

*2015 was a great year of growth for PharmedOut. Thank you to all of our generous donors and amazing volunteers; you have enabled us to continue to have both national and international impact on rational prescribing!*

*Adriane Fugh-Berman MD and Alycia Hogenmiller*

## In 2015, we:

**Held** our fifth PharmedOut conference, “[The Real Risks of Rx Drugs](#)” in June, attended by physicians, nurses, attorneys, journalists, consumer advocates, and students.

**Campaigned** against the approval and use of Addyi (flibanserin)

- In March, PharmedOut project manager Alessandra Hirsch (now a medical student at the University of Illinois, and our webmaster) and intern Rebecca Holliman published “The Drug that Cried ‘Feminism’” in [Bioethics Forum](#).
- In June,
  - Alessandra Hirsch and Dr. Fugh-Berman testified at an FDA advisory committee meeting regarding flibanserin.
  - An [article](#) by former PharmedOut interns Antonie Meixel and Ellie Yanchar in the BMJ’s *Journal of Medical Ethics* exposed the use of continuing medical education in the creation of HSDD (hypoactive sexual desire disorder).
  - PharmedOut intern Rebecca Holliman published “Desiring Profits, Not Equality” in [US News and World Report](#).
- In July, PharmedOut and the New View Campaign [sent a pair of letters](#) to the FDA signed by more than 200 physicians,

researchers, and sex therapists urging the FDA to reject flibanserin.

- In October, PharmedOut released “[Addyi Facts](#)”, a factsheet for prescribers and, with the New View Campaign, Leonore Tiefer’s “[10 Drug-Free Ways to Improve Your Sex Life](#)”.
- Our work on flibanserin was widely covered. Alessandra Hirsch made her TV debut on Chicago Tonight (PBS). Dr. Fugh-Berman appeared on the [PBS NewsHour](#) and [the Diane Rehm Show](#). We were quoted in the [New York Times](#), the [Washington Post](#), [USA Today](#), [TIME](#), the [Associated Press](#), the [Chicago Sun-Times](#), [ABC News](#), [NBC News](#), [CBS News](#), [CBC News](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Politico](#), [Vox](#), [Buzzfeed](#), [MinnPost](#), [Today.com](#), [Jezebel](#), [Bustle](#), and [more](#).
- Although the FDA approved Addyi in August, and the drug became available in October, our efforts successfully informed consumers and health care providers about the drug’s risks. In its first two months on the market, only 1,000 prescriptions for Addyi were filled!

**Were featured** in over 55 news stories, radio shows, and videos in [The New York Times](#) (twice), [Washington Post](#), [Time](#), [USA Today](#), [Al Jazeera America](#), [Associated Press](#), [NPR](#) (twice), [C-SPAN video](#), internationally and [many more](#).



**Added** many new articles to our peer-reviewed and consumer publications including:

- A commentary by Alessandra Hirsch on how the CIA's torture program mirrored the Nazi doctors' experiments in "[Modern Day Mengeles](#)" in the *Hasting's Bioethics Forum*.
- [Pharmaceutical Industry Interactions in Family Medicine Residencies Decreased Between 2008 and 2013: a CERA Study in Family Medicine](#)
- A commentary by newsletter editor (and former project manager) Nicole Dubowitz on "[Making an Example of Martin Shkreli](#)"
- An editorial in the [American Family Physician](#) arguing that family physicians should not screen men for testosterone deficiency.
- A commentary in the [Journal of Medical Ethics](#) by PharmedOut Project Manager, Alycia Hogenmiller and Dr. Fugh-Berman took on the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) for hiding the extent of industry money in CME.

**Collaborated** with Dr. Susan Wood at George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health and the DC Department of Health to launch the [DC Center for Rational Prescribing](#) (DCRx), an evidence-based continuing medical education (CME) program. Five CME/CPE accredited modules are available on drug approval, generic drugs, and medical cannabis. The modules are free to DC prescribers and pharmacists and \$20 gets access to all 5 modules for health care providers outside of DC. Available at [doh.dc.gov/dcrx](http://doh.dc.gov/dcrx).

**Revamped** and updated the PharmedOut website, launching an [Advocacy Tab](#) to keep people informed of current efforts.

**Increased** our reach, doubling subscribers to our [newsletter](#), gaining 520 followers on [twitter](#) and got 270 new likes on [Facebook](#). And, of course:

**Educated** healthcare professionals on industry tactics that undermine rational prescribing at many talks and conferences.

We are primarily supported by individuals. [Please consider making a donation.](#)

