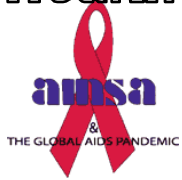


# Health Professional Students AIDS Advocacy Network



## Awareness and Action

### A. National Projects

#### 1. Issue-Based Presentations

These presentations have been designed with the available time and attention span of the average health professional student in mind. They consist of three main sections which are easily downloadable from the web, simple to organize, sized to fit into a lunchtime meeting slot, and effectively use student's time to learn about the topics as well as take part in the action. Best of all, they come with a regional ARAC and national student organizer, both of whom are available to help answer any questions or facilitate cooperative events between schools. The three sections for the presentation are:

a. **Powerpoints** – These powerpoints have been created by the national leaders of the HPSAAN and will be available on the HPSAAN website for easy downloading by HPSAAN Coordinators at each school. They are designed to be presented in 15 minutes, as an introduction to a topic that a speaker will address in further detail. There are three different topics: Donate the Dollars (including Fund the Fund), Drop the Debt, and Treat the People. They can be used at any time that is convenient for your group, although the Treat the People powerpoint will be specifically encouraged for World AIDS Day events.

b. **Speakers** – We know that health professional students sit through too many powerpoint lectures – and that students are always interested to hear about things that people have done with and beyond their health professional degrees. Thus we have created a Speaker's Bureau - a list of professionals (MDs, PhDs, RNs, MPHs, activists) working on AIDS issues who are willing to come and speak at different schools, but particularly those in their region. Students are encouraged to suggest professionals with whom they are in contact as additions to the Bureau. *Please note:* HPSAAN Coordinators will be responsible for notifying their ARAC that the speaker will be coming so that the ARAC can publicize this to other schools in the region. Chapters will be responsible for the costs associated with inviting any of these speakers, and it is advised that they contact them well in advance in order to assure that they will be available for the presentation.

c. **Action** – This is where it all comes together. Having seen the powerpoint and listened to the speaker, students will be encouraged to participate in an action that is specifically designed to address the issue. Action materials will be available for downloading along with the powerpoint. These actions will be planned on a chapter level, with guidance from the national and regional leaders.

#### 2. World AIDS Day

HPSAAN will be working with other organizations active on AIDS to put together a event for this day that is easily organized relevant to recent events. Details will be publicized on the HPSAAN website as well as through the listservs, so please stay tuned.

#### 3. Health Action AIDS Weeks

In March 2004, health professional schools around the nation will organize a Health Action AIDS week. HPSAAN Coordinators at each school will work closely with PHR's Health Action AIDS Week Coordinators to create a meaningful and effective week of events. ARACs and HPSAAN Coordinators will be specifically responsible for helping to organize regional events focused on legislative action, including lobby days, town hall discussions, or letter writing campaigns to local Congressional representatives. Materials and instructions will be available on the HPSAAN website. Other events for the week may include some of the ideas listed on the other side of this paper.

## B. ARAC Projects

Each ARAC has been charged with designing a project to be presented at their AMSA Fall Regional Conference. These presentations and ideas will be made available to other ARACs and the HPSAAN Coordinators on the website along with some feedback information from students who attended the session at regional conference.

## C. Additional Projects

**1. Lobby Day with elected officials** – Feel the power of the white coat. Organizing a meeting with staffers from your elected official's office is easier than you think – and more influential than you can imagine. Information on how to run a lobby day is available on the HPSAAN website. In order to fully prepare for your meeting, check out the online Legislative Action Center. There you will find information on your elected official, including how they have voted on past bills and amendments, as well as information on the current legislative issues on AIDS and what to ask your elected official to support.

**2. Case Study Presentations** – Morning Report with a twist. On the HPSAAN website you can find 2 case studies about AIDS researched and written by Susana Williams. The first presents the case of a man with HIV/AIDS in a shantytown outside of Johannesburg while the second addresses the related issues of refugee health and complementary and alternative medicine and how they can impact a person with HIV's treatment options.

**3. Fundraising events for local or international charities** – Put your money where your mouth is. Fundraisers are easy to organize, fun to run, and have an immediate impact on the minds of the people who donate and the hearts of those who receive. While students are encouraged to raise funds for any AIDS organization that they support, we have materials available for the following fundraisers online.

**a. Fund the Fund Bake Sale** – While a bake sale may not make up the billion missing from the Fund's budget, you can feel secure knowing the money will end up in the hands of a worthy organization – and let others know how important it is for our government to support the Fund at the same time.

**b. Red Ribbon Sales** – Make your own or support people living with AIDS who create beaded ribbons by hand as part of a cooperative outside Johannesburg. More information on this group is available on the HPSAAN website – as well as information on how to purchase some beaded ribbons as a fundraiser for your group.

**4. Sponsor an 04 Stop AIDS Campaign Teach-In** - Make sure that our next president will be an ally in the fight against AIDS. This campaign started earlier this year and has since grown into a grassroots movement among students. Health GAP, SGAC, and AMSA are working on this campaign and sending representatives to schools around the country to:

- update students about the current legislative situation on AIDS
  - train students to address candidates during public appearances
  - prepare students to speak to the media about AIDS and the importance of the White House's involvement.
- If you are interested in having a Teach-In at your school, or would like to find out about teach-ins in your area, contact Region 3 ARAC Jen Cohn at [jecohn@mail.med.upenn.edu](mailto:jecohn@mail.med.upenn.edu)

**5. Show "A Closer Walk"** - A Closer Walk is the first film to depict humankind's confrontation with the global AIDS epidemic. The film's director and producer, Robert Bilheimer, is an Academy Award nominee for his film Cry of Reason, a profile of the South African anti-apartheid leader Beyers Naude. A Closer Walk was conceived with the late Jonathan Mann, architect of the World Health Organization's response to global AIDS. A Worldwide Documentaries production, A Closer Walk has been produced in association with the Global Health Council. AIDS advocates featured in the film include His Holiness the Dalai Lama, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and Bono of U2. Glenn Close and Will Smith are the film's narrators. For more information about the film, check out [www.acloserwalk.org](http://www.acloserwalk.org). Copies are currently available through AMSA for a discounted price of \$30. Copies of the video purchased through AMSA will come with a packet of information on the network, current issues, and upcoming or ongoing actions. Contact [jrf@www.amsa.org](mailto:jrf@www.amsa.org) to reserve your school's copy today!!