

## In This Issue:

- *SCM Discussion Platform Update*
- *New DNDi Campaign: 'Wake Up. Time to Treat Chagas Disease!'*
- *Conference - 4th Annual Pharmaceutical Anti-Counterfeiting Strategies*

## SCM Discussion Platform Update

In mid June 2009, we requested you to give us feedback on the SCM discussion platform by participating in a user survey. Your feedback has helped us greatly in deciding on the necessary changes to make the platform more user-friendly, whilst providing you with the information that is most relevant for your day-to-day work.

Therefore, herewith a profound "thank you" to everyone who participated in the survey. As promised, the first 25 respondents will receive a toolkit shortly!

Your feedback allowed us to get a better understanding of topics that interest you most, for example pricing and logistics. Also, we learned that you would like to see links to open vacancies on the forum. At this stage, we are using all the input to prepare the launch of the new and improved SCM platform. We will keep you posted!

## New DNDi Campaign: 'Wake Up. Time to Treat Chagas Disease!'

On July 9, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of Chagas disease, DNDi (Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative) announced a new international campaign with a call for better medicines and treatment of Chagas patients.

Chagas is primarily transmitted by large, blood-sucking insects widely known as "the kissing bug" and is endemic in 21 countries across Latin America. With an average of 14,000 deaths per year, Chagas kills more people in the region each year than any other parasite-born disease, including malaria. These are mostly poor people who live in

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## i+solutions Trainings 2009 (Netherlands)

- [Gestion des Achats et des Stocks des Combinaisons Thérapeutiques à base d'Artémisinine](#)  
23 Septembre- 2October 2009
- [Managing Drug Supply in Low and Middle Income Countries - Amsterdam, the Netherlands](#)  
2 – 13 November 2009
- [La gestion optimale de l'approvisionnement des programmes de VIH/SIDA dans les pays en développement](#)  
7-18 Decembre 2009

## AA4A Trainings 2009 (South Africa)

- [Warehouse Operations Management](#)  
28 September - 23 October 2009  
2 – 27 November 2009
- [Supply Chain Management of HIV/AIDS Medicines and Supplies](#)  
19 – 30 October 2009

rural areas or migrate to the outskirts of larger urban centers and therefore don't represent an attractive enough consumer market for private industry.

For more information on this new DNDi campaign on Chagas disease and other neglected diseases, please check out the websites [www.treatchagas.org](http://www.treatchagas.org) and [www.DNDi.org](http://www.DNDi.org) respectively.

## Counterfeit Medicines – A Public Health Challenge

Counterfeit medicines are those that are deliberately mislabelled with respect to identity, strength and/or source. Counterfeits may contain wrong ingredients, insufficient or no active ingredients, ingredients that are not on the label or fake packaging. Counterfeit medicines may contain toxic ingredients or inactive and useless ingredients.

Counterfeit medicines represent a big public health challenge – they can lead to therapeutic failure, drug resistance and death. For instance, in 2006, more than 100 patients died in Panama due to medicines manufactured with counterfeit glycerine. The problem of counterfeit medicines is widespread, occurring in both developed and developing countries. Generally counterfeiting is highest in regions with weak regulatory and legal systems, putting rural and poorer segments of the population at a higher disadvantage.

In most industrialised countries, counterfeits represent less than 1% of the market value. However, in many countries in Africa, parts of Asia and Latin America, more than 30% of medicines on sale in some areas can be counterfeit. Although there are legal internet pharmacies that require patient prescriptions and dispense medicines from government licensed sources, internet-based sales of medicines are a major source of counterfeits in many countries. Illegal internet pharmacies usually conceal their identity and sell medications without prescriptions.

There is need for effective collaboration between health authorities, judiciary, police, customs, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, health professionals and patients as

## Conferences

- [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pharmaceutical Anti-Counterfeiting Strategies - Maintaining patient safety and securing the supply chain](#)  
7-8 September 2009  
London , UK
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- [2<sup>nd</sup> Access to Health Care in Africa Conference](#)  
15 – 16 September 2009  
Johannesburg, South Africa
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health authorities alone are not equipped to adequately address this challenge. The International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce (IMPACT) is a global initiative that was set up by the World Health Organization in 2006 to mobilize awareness and action in the fight against counterfeit medicines.<sup>1</sup>

There are some upcoming conferences and events on counterfeit medicines such as the [4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pharmaceutical Anti-Counterfeiting Strategies](#) in London, UK (see Conferences section of this newsletter).

For more information on counterfeit medicines, visit:

[IMPACT website](#)

[IMPACT brochure](#)

[Interactive map of global counterfeiting events in Q1 2009](#)