Building Professional Bridges Across Borders

The Pharmabridge project aims to strengthen pharmaceutical services and pharmacy education in developing and transitional countries through coordinated support from pharmacy establishments in more advanced developing and developed countries. Founded in 1999, Pharmabridge gained official support by the International Pharmaceutical Federation and its Board of Pharmaceutical Practice in 2004.1

Since its inception and through the tireless efforts of its founder and current coordinator Agathe Wehrli, BPharm, D.Sc. (Hon), Pharmabridge now has more than 1530 participants representing 96 countries enrolled. Figure 1 and Figure 2 depict participants’ locations by world region and practice category, respectively.1

Figure 1. Participants’ Location by World Health Organization (WHO) Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRO = WHO Regional Office for Africa</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMRO = WHO Regional Office for the Americas</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMRO = WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EURO = WHO Regional Office for Europe</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEARO = WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPRO = WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AFRO = WHO Regional Office for Africa; AMRO = WHO Regional Office for the Americas; EMRO = WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean; EURO = WHO Regional Office for Europe; SEARO = WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia; WPRO = WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific.

On the basis of expressed needs, Pharmabridge organizes practice exposures and training for pharmacists from developing countries to spend about 4 weeks at practice sites in other countries, primarily those with advanced pharmacy education and services. As of July 2012, almost 50 pharmacists from Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, and Uganda had taken part in this program. The following table lists the host institutions that have taken part in these training programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Host Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Seitsemän veljeksen apteekki (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Korle bu Teaching Hospital (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Drug Information Resource Centre (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Boots the Chemist, Edinburgh, Scotland (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. George’s Hospital (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Lutz Pharmacy, Altoona, Iowa (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Howard University (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SNBL Clinical Pharmacology Center (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Compounding Shop, Saint Petersburg, Florida (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Cincinnati (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Michigan (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of North Carolina (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Southern California (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Texas (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of Wisconsin (4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Agathe Wehrli, BPharm, e-mail communication, July 27, 2012.

Reflecting on the impact of these unique experiences, five participants made the following comments, which are largely representative of Pharmabridge participants as a whole (Agathe Wehrli, BPharm, e-mail communication, July 27, 2012):

- “Truly speaking, the Pharmabridge training has significantly shaped my activities and career.”
- “I have encouraged research projects with a focus on evidence-based hospital pharmacy practice.”

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"My team is continuously working [to] improve the community pharmacist’s practice and I am [making] sure to influence [the practice positively to achieve] the desired outcomes [because of my] Pharmabridge [e]xperience.”

“This training was really useful to plan our teaching methodology for our recently started Pharm.D. program.”

“This four weeks training period has given an insight idea about the role of clinical pharmacists in healthcare setup. Though I understood the concept of clinical pharmacy and pharmaceutical care process in theory, this training had given me the opportunity to witness such phenomena in real life context in its actual sense.”

In addition to securing practice exposures for individuals, Pharmabridge has organized training programs in developing countries. Consulting services, seminars, or workshops have been held in Ethiopia, India, Ghana, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. It also strives to provide instructional resources to those in need and has succeeded in disseminating more than 13,000 copies of various pharmacy references, journals, and book titles to institutions and individuals in developing countries through collaborations with U.S.-based pharmacy establishments as well as U.S. pharmacy students and individual pharmacists.

In her 2010 Donald E. Francke Medal Lecture, presented at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting, Dr. Wehrli reflected on her experience, stating that

The uniqueness of working with Pharmabridge is that I am dealing only with dedicated and highly motivated colleagues who, on the one side, are committed to their profession and determined to improve pharmacy education and services in their developing countries and, on the other side, with those in the more-developed countries, like here in the United States, who sympathize with these colleagues and who believe in sharing their resources and knowledge and in offering their practice sites and expertise for training to improve pharmacy practice in the developing part of the world.

Farewell Mr. Ton Hoek

The profession said farewell to Mr. A.J.M. (Ton) Hoek, who passed away on Saturday, July 28, after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

Since assuming his post as Chief Executive Officer and General Secretary of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) in 1999, Mr. Hoek elevated FIP to the position of an influential global stakeholder in medicines and health and raised the image of the pharmacist as a health care provider around the world. Among his accomplishments are solidifying key partnerships with global entities like that with the World Health Organization (WHO) and in incorporating FIP as a founding partner in the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA). The culmination of Mr. Hoek’s vision and efforts comprises the events that will take place at the FIP Centennial Congress, to be held October 3–8, 2012, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, including a Ministers Summit on the Responsible Use of Medicines, organized by the Dutch Ministry of Health.

Mr. Ton Hoek was named an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau, a royal declaration bestowed by the Queen of the Netherlands.

Mr. Hoek leaves behind a great legacy. His vision and leadership will be missed.
**Book Highlights**

*Nourishing the Soul of Pharmacy: Stories of Reflection*

The reflections presented in this volume include stories, particularly of patient encounters, leading to the development of a professional culture that values patient-centered care. Contents of the book include reflections from senior professors and beginning faculty, pharmacy directors and new clinicians, preceptors and residents, pharmacy students, and pharmacists from industry and government.

The book includes the following sections:

- Introduction: Reflection on the Mission of Pharmacy
- The Human Condition: The Joy and Pain of Patient Interaction
- At the Counter, Bedside, and Beyond: Care in a Variety of Settings
- Care from the Other Side of the Counter and Bedside: Pharmacists as Patients and Caregivers
- Dire Situations: Care amid Catastrophe
- Care Across Cultures: Multicultural Awareness
- Truth in Action: Altruism and Justice in Pharmaceutical Care
- Good Intentions Are Not Enough: Learning from Our Mistakes
- Educational Care: Teaching, Mentoring, Learning
- Pharmacy Prospects: Shaping the Future
- Recognizing Limitations
- Humanizing the Profession
- Celebrating Pharmacy
- Appendix: Reflection as a Learning Strategy

This reflective title is intended for a variety of audiences at all career levels. More information on it is available at [www.accp.com/bookstore/la_01nscp.aspx](http://www.accp.com/bookstore/la_01nscp.aspx).

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**2012 Editions of Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, Oncology Pharmacy, and Pharmacotherapy Specialties Courses Released**

The home study instructional materials of the 2012 editions of the preparatory and recertification courses are now available for the following three pharmacy specialties: Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, Oncology Pharmacy, and Pharmacotherapy. These are ideal resources for (1) pharmacists preparing to sit for the Board of Pharmacy Specialties certification examinations for Ambulatory Care Pharmacy, Oncology Pharmacy, or Pharmacotherapy specialties, respectively, as well as (2) pharmacists seeking to update their knowledge and skills in these specialty practice areas.

Unparalleled by any other course or publication, these offerings provide the most up-to-date, comprehensive reviews of pharmacotherapeutic and patient care topics in these specialty areas. These application-based courses are offered each year in the spring, and the home study instructional materials are published annually soon thereafter.


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**Advance International Ordering from ACCP Publications**

International pharmacists attending the 2012 ACCP Annual Meeting now have the opportunity to purchase books in advance of the meeting; pick them up at the On-site Bookstore in Hollywood, Florida; and carry them back home in their suitcases.

Advance International Ordering eliminates shipping fees on most book purchases. Registrants for the Annual Meeting will receive additional information by e-mail. Register for the meeting and purchase books before September 17 to qualify for this promotion.

More information on the Annual Meeting is available at [www.accp.com/meetings/am12/](http://www.accp.com/meetings/am12/).
Dear Colleagues:

The need to dissolve geographic borders to help advance the profession and human health is increasingly realized by pharmacists and pharmacy educators from around the globe. In this issue of ACCP International Clinical Pharmacist, the article on “Building Professional Bridges Across Borders” presents the efforts and accomplishments of Pharmabridge, a project that strives to further pharmacy education and pharmaceutical services in the developing world. After a 33-year career with the World Health Organization, Dr. Agathe Werli established this service to afford educators and pharmacists practicing in the developing countries access to quality professional experiences and resources. One of the services that Pharmabridge provides is the placement of pharmacists from developing countries at institutions in the developed countries, where they spend about 4 weeks working with colleagues and learning about the services provided at the host institutions. Despite the brevity of the exposures, the impact is notable in the feedback provided by participants. The long-term effect of these connections is yet to be fully recognized, but as “clarity precedes competence,” these real-world experiences are invaluable to enhancing pharmacist competence, patient care, and health outcomes.

I end this message on a sad note: the pharmacy community lost a prominent leader in international pharmacy. Mr. Ton Hoek, Chief Executive Officer and General Secretary of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), passed away on July 28. Having had the opportunity to serve on the Board of Pharmaceutical Practice of FIP and time to reflect on the achievements of the federation through the years, I speak for many when I say that his vision and leadership will be missed, not only by the federation, but also by the pharmacy profession and all of those who had the privilege of working with him.

Sincerely,

Wafa Y. Dahdal, Pharm.D., BCPS (AQ Cardiology)

Call for Papers

Individuals are invited to submit articles for publication in future issues of the newsletter in the following departments:

- Clinical Pharmacy Practice
- Clinical Pharmacist or Clinical Practice Profile
- Patient Care
- Research and Practice
- Pharmacy Education
- Continuing Professional Development

To obtain more information and submit an article, see Information for Authors at www.accp.com/docs/international/InformationForAuthors.pdf.