

# The Chain Reaction

Humanitarian Solutions Worldwide

Newsletter 15 • January 31, 2014



## Letter from the President

Dear Reader,

In taking on the role of President of Chemists Without Borders, I plan to emphasize the role of chemistry in our humanitarian efforts and develop projects utilizing our chemistry expertise so that you can volunteer and participate. I am very pleased to have Ladan Artusy (Executive Director) join us and have Lou Ciabattoni accept the role of Vice President of Membership. These capable individuals will be instrumental in the success of Chemists Without Borders. I look forward to a productive year in 2014.

BY STEVEN D. CHAMBREAU, PRESIDENT  
AND BOARD MEMBER

### Change is Good

“Change makes you flexible. Change makes you smarter. Change reminds us that anything is possible.” (posted by [Jennifer E. Jones](#))

We now have an Executive Director, Ladan Aslani Artusy, who is changing the internal operations of Chemists Without Borders. Ladan’s financial and executive level expertise is adding proven business fundamentals to our scientific organization.

Our co-founder and former Vice President Steve Chambreau, has taken on the reins as our President. His passion has fueled the growth of our organization and is refocusing our active projects. Bego Gerber, the other co-founder, is now grooming our Board of Directors as the Chairman. Lou Ciabattoni accepted our Vice President role, after spending the past two years in memberships. Lou also wants to bring his industry and business knowledge to Chemists Without Borders, as well as empower our membership to be able to give back by volunteering from home (see New Website section on page 3).

For all other additions to Chemists Without Borders, see [Meet the Team](#) under the About menu on our website.

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*Chemists Without Borders has over 650 members in 53 countries. We are happy to announce first time members from Russia, Greece, Sri Lanka, Brazil, and Sierra Leone. Many of you want to know how to help. On our new website, opportunities are listed under the Volunteer menu. Your expertise adds value to Chemists Without Borders and we welcome your assistance.*

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### Our Mission

Chemists Without Borders solves humanitarian problems by mobilizing the resources and expertise of the global chemistry community and its networks.

### Our Vision

A global support network of volunteers providing mentoring, information and advice to ensure every person, everywhere, has affordable, consistent and persistent access to:

- Essential medicines and vaccines
- Sufficient safe water
- A sustainable energy supply
- Education in green chemistry and business which people can apply in their daily lives and teach to others
- Safe processes in work environments where chemical hazards exist
- Emergency support, including essential supplies and technology

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# Arsenic Project

Chemists Without Borders' Arsenic Public Education Project in Bangladesh will identify and deliver arsenic removal systems and arsenic test kits to local high schools in arsenic affected areas in Bangladesh. This opportunity will lead to greater awareness in the younger community in Bangladesh of the problems of arsenic and how to address them. By educating the students, we aim to educate the population at large in Bangladesh about the dangers of arsenic and about the available solutions.

Goal: To educate the population in Bangladesh via high school children about the hazards of arsenic in their drinking water in order to use only safe wells and safe filters, and to operate filters safely and sustainably.

Objectives:

1) To develop, translate and distribute a protocol for testing and treatment of arsenic in drinking water which can be easily applied and disseminated to high schools in Bangladesh in 4 months.

2) To enlist high school students to test drinking water sources and monitor the efficacies of arsenic removal technologies as per the protocols developed (see objective 1) in 6-9 months.

3) To provide SONO filters and arsenic test kits to 10 high schools in Bangladesh within 6 months of contact and agreement with the high schools.

4) To verify arsenic levels in high school water supplies within 2 months of delivery of SONO filter, test kits and demonstration protocol.

5) To reduce drinking water arsenic levels in participating high schools to less than 50 ppb (Bangladesh standard) and preferably less than 10 ppb (WHO standard), and enable 500+ school children to routinely access safe, drinkable water in 2 years.

6) To reward students' efforts by certifying 25 high school students for water safety training by Q3/14.

7) To evaluate the success of the project within 1 year of SONO filter delivery and develop a program plan.

We are working with UNICEF to develop and implement an arsenic education project which involves providing high schools in Bangladesh with a SONO filter, arsenic test kit, and instructions, translated into Bengali, on how to use the filter and the kit. The testing protocol will be developed, validated and then translated by Chemists Without Borders volunteers in the United States. UNICEF will help to identify high schools in highly arsenic-affected areas in Bangladesh such as in Kushtia and Sitakunda. MSUK has agreed to donate several SONO filters used in this proposal. We would also like to develop studies which could include (but not be limited to) the following: efficacy, shelf-lives of EconoQuick and other test kits, mapping out arsenic concentrations in local water supplies, effectiveness of education in reducing arsenic poisoning, etc. If this project is successful in educating the local population about how to deal with arsenic poisoning, UNICEF would assist in scaling this into a regional and even possibly a national program.

## New Website

Have you seen our new website? [Chemistswithoutborders.org](http://Chemistswithoutborders.org) has a new look. We have expanded into Social Media. If you are not participating in, or have concerns about Social Media, join many of us as we dip our toes into this brave new world. Don't worry.

Our Web Designer, Hana Martucci, attended one of our Member Meetings in October 2011 and by our next meeting she presented her Social Networking

vision for Chemists Without Borders. Today her vision is a reality. Thank you Hana!

Chemists Without Borders is all about networking. Being separated across 53 countries, these Web 2.0 applications like Skype, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc., are the next best thing for Networking. Lou Ciabattoni has visions of a Help Line available to every person in the world asking for solutions to a chemically related concern. "I am old school and

would rather talk over coffee, but we are all way too busy. You are experts in Water Quality, Green Chemistry, Education, Medicine, and much, much more. We are a living, scientific knowledge repository. Why shouldn't we share our expertise throughout the world." If you are interested in sharing your thoughts, send us your comments ([louciabattoni@chemistswithoutborders.org](mailto:louciabattoni@chemistswithoutborders.org)).

## IdeaConnection

### Chemists Without Borders partners with IdeaConnection to Solve Five Humanitarian Challenges

IdeaConnection, an industry leader in open innovation and solving R&D challenges, has made a generous, \$500,000 in-kind donation to Chemists Without Borders. They have partnered with us to devise solutions to five challenges affecting the health of millions.

The Arsenic Penny-per-Test Challenge is asking for a simple test to be designed that would detect arsenic levels in groundwater. More than 75 million people in Bangladesh are at risk for arsenic poisoning, and current tests are too expensive to be practical. The test should be able to be manufactured and distributed locally, and must be accurate and reliable.

The Arsenic Removal Water Filter Challenge is looking for a water filter design that would remove arsenic from water to less than 50 ppb (Bangladesh standard) and, ideally, to less than 10 ppb (WHO standard), and must be able to be manufactured as a cottage industry in developing countries like Bangladesh.

The Contaminated Water Testing "Tool Kit" Challenge is seeking an analytical tool kit that would identify major impurities in water. Impure drinking water is a major source of illness throughout the world, and a cost effective, portable and straightforward testing kit could protect millions of people from succumbing to debilitating diseases.

The Contaminated Water Treatment "Tool Kit" Challenge is to design a portable, easy-to-use tool kit for treating contaminated water for some of the major impurities that affect human and environmental health globally.

The Electronic Waste Challenge is reaching out to the global community to design an action plan to alleviate the health and safety risks to uneducated and underprivileged workers in India, China and Africa who extract metals from e-waste. Workers are exposed to dangerous levels of toxins such as lead, cadmium, mercury, chromium and polyvinyl chlorides.

To learn more, please visit IdeaConnection's "Innovation Challenges" webpage [here](#).

## Regional Member Meeting Interest

Adam Fischmann is interested in organizing a NY/NJ/CT Member Meeting. If you are living in the New York City area, please send an email to our [Info@chemistswithoutborders.org](mailto:Info@chemistswithoutborders.org) general account and we will connect you with Adam. Adam has the Member Meeting Organizational Kit, which contains information and templates used in promoting and running a member meeting.

This Kit is available to all members, so you can successfully execute a regional meeting in your part of the world.

## Hach Donation

Chemists Without Borders has received a generous donation from Hach Company of 5 low range and 5 high range arsenic test kits. Twenty-five additional kits can be donated and sent directly to Bangladesh upon further request. UNICEF has also made available 100 EconoQuick arsenic test kits in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for future use.

## Just So You Know

As the new Vice President of Chemists Without Borders (October 2013), I am determined to make good on your passion for giving back.

As membership manager, my heart was always touched as I processed your Subscription Request to join our organization. Over the last two years, I realized that our most successful endeavors are the

ones that are essential, in some way, to the members involved in a project or initiative. Whether we are talking about creating a chapter, organizing a membership meeting, leading a new project, answering a question, organizing a fund raising initiative, or participating in a project, your time, passion, and expertise are the fuel to our success in your communities around the world.

Some members help in our internal

operations or participate in a project or initiative. The Just So You Know Blog post is designed to keep you informed of what is happening at Chemists Without Borders. Our goal is to provide weekly updates for all members to know what is happening.

Stay Tuned... ([Follow our Blog post](#)),  
Lou Ciabattoni  
Vice President

## Meet the Executive Team - Ladan Aslani Artusy



Ladan Aslani Artusy is the Executive Director of Chemists Without Borders. She leads strategic development and operational management of the organization to ensure efficiency and progress of Chemists Without Borders. Ladan is an economist and a business strategist with many years of experience in management and leadership who strongly advocates the three pillars of sustainability: economy, society, environment.

As a former Wall Street banker and Silicon Valley entrepreneur, she has had a diverse and extensive background working with government, international corporations, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. Ladan has worked with the Federal Reserve Bank focusing on monetary policy and comparative economic modeling. She also worked on Wall Street as a treasury analyst and international banker. She was the founder and CEO of a financial management consulting firm in Silicon Valley advising entrepreneurs and small companies regarding many aspects of the operational side of business as well as prospecting the funding and financing processes. She also had an extensive relationship with the Small Business

Administration (SBA) regarding micro finance as it relates to local economic development and job creation. Over the past few years, she has been actively promoting the Small Business Jobs Acts of 2010, Loan Guaranty Program for ease of credit to businesses.

Ladan received her B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, in Economics with Honors, Distinction in General Scholarship, and her M.A. from Stanford University in Economics with focuses on international marketing, food economy, and trade and commodity futures markets. She also holds a California Teaching Credential.

To learn more about Ladan visit her [Linkedin Profile](#).

### Lois Ongley - Tribute

Dear Friends,

I am sad to report that Professor Lois Katherine Ongley of Unity College, Maine, died of cancer on November 16th, 2013. In 2011, the Executive Committee of Chemists Without Borders awarded Dr. Ongley the Distinguished Member of Chemists Without Borders Award for her work. Lois brought broad knowledge and expertise, not just in technical and scientific areas, but also in the development of an organization like ours. She was a major player in both our arsenic

remediation and green chemistry education efforts. Her passion for teaching and for making a difference took her half way around the world and back on our behalf.

Lois also served as Corporate Secretary of Chemists Without Borders, and with her dedication, patience and initiative, she made a massive contribution to our growth and development. The mission and vision of Chemists Without Borders which Lois helped create and implement persists, and the Sierra Leone "chemistry-in-a-baggie" education project will be officially named the Lois

K. Ongley Chemistry Kits for Sierra Leone Project.

Lois joined the ranks of only two other Distinguished Members, Nazneen Khanam and K. C. Wang. Lois was a person whom we are most happy and honored to call our friend. She will be greatly missed.

I wish every one of you a long, healthy and prosperous life.

Peace,  
Bego Gerber  
Chairman

## Recruiting for the Board of Directors

Chemists Without Borders seeks nominations to expand its Board of Directors from the current 3 people to 5. To ensure continuity, once the new members become acclimatized, the current board members will also be replaced sequentially.

There are many different opinions on the role of a board of directors, and how to build it (e.g., [Finding the Right Members](#)). There are right ways and wrong ways. Even the various right ways may conflict with one another. The key, then, is to decide precisely what outcomes we want and to recruit for these.

It is well known (and my experience confirms it) that if one wishes to work successfully with diverse groups, one must have a diverse team and a diverse board. I have therefore listed some desirable criteria for relevant prospective board members; these criteria will change as projects and programs develop.

- Women
- Excellent people skills
- Lawyer with relevant expertise
- Financial expertise
- Bangladeshi
- Sierra Leonean
- Fundraiser
- International humanitarian expertise
- Non-profit expertise

Please send your nominations or requests for further information by email to [nominations@chemistswithoutborders.org](mailto:nominations@chemistswithoutborders.org).

Bego Gerber  
Chairman

## AIDSfreeAFRICA Opportunity

AIDSfreeAFRICA's vision is a thriving pharmaceutical production industry in most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr. Rolande Hodel, Founder and President of AIDSfreeAFRICA, is inviting you to join in this conversation. Are you a decision maker in the Pharmaceutical Industry and interested? Are you in academia? Do you work in the non-profit world on drug access and supply chain management? We want you because we believe that it is time to expand this vision.

Cameroon, in West Africa has made strides, but being the first is not easy and it is expensive. Cinpharm (Douala, Cameroon) is a GMP facility encompassing formulations, packaging and QC/QA. Forty different generic drugs, i.e., antibiotics, antifungals, pain killers and IV fluids, have already been produced there successfully.

Contact Rolande to join the conversation:

[RRHodel@aol.com](mailto:RRHodel@aol.com)

[www.AIDSfreeAFRICA.org](http://www.AIDSfreeAFRICA.org)

<http://aidsfreeafrica.blogspot.com/2012/02/cameroon-pharmaceutical-industry.html>



## Send us your photos

We are looking for high quality photos for our Annual Report. Please send us chemical related photographs in your community to [Info@chemistswithoutborders.org](mailto:Info@chemistswithoutborders.org). The best photo will be featured in our 2013 Annual Report. If required, obtain and include the proper permissions for Chemists Without Borders to publish your photographs ([release form](#)).

## Make a donation

<http://www.chemistswithoutborders.org/index.php/donate>