

IPSF Pharmacy Student Internships at The World Health Organization (WHO)

Stop TB Partnership Towards a World Free of Tuberculosis

25,000 people develop active tuberculosis (TB) and 5000 people die from the condition each day. This means that TB kills almost 1.4 million people per year – more than from any other curable infectious disease. Pharmacists have an extremely important role in developing new treatments, providing patient information and supporting adherence to antibiotic regimens.

TB is caused by the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacillus and is spread through the air like the common cold. If left untreated, 1 person with infectious TB will infect on average between 12 to 20 people, of whom 2 to 4 will develop infectious TB.

TB infects people in every country of the world, rich and poor. Poverty, malnutrition, poor sanitation and overcrowding, all contribute to the spread of the disease⁽¹⁾.

Sustaining the fight against TB is essential for our health and socio-economic future.

Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland
Former Director General of WHO

I urge my colleagues in industry and all public health stakeholders to take a careful look at this new contribution of the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development. This comprehensive, breakthrough study will be invaluable in helping all parties interested in new drug development to better understand the potential costs and markets for future new anti-TB drugs.

Dr Harvey E. Bale Jr.
Former Director General
International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations

In May 2004 IPSF joined the WHO Stop TB Partnership. Former WHO Director General Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland launched the Partnership in 1998. The Partnership now includes more than 450 organisations, donors, countries and institutions that work together to eliminate TB. It is served by a Geneva-based secretariat hosted by WHO.

(1) Stop TB Partnership information kit, 2003

The Stop TB Partnership brings together the world's top TB specialists. Through the Partnership they share their knowledge and expertise in seven key areas:

1. DOTS Expansion: bringing the cure to every corner of the globe
2. TB-HIV: Tackling TB-HIV co-infection
3. DOTS-Plus: stamping out drug resistance
4. New TB Diagnostics: looking for results
5. TB Drug Development: developing a faster cure
6. TB Vaccine Development: stopping TB before it starts
7. Advocacy, Communications and Social Mobilization

Through IPSF, WHO will recruit a limited number of pharmacy student and/or young pharmacist interns to work at the Stop TB Secretariat in Geneva.

The intern will be placed within the Global Drug Facility, the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat's procurement arm. Under the supervision of the GDF Procurement Team Manager the intern will execute a project in the context of GDF's work plan to procure first-line and second-line anti-TB drugs for programmes approved by the GDF.

The placement will involve contacts and coordination with counterparts in the GDF team, within the Stop TB partnership Secretariat, at headquarters and with Regional and Country offices. The internship will also call for contacts outside the organization with counterparts from National TB Programmes, procurement agents, manufacturers, supply-related service providers, private sector companies, non-governmental organizations, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GF) and the International Drug Purchase Facility-UNITAID.

Potential projects are:

1. Examples of Refining Forecasts of drug needs for first and second line anti-TB drugs
2. Researching potential new suppliers for first and second line anti-TB drugs, intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)
3. Continued evaluation of Chinese market for anti-TB drugs

Intern will be involved in the development of a new TB drug price reporting mechanism:

- Contact all current GDF manufacturers and identify country registration per formulation
- Identify other TB drug manufacturer commonly used by other major Procurement mechanism and/or programmes
- Develop SOPs for pricing/PreQ, Registration data collection, updates and analysis
- Manage data collection
- Research GDF pricing history per formulation from 2007 on

The internship can be between 6 weeks to 3 months, depending on applicant's availability. Two interns are required between September to November 2008.

How to apply for an IPSF Stop TB Internship

All IPSF members are eligible to apply. WHO will be responsible for the final selection of applicants. Successful applicants undertaking an internship will not be financially remunerated by WHO. Applicants will be responsible for their own living expenses.

The deadline for this application is **26 September 2008**. Additional applications will be considered after this date as vacancies arise or as directed by WHO.

As part of your application please submit:

- Your curriculum vitae (CV) and letter of support from your university.
- A one-page motivation letter clearly indicating your specific field of interest from the seven key areas described above. Please also include your desired length of internship, and availability dates to undergo the internship.
- A maximum 1200 word essay on the role of the pharmacist in managing TB. All essays must be the original work of the applicant. IPSF reserves the right to publish the essays received (with acknowledgement of the author).

Please submit three (3) copies of your application in writing to the IPSF secretariat **postmarked no later than 26 September 2008**:

IPSF Secretariat / Stop TB Internship
PO Box 84200
2508 AE The Hague
The Netherlands

In addition, the full application shall be submitted electronically to ipsf@ipsf.org no later than 26 September 2008.

You can learn more about Stop TB Partnership at www.stoptb.org

If you have any questions about the internships please contact the IPSF Secretary General on secgen@ipsf.org.