

“Solidarity Support Programme”: the rules

1- The Solidarity Support Programme was introduced by the Association Mieux Prescrire (AMP) in 1993 in response to requests from health professionals in low-income countries who cannot afford to subscribe to *la revue Prescrire* or *Prescrire International*, or who do not have access to information sources that are vital for their practice or training. The programme was then extended to support professional development initiatives, and in particular to help create and develop independent drug information bulletins. As a result of changing needs and demands, the Programme's priorities currently tend towards this latter type of aid, including “documentation grants” and training courses for editors.

2- Donations to the Solidarity Support Programme are collected by AMP. These come mainly from subscribers to *la revue Prescrire* and *Prescrire International*, although gifts from other sources are accepted, except for donations which could create conflicts of interest (e.g from pharmaceuticals firms).

AMP is actively involved in the Programme, making its staff available to train editors, coordinating the Programme, and granting reduced-rate subscriptions within the context of the Programme. These subscriptions, which are limited in number, are paid for by the donations to the Programme at a reduced cost (Solidarity Subscription rate).

An annual statement of accounts for the Programme is made available to donors. It is published each year in *la revue Prescrire* and on the Prescrire website: www.prescrire.org

3- The various benefits of the Solidarity Support Programme are granted to named individuals or not-for-profit organisations.

The Board appoints a Selection Committee from the AMP membership. The Committee serves for a period of 2 years, renewable.

Beneficiaries of the Solidarity Support Programme are selected on the following basis:

- the applicant's difficulties in funding his/her training as an editor, in acquiring documentation or paying the subscription fee: decisions are made according to the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in the applicant's country;
- the applicant's ability to make good use of the assistance and to enable his/her colleagues to benefit from it. The Selection Committee gives priority to applicants involved in the initial training or continuing education of other health professionals or in providing information to the public.

Applications most closely respecting these criteria are given priority.

Applicants may make their request directly, or be proposed by third parties such as subscribers, reviewers, members of the AMP, editorial correspondents, and members of the International Society of Drug Bulletins (ISDB).

4- Financial assistance for trainee editors from low-income countries is granted by the Selection Committee after the trainee has accepted the training programme devised by the editorial team of *la revue Prescrire*.

When selecting candidates the Committee takes into consideration the financial criteria outlined in paragraph 3. The objective of creating or developing quality, independent information is a prerequisite.

5- Financial assistance to enable health professionals in low-income countries to obtain documentation is granted by the Selection Committee after a detailed examination of each request. In practice, the documents concerned can only be documents that have been analysed and reported in *la revue Prescrire* for their important contribution to training or professional practice or for providing valuable information to the public.

In selecting candidates, the Committee takes into consideration the financial criteria outlined in paragraph 3. The Selection Committee gives priority to applicants involved in the initial training or continuing education of other health professionals or in providing information to the public.

6- After ensuring that applicants cannot afford the Solidarity Subscription rates (**a**) and notably the Solidarity student rate, free solidarity subscriptions are granted for an initial period of one year so as to ascertain the suitability of *la revue Prescrire* to the applicant's needs, and are renewable for periods of one year for a maximum of 3 years. After 3 years, beneficiaries of free solidarity subscriptions may then subscribe for a further 3 years at the Solidarity student rate, and then at the standard Solidarity rate for as long as necessary.

Grant decisions are based on the financial criteria outlined in paragraph 3 and on the relevance of the information project proposed by each candidate. In return, beneficiaries are expected to inform *la revue Prescrire* of the project's progress and difficulties. It is hoped that beneficiaries of the Solidarity Support Programme will participate in the life of *la revue Prescrire* (readers' letters etc.). The same applies to all subscribers.

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**The Selection Committee
Jacques Juillard**

Jeanne Maritoux

Cécile Poilpré

**President of the Association Mieux Prescrire:
Philippe Mura**

a- *The Solidarity Subscription applies for countries with purchasing power parity >12 500 USD/year, according to the world bank classification. It is available on request from the Subscriptions department of la revue Prescrire and Prescrire International (or on Prescrire Website: www.prescrire.org)*

To benefit from Solidarity subscription rates, the journal must be sent to countries that are not on the following list : EU countries (excepted Bulgaria and Romania) and Australia, Argentina, Brunei, Canada, Croatia, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, New-Zealand, Norway, Oman, Puerto Rico, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Switzerland.