

NEWSLETTER # 47 – May/June 2007

PHARMACIENS SANS FRONTIERES COMITE INTERNATIONAL



PSFCI's headquarters will be relocated to new premises in Bordeaux in September. Since its foundation in 1985, the association has been housed in former military barracks in Clermont-Ferrand. As part of its policy for the enhancement of its assets, the French government asked PSFCI to vacate the premises so that they can be sold.

Several French cities submitted proposals to become the home of the association. Finally, the Board of Directors decided on the project proposed by the city of Bordeaux.

The Bordeaux Region development Agency– BRA – has set up a dynamic advocacy committee, chaired by Prof. Josy REIFFERS, General Manager of the Institut Bergonié (Cancer Centre for South West of France) and former President of the University of Bordeaux 2,

to ensure that the association be implemented under the best possible conditions.

The association chose to establish in the Chartrons area, on the left river bank of the Garonne, near the quays, in the heart of the new modern quarter of Bordeaux. PSFCI's headquarters will move into 500m² of office space on the third floor of a building. The estimated cost of acquiring and moving into the new space is just over one million euros. One third of this sum is paid by the association through a loan, and another third is paid by the local authorities - **Mairie de Bordeaux, Communauté Urbaine de Bordeaux, Conseil Général de la Gironde, Conseil Régional d'Aquitaine**. To fund the remaining third, EUR 350,000, the BRA proposed to seek sponsors.

The project was presented to a number of companies on 30 May at the *Cité Mondiale du Vin* in Bordeaux, in order to involve them. The first companies involved are: the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Bordeaux Domofrance, Fondation des Caisses d'Épargne, Gaz de Bordeaux, Gaz de France, Sud Ouest, , Samas.

Interested companies can contact:

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More information on partnerships is available on our website at <http://www.psfci.org/new/uk/Medias/bordeaux.pdf>

EVENTS

ACAME International conference of 19 June in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

“Discussions were frank, direct, clear and significant and they helped to highlight the real problems of trading groups in terms of collaboration with donors. The latter recognised the essential role played by trading groups in the supply system of developing countries . They all committed to supporting these trading groups in achieving their mission, and promised to approve the implementation of their strategic development plans”. The general report can be found on the ReMed website at: http://remed.org/ACAME_juin07.pdf

Funded by PSFCI for her 3 year research on « **Malaria vaccine preclinical studies: immuno-epidemiological analysis and chemiluminescence functional assay validation** », Charlotte Joos defended publicly her thesis on June 29th in Dakar and won a “very honorable mention”.

“A malaria vaccine against Plasmodium falciparum is urgently needed. It is too costly to test all vaccine candidates in clinical trials, and there are no good animal models, so in vitro functional antibody tests are needed to choose the most promising candidates. This work describes a test measuring neutrophil activation (oxidative burst), and merozoite phagocytosis in the presence of

merozoite specific antibodies, by chemiluminescence. The test is reproducible and correlated with clinical protection in endemic regions. Antibodies specific for baculovirus expressed PfMSP1p19 and PfMSP4p20 are functional in this test. If reproducible elsewhere, this test could be used as a reference tool. Another immuno-epidemiological approach has shown that certain levels of anti-PfMSP1p19 and anti-PfMSP5 antibodies are significantly correlated with clinical protection.”

The University of Paris VI and the University of Dakar supervised this project based on the collaboration between the Institut Pasteur in Paris and the Institut Pasteur in Dakar.

Scaling up medicine aid through the strengthening of health systems in developing countries? This is to be the main topic at the **Remed Summer Meeting** on 17-18 July 2007 in Paris. Registration is compulsory. The preliminary programme and registration form are available on the website of Remed http://www.remed.org/programme_RE_07_inscription.pdf

The 2007/2008 travel catalogue of ‘**Tourisme et Développement Solidaires**’ (solidarity tours and overnight stays in host villages in Benin and Burkina-Faso) is available online at <http://www.tourisme-dev-solidaires.org/programme2008.pdf> (in French)

MISSIONS

Tajikistan

The strategy is gradually moving from “emergency/recovery” to “development”: withdrawal of emergency donors, arrival of development donors and gradual withdrawal of NGOs.

Health indicators in Tajikistan are still very poor: 80% of the population lives below the poverty line and 70% of public health care expenditures are paid by NGOs. Tajikistan is challenged by a very high infant mortality rate (89/1000) and an upsurge in infectious diseases.

The “development” project, which PSFCI started in May 2007, is co-financed by EuropeAid and PSF Germany and will run until April 2009. It involves providing technical assistance to the Tajik Ministry of Health in managing the republican medicine and medical commodities procurement centre. Some segments are still under construction, but you may already visit the RMPC website at: http://rmpc.tj/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7&Itemid=53

Southern Sudan

Partial relocation of the PSFCI Southern SUDAN coordination office to Juba.

Burkina-Faso

The 2004/2007 support programme in the Northern Health Region was completed at the end of August 2007. The objective was to improve access to primary health care in the 138 health centres of the health region by strengthening the essential medicine supply and distribution system. The main activities involved strengthening the 5 district depots and 20 essential drug shops, making first level health centre medical laboratories work, supporting the development of the southern area of the health district of Ouahigouya into a health district, supporting the extension and monitoring of the distribution network, promoting the rational prescribing and use of medicines, improving the community participation process, revitalizing social mobilisation activities and raising public awareness of risks associated with street medicines.

Funds are currently being sought for an awareness project.

The fight against the illicit sale of medicines has become one of the priorities of developing countries as demonstrated by the theme of the 8th International Pharmaceutical Forum held in Lomé, Togo, on 6-8 June 2007. The recommendations formulated by the participants can be found online at <http://www.essentialdrugs.org/emed/archive/200706/msg00026.php> (in French)

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).