

Translated from *Rev Prescrire* March 2007; 27 (281): 166-167

ABOUT PRESCRIRE Association Mieux Prescrire (AMP), a professional movement aimed at promoting quality healthcare

Association Mieux Prescrire (AMP, Association for Better Prescribing), the organisation that produces and publishes *la revue Prescrire* and *Prescrire International*, is a non profit professional organisation aiming to improve healthcare quality. Its activities extend far beyond its publications.

Values and objectives

Since the first issue of our French edition, *la revue Prescrire*, was published 26 years ago, the principal objective of AMP has been regularly restated: to help healthcare professionals to provide good quality care, with the sole purpose of supporting their patients' interests. This objective goes hand in hand with AMP's core values: financial and intellectual independence from sectors whose interests potentially conflict with patients' interests (especially from commercial interests and drug companies) multidisciplinary, impartiality, and transparency in data sources and methodology.

The choice of a non-profit organisational structure is completely in line with our objectives and values, as stated in article 1 of the AMP statutes.

La revue Prescrire and *Prescrire International* are one of the means by which AMP seeks to meet health professionals' otherwise unmet need for independent comparative information on drug and non drug therapies, diagnostic strategies, and preventive measures.

- For further information:

The French text of the statutes is publicly available on www.prescrire.org ("Qui est Prescrire?"). See also, at the same address, *Pourquoi Prescrire* and *Association Mieux Prescrire*, and the "Just say no..." charter.

A professional training organisation

A key function of *Association Mieux Prescrire* is to provide training for healthcare professionals. The work of the *Prescrire* editorial team to write clear and concise systematic reviews, provide access to the *Prescrire* database, and compile monthly readers' tests (created in 1988) are all forms of continuing professional education.

The success of the new *Prescrire* Training Programmes resulting from several years of preparatory work and a gradual strengthening of the working group responsible for these programmes, is part of an ongoing process by which AMP seeks to meet healthcare professionals' needs. These training programmes help professionals to understand and remember important practical information, to learn how to apply this information in clinical settings, and to evaluate and improve individual practices. Teamwork is carefully nurtured among all health professionals, in order to better coordinate patient care.

- For further information:
www.prescrire.org: *Productions Prescrire*
- *Les Formations Prescrire*.



National meeting May 2006 - AMP members in Toulouse (France)

Strictly defined methods, subscriber feedback

Several clear choices guide *Prescrire's* methods, including independence, extensive research, data analysis free of conflicts of interest and bias; rigorous analysis and review to guarantee the quality of all published texts; multidisciplinary cooperation (physicians, pharmacists, etc.); and organisational efficiency in order to ensure the best possible use of available financing (exclusively via subscriptions). Our methods are continually evolving, based on ongoing internal audits, listening and learning from criticisms, comparisons with methods used by other teams, and an ongoing quest for innovation and improvement.

Professional practice is central to the *Prescrire* movement. Most of our editors are practicing physicians, pharmacists, dentists or nurses. They listen to their colleagues "in the field", and read (and reply to) all mail received (more than 2000 responses each year to letters, e-mails and faxes). This correspondence is also distributed among the teams so that each member can draw inferences from relevant information. The same applies to feedback received through the Subscription service, draft text committees, etc.

- For further information:

www.prescrire.org: *Qui est Prescrire - Un travail d'équipe - Le chemin d'une synthèse - Les groupes de lecture de la revue Prescrire*

International solidarity

AMP participates in many formal and informal international networks. Through exchanges of information and participation in international campaigns, the AMP editorial team and directors are in regular contact with many teams and organisations in other countries who share the same goal of providing independent, reliable information. These include independent journals, drug information centres, consumer associations, and health insurance organisations.

Prescrire is a founding member of the International Society of Drug Bulletins (ISDB), a network of about sixty therapeutic bulletins independent of the pharmaceutical industry and present in over 35 countries.

In addition to professional exchanges and cooperation between teams, AMP promotes access to quality information for all, in all countries, as exemplified by its International Support rates and Solidarity Subscription Programme.

- For further information:
www.prescrire.org: *Qui est Prescrire - Association Mieux Prescrire - Tarifs Soutien International - Programme Abonnés Solidaires - ISDB*;

ISDB website: www.isdbweb.org: *about The International Society of Drug Bulletins*.

Civic responsibility and concrete action

When regulatory agencies neglect their responsibilities, i.e. public health, and when the private healthcare sector tries to make money by taking on functions that are inconsistent with this goal, such as training of health professionals and provision of patient information, it is not enough simply to protest. It is also necessary to act, as effectively as possible and by all possible means.

AMP acts and encourages its subscribers to do the same. Examples include the campaign conducted by the Medicines in Europe Forum on the European Directive on human medicines; the campaign promoting the use of the international non proprietary name (INN); promotion of training for professionals that is independent of drug companies; and the fight against 'patient compliance programmes' that drug companies are seeking to conduct. The results show just how effective these campaigns have been.

- For further information:

www.prescrire.org: *Europe et Médicament; Priorité à la DCI*.

A dynamic association

AMP members have developed a variety of projects, both within and outside the association. They share their ideas and actions through a bulletin called *Nouvelles du Moment* (News of the Moment), as well as the members' directory, and alternating annual meetings for new members either in Paris, or in regional centres outside of Paris (Toulouse in 2006, Rennes in 2008).

The *Prescrire* movement is advancing!

Association Mieux Prescrire

To join Association Mieux Prescrire

As a subscriber you already participate in the *Prescrire* movement and can join in the actions and campaigns undertaken by AMP (see the journal or the website www.prescrire.org).

If you want to show your support for the *Prescrire* movement, to contribute to the work of the association, to participate in ongoing activities, or to propose new projects, then join AMP.

You must have been an individual subscriber to *Prescrire* for at least two years and have signed the AMP "Just say no... charter."

For further information, or to join AMP: Association Mieux Prescrire, 83 bd Voltaire 75558 Paris Cedex 11 (France); amp@prescrire.org - Phone: (33) (0)1 49 23 72 80 - Fax: (33) (0)1 48 07 87 32.

AMP organisation

The AMP General Assembly, called the General Assembly of Colleges, has 70 members whose tenure lasts for 3 years. It is composed of four colleges (or committees): the College of Counselors with 15 appointed members; the College of Founders, with 10 appointed members; the College of Readers, with 20 members chosen by their peers; and the College of Editors, with 25 members chosen by their peers. The General Assembly of Colleges elects members of the Board of Administration.

The Board of Administration consists of 20 members chosen from the four Colleges for three years (including 5 members of the College of Editors), and meets three times a year to set key work priorities. The Board of Administration elects the President and five other members of the Bureau, and appoints the Directors.

The Directors, President and Bureau form the executive committee, which meets once or twice a month.

- For further information:

www.prescrire.org: *Qui est Prescrire - Association Mieux Prescrire, Lire les Statuts de l'AMP, Règlement intérieur de l'AMP*