sponsorship of book donations and support of projects in developing countries

If you are interested in collaborating with Pharmabridge and need more information, please contact its Founder Dr A. Wehrli at wehrlia@bluewin.ch, or register with Pharmabridge at www.pharmabridge.org.