

MARKETING INTERNALLY

Marketing clinical trial results involves internal politics. If you succeed, you will invariably change the status quo and thus invade someone's turf. You will meet internal resistance from risk-averse control fanatics and procedure-loving bureaucrats in your organization. Use the ideas in this section to build an ingenious internal marketing programme that will help you meet these challenges.

Develop an internal marketing programme

The Internal Strategy

Your internal marketing programme clears road blocks in the company



Remove (invisible) barriers

The internal marketing programme is designed to skilfully overcome internal obstacles. You need to enlist broad support within the company. You need to ensure word-of-mouth marketing for your project.

Adopt a pragmatic attitude: be candid and frank, but at the same time astute, so you can navigate towards your goal.

Focus on overt and implicit messages

Your Overt Message



Waking people up

The project: A golden business opportunity

The strategy for capturing that opportunity

Winning in the market place

The overt message on which you focus should be:

The clinical trial is a golden business opportunity we should take advantage of.

The team has designed a conclusive strategy for exploiting that opportunity.

The team can help the company to win in the market place.

Wake people up to a fantastic commercial opportunity.

Show them how your project will add value.

Your Implicit Message

The ideal person for making the most of it



You

The internal marketing programme is also your internal personal recognition programme

The message hidden beneath the overt message is: You are the person with the solution for taking advantage of this commercial opportunity. You are the appropriate person to steer the project - officially or unofficially. You are the ideal candidate to take charge of this project. So your internal marketing programme is as much about marketing you as it is about marketing the trial.

Enlarge your network of supporters

Expanding Your Network



Cast your net widely

Search the organization for supporters

Find allies

You will need allies in the organization. Potential supporters and friends can be found in all sorts of different places - some close at hand, others further away. Look for them near and far. Cast your net widely. Try to reach as many people as possible.

Keep selected senior managers in the loop by setting up brief personal meetings with them or by sending them personalized emails about the progress you are making. If you do this diligently, you should be able to obtain support from the 'establishment' in your organization.

Sell the project inside your company first

Internal Marketing Programme



Activities inside your organization

- Meetings with top management
- Internal presentations
- Internal publications
- Internal interviews
- Intranet
- Communication platform
- Incorporate the sales force
- Get support from headquarters
- Inform all stakeholders

Just as you plan and direct an external marketing campaign aimed at your external customers, so you need to plan and direct an internal marketing campaign aimed at your internal customers. Make sure you feel comfortable about selling your project internally. The illustration offers an overview of possible activities.

Involve decision makers

The Role of Decision Makers



The bottleneck is at the top of the bottle

Senior management

Give VIP treatment to key players

Take the time to enlist support from senior management. Remember: the bottleneck is usually at the top of the bottle and not at the bottom. Direct some attention to the top management in your organization. Give the 'Very Important Persons' a VIP treatment.

Enlist support from senior management

Help from Top Management



Advice from the top

Set up face-to-face meetings with senior executives

Ask for one-to-one discussions

Seek their suggestions

Incorporate their recommendations

Here are a few tips when asking for support:

- be clear and concise
- listen actively
- ask people for their advice
- show your appreciation for their contributions and their time.

Give frequent presentations

Presenting Your Project



Present repeatedly

Use every opportunity to promote your project

Use every appropriate opportunity to promote your project. Deliver short persuasive presentations at:

- department meetings
- workshops
- committees
- other events.

Always emphasize the value for the company.

Place articles in internal newsletters

Internal Publications



Produced by

- Corporate
- Business Unit
- Department

Appoint a coordinator for in-house promotion

Look for regular coverage of your project in the company newsletter during the implementation phase of your project. The editors of these publications are usually happy to receive articles and are grateful for interesting and uplifting stories (in a ready-to-use electronic format).

Who in your team could volunteer to coordinate this in-house promotion?

Initiate internal interviews

The Big Internal Interview



Ask the right questions

Record it

Choose an experienced journalist

Brief the journalist

Brief the CEO

The top person on the ladder has enormous influence. If you are working in a smaller company where you have frequent contact with your top managers, you can quote them in discussions and presentations. However, if you are working in a large company where you have little direct contact with top managers, consider setting up an interview with your Chief Executive Officer or Chairperson. Remember to check with your own boss first. Use an experienced journalist or reporter to ask the right questions. This can be someone from your

company's communication department or from your public relations agency.

Brief both the CEO and the journalist. The journalist needs to know the answers that will be useful to you. It is then up to him or her to formulate the appropriate questions.

Ask the right questions

The Right Question

Is this study important?

Why is this study so important?



The illustration gives an example of open questions that increase the probability that you will get the answers you want. Instead of asking 'Is this study important to you?' the reporter should ask 'Why is this study so important to you?'

Instead of asking 'Have you got the resources to communicate these results?' the reporter might ask 'How can you ensure that these results are effectively communicated?'

On the day of the interview make sure you record the interview with a digital camera. This provides the basis for 'recycling' various segments of the interview on digital media, such as the intranet.

Exploit the hierarchy

Using the Company Hierarchy

I would like to ask all of you to ensure that the appropriate marketing and sales force activities are employed



Create commitment in the organization

CEOs generally want to emphasize their company's (and their own) importance. They know that their statements will be used only for internal company purposes. Consequently their answers will be positive and uplifting. In one case the president of one major pharmaceutical company was sceptical about committing substantial resources to the marketing campaign for a particular trial. During the interview, however, he replied to one question with the statement 'I would like to ask all of you to ensure that the appropriate marketing and

sales force activities take place.' You might select a similar scene from your digital video recording of the interview, store it on your laptop and use this 'video clip' to introduce your presentations. Sharing this statement from the boss with stakeholders in the company very much helps to enlist support and create commitment.

Develop your intranet site

Your Intranet Site



No password

Easy navigation

Quick downloads

Regular updates

Make it an attractive place

Think of your intranet site as a living document. Make it an attractive place to visit. Your goal is to encourage people to see it as a toolbox where they can find up-to-date information.

Some tips to this end:

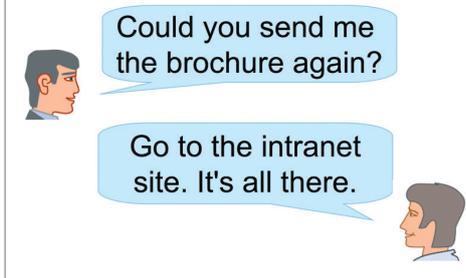
- avoid barriers such as passwords, which people tend to forget
- make navigation as easy as possible
- only put short documents on the site so that they are quick to download

- use easy-to-use formats so people can benefit directly in their daily work
- update your site regularly and remove outdated documents
- include a 'search site' service function
- include a site map linking the various terms with the respective pages.

A word of caution: Avoid the common mistake of putting huge documents (of several megabytes) onto the site. These require a lengthy downloading and people will be unlikely to bother.

Use the intranet to save time

The Value of Intranet Posting



You and your assistants may well spend time answering requests from colleagues. They ask you for a brochure or a questions-and-answers list. If you put this kind of material in the intranet, you'll find it easier and less time consuming to guide your colleagues there rather than needing to search for the file in the directory of your computer and then having to email the file personally. Take advantage of the intranet and ease your work load.

Write emails with hyperlinks

Email Hyperlinks

Send regular emails with electronic links to your intranet

The study shows exciting results, since Examplex clearly improved ... ⇒ **more**

Increase traffic to your site

Make full use of your emails to guide readers to your intranet. Send regular emails that contain statements that are electronically linked to your internal site.

For example: 'The study showed some exciting results, since Examplex was able to improve the outcome of ... ' followed by a hyperlink. A simple click then links the reader directly to the pertinent page of your intranet site which will increase traffic to your site.

Two things to remember when writing this kind of email:

- keep it short
- spell out the benefit to the reader.

Build a complete communication platform

Communication Platform



Database with all elements for product promotion

Content

- Product logo
- Diagrams
- Pictures
- Press releases
- Publications
- Questions & Answers

Take time to develop a comprehensive set of documents that encompasses all the elements your team members will need when they work on the project. The example shows the sort of content you might want to include:

- product logo
- diagrams
- pictures
- press releases
- publications
- questions & answers.

Try 'questions-and-answers'

The Q & A Section



People like
Questions & Answers

Question

Why is this study important?

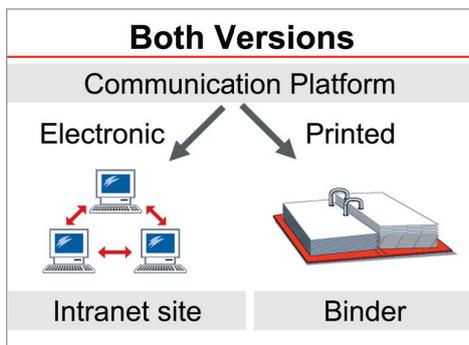
Answer

This is the first study that ...

Research has shown that 'questions and answers' is an excellent format for encouraging readers to read text. You need to think carefully to craft the kind of questions that will generate the answers you wish to communicate.

Test your draft 'Q & A' section extensively before you put it into your final document.

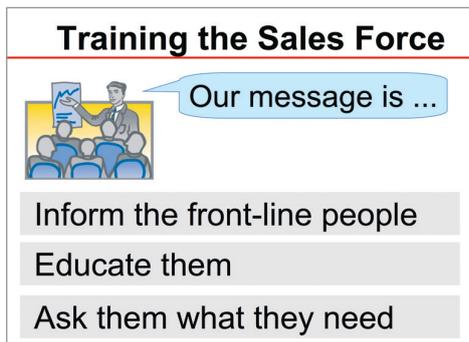
Produce electronic and hard copy versions



Make sure you prepare both electronic and printed versions of your communication platform. The existence of a physical version highlights the importance of your project and gives it a tangible reality that is not there with the purely electronic version.

Exploit the magic of the printed word. Most people will welcome a nice binder with an attractive cover carrying the brand logo and the name of the trial.

Educate the sales representatives



Your sales force is the most effective and also the most expensive way to promote your product. Establish close links with the sales representatives. Effective cooperation with them is the key to driving sales. Try to attend as many national or regional sales force meetings as your schedule allows. Communicate with the field force on a regular basis. Make sure you are available to explain the marketing strategy, the message, the marketing pieces your team has developed. Emphasize the importance of

branding. You may feel as if you are preaching to the choir, but stick with it.

These sales meetings offer you an additional bonus - unfiltered feedback from front-line people. Ask them what they need in order to use the study results more effectively to support the clinical use of the product. They will tell you. Use their suggestions to fine-tune your marketing strategy.

Check the incentives scheme

Incentives for Reps



Bonus



Ensure

- financial rewards
- compensation schemes

to sales representatives for increasing the sales of **your** product

In some companies, the marketing team are not informed about the details of financial incentives (bonus or commissions) for the sales representatives. If there is a lack of transparency in your company, find out about the current compensation scheme. You need to be clear how product sales will influence the sales representatives' income.

If your product happens to be one without a substantial financial reward, the representatives will have little motivation for discussing the trial results with the prescribing physician

– no matter how brilliant your marketing strategy. You'll need to discuss this crucial issue with the Marketing & Sales Manager or the business unit director. Failing to give financial incentives to the sales rep means that your aspirations for an increased rate of prescriptions are probably doomed to failure right from the start. Therefore ensure appropriate financial incentives specifically for your product.

Think global, act local

Affiliate and Headquarters

<p>Two things I will ask from headquarters</p>	<p>Two things I will ask from our affiliate</p>
 <p>....</p>	 <p>....</p>
<p>Ask for support</p>	<p>Ask for what is needed</p>

If you are working in an affiliate or operating company, ask headquarters for support. Tell them what you need to be more successful, such as visits by opinion leaders, publications, and so on.

If you are working in head office, ask the affiliate what they need to implement the marketing strategy that you are directing. Inquire what would make them more successful in their market place. Then try to provide them with what they need. Follow up on their progress.

Get all of your stakeholders on board

Tragic but True



We are all in the same boat ...

... but in different cabins

Internal stakeholders – although officially part of the same company – may have conflicting objectives. Organizational structures in many companies are not conducive to getting the biggest impact of clinical trials on prescribing behaviour.

There may well be a gap between Marketing and 'Medical' ('Medical' implying 'Clinical Development' or 'Clinical Research' or 'Clinical Project Management'). Those in 'Medical' may feel that they have accomplished their mission with the completion of the clinical trial and the writing of the study report.

Enlist your boss's help

Help From Your Boss

Ask for a special email

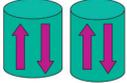
From: Joe Smith, President
 To: All employees
 Re: Examplex ABC trial
 I expect you to maximize the impact of these trial results on revenue!

Ask your CEO to do you a favour and to support your project by sending a special email to everyone in the company. An email like this emphasizes the importance of your product and the marketing activities around your trial. Note: the sender of this email has to be the CEO himself or herself and not just the CEO's office.

In the example the president said in an earlier interview 'I expect you to make best use of these trial results to maximize revenue!' Perhaps you might ask him or her for a similar encouraging

remark that you can use during your presentations. Use your organization's hierarchy to get all internal stakeholders in line and on your side.

Think 'seamless communication'

Seamless Communication	
	Talk to people across boundaries
Overcome silo structures and functional stovepipes	Include people from other units
	Think borderless interaction

You need to think 'borderless communication'. Contact your colleagues across departmental and divisional boundaries. Large companies often have separate and parallel channels of communication with no connection between them (often referred to as silo structures). Overcome these unnecessary boundaries and make your communication more effective.

Weave a web of supporters

Your Supporters' Web

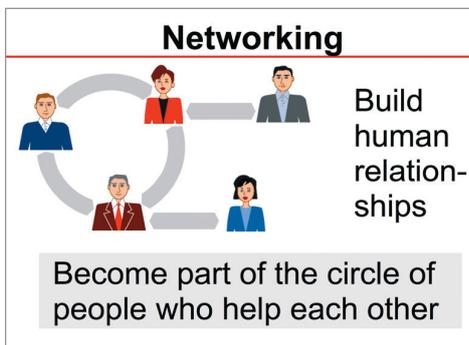
Weave a web of people that support you

Work on your own web of supporters and allies. Identify the people who could support you. Contact them and try to bring them into your network.

Keep your network of personal contacts growing. Build bridges and forge alliances.

Remember, business is a relationships game.

Become a networker



You need to become an instinctive networker and connect intuitively with people. Make contact with people and become one of the circle of people who inform and help each other.

Take time to support individuals in your network and build loyalty.

Share information, make introductions, give referrals, offer references.

Devote time to networking.

Stay in touch with people on a regular basis – personally or by telephone.

Build strong human relationships and rapport.

Update your stakeholders

Regular Stakeholder Updates



Turn the wheel

Send email and fax

Write a letter

Give presentations

Invite stakeholders to meetings

Use all available channels

Distribute and disseminate information regularly via all available channels:

- give presentations
- invite stakeholders to meetings
- write emails.

Once in a while it may be a good idea to print your information on paper and send a fax or a letter instead of an email. These will attract attention because they have become rather rare in this era of electronic communication.

Keep your stakeholders in the loop. You can hardly communicate too much.

Use the telephone

The Value of Phone Calls



The telephone as powerful communication tool

Work your list of contacts and stay in touch

- Anne ✓
- Bert ✓
- Chris **Call**
- ...

Your telephone is a powerful communication tool. Use it. It is faster than writing. It circumvents the bureaucracy. You can be informal. You can talk off the record.

Develop a list of important stakeholders. Check when you last talked to the people on your list. If it was a while ago, give them a call!

Keep up with the people on your list. Keep them posted. Stay in touch.

Revisit your list at least once every week.

Making an effective phone call can save you days of work on the project and help you overcome obstacles that might otherwise seem insurmountable.

Set up 'good news' emails

The 'Good News' Email



Send on Friday afternoon

What the team achieved
Value for the company
Ask for action

Your project is so important that it warrants weekly updates

How about writing a short 'Good News' email at the end of the every working week. It should always include positive, encouraging and uplifting news. Focus on the essentials:

- what the team has achieved
- the value you are creating for the company
- ask the reader for action (Examples: 'Come to the workshop', 'Visit our company intranet site', 'Read the article').

Prepare it beforehand, but wait until late Friday afternoon to send it. You may choose to send

your email as the last thing you do on Friday before shutting down your computer. Monday morning is the day on which most people have the least number of emails in their in-boxes. Your email becomes one of the few emails, with an increased chance that people will read it.

Establishing a regular email of this kind achieves two objectives. First you keep stakeholders in the loop. Second, you highlight the importance of the project and strengthen the perception that this project is so important that it warrants weekly updates.

Start your emails with the most important words

The Email Subject Line

Examplex Good News No 6

Examplex ABC trial: Conclusions

Examplex improves outcome

Start with the most important word, followed by the second most important word

Start with the most important word (usually the product name) in the 'subject matter' line of your email, followed by the second most important word. When you are searching for a particular email stored amongst thousands of others in the archive of your computer, this approach is helpful. The 'search function' in your software will quickly list the pertinent emails and help you to retrieve the email you are looking for.

In other words, a title such as 'Analysis of ABC study' is not a good one for your subject line.

'Analysis of' are not the most important words in your message. The example shows various options. Adopt the one that works best for you.

Perhaps you could discuss the rules of 'email etiquette' at your next department meeting or the planned kick-off meeting for marketing the trial results?

Coordinate internal marketing activities

Coordination of Activities



Steer
Harmonize
Synchronize

Become the knowledgeable guide, officially or unofficially leading the project team

Who will coordinate all the individual internal marketing activities? Who will integrate everything into a successful campaign?

This is a great opportunity for you to assume organizational and intellectual leadership of the project - with or without formal lines of authority. This coordination can turn you into an expert guide, someone who knows both the inner mechanisms of the company and the external strategy to pursue in the market place. Ultimately, this job can turn you into the 'de facto project team leader'.

