

What is PharmFree?

PharmFree is an Action Campaign of AMSA, with emphasis on *action!* Broadly, our goal is to ensure that our profession affirms its duties to put patients' interests before profits and to base treatment decisions on objective evidence. Our campaign's name "PharmFree" reflects its origins as an effort make medical education "free" of undue influence from the pharmaceutical industry. Since its founding in 2002, PharmFree has expanded its focus to the areas described below.

Why should you join PharmFree?

Conflicts of Interest	Access to Medicine
<p>Seven out of ten Americans feel that their doctors' decisions are too influenced by the pharmaceutical industry.</p> <p>In an era of "free lunches" and targeted advertisements to doctors based on data mining, we must protect the trust at the heart of the doctor-patient relationship. Studies and our personal experiences show that exposure to pharmaceutical and device marketing starts during medical school. As students, we can take a stand to ensure that future generations of physicians practice evidence-based medicine that prioritizes the interests of patients.</p>	<p>10 million people, most in developing countries, die needlessly every year because they lack access to medicines and vaccines.</p> <p>Countless others suffer from neglected tropical diseases, such as sleeping sickness, lymphatic filariasis, and blinding trachoma. We believe academic medical centers, pharmaceutical companies, and international bodies must collaborate to create new structures of research and development, pricing, and intellectual property that facilitate the access of medicines based on need, not ability to pay.</p>

What can you do with AMSA PharmFree?

AMSA PharmFree is here to help you make change, and we even have **project microgrants (\$\$\$)** to support programming at your school. You are eligible to receive microgrants NOW to host PharmFree projects at your school or another great time to apply is before **National PharmFree Week** from **February 2014** to host a PharmFree event then. In the meantime, you can get involved now.

AMSA PharmFree Calendar

Summer 2013 (Now!)	Fall/Winter 2013-2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check how your school did on this past year's AMSA PharmFree Scorecard and their conflict of interest policy – www.amsascorecard.org! • Help us ensure that patients worldwide receive access to affordable medicines, by pushing for such provisions in our international free trade agreement campaign. • Encourage open access to tax-payer funded research by supporting the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend our Pharmaceutical Policy Leadership Institute to learn from experts in the field and bring expertise back to your school and peers (late Nov). • Encourage transparency in medical education by promoting disclosure of conflicts to medical students through our Second Slide Campaign. • Help us get the word about the NEW Scorecard out to your schools and teaching hospitals!

If you'd like to learn more about PharmFree, the projects above, please visit our website (amsa.org/pharmfree) and email Reshma at pff@amsa.org. Remember, we're able to support events through **micro-grants!**