



PRESS RELEASE

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AIHA, GlaxoSmithKline Conduct Fourth HIV/AIDS Clinical Training Workshop in St. Petersburg

Public-Private Partnership Leverages U.S. Government Funding to Provide Advanced Skills-based Training for Russian HIV Care and Treatment Experts

MOSCOW, RUSSIA, MARCH 18, 2009 — The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) today concluded the fourth in a series of clinical training workshops through the Russia Professional Development in HIV Medicine Program. Launched in October 2007, this program is a public-private capacity building effort designed to rapidly establish a sustainable mechanism for strengthening the knowledge and skills of medical professionals who provide HIV-related care and treatment in targeted, high-burden Russian oblasts.

The Russia Professional Development in HIV Medicine Program is supported by the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). It epitomizes a model of efficient collaboration among the private, non-governmental, and governmental sectors — all working together to build the human resource capacity necessary for Russia to combat its growing HIV/AIDS epidemic and provide comprehensive, high quality care and treatment to PLWH.

Twenty-one clinicians from 19 regions of Russia most heavily affected by HIV gathered in St. Petersburg March 16-18 for the workshop, where they discussed advanced principles of HIV/AIDS care with a focus on managing patients co-infected with tuberculosis, hepatitis, and cytomegalovirus (CMV) and other forms of herpes infections. Other key topics included lympho-proliferative diseases in HIV patients, drug resistance and switching treatment regimens, and improving adherence among patients who are active drug users. St. Petersburg's Botkin Hospital hosted the clinical component of the training, which reinforced lectures and coursework using patient case studies and mentoring.

Improving access to the latest evidence-based information on HIV/AIDS treatment and care is a cornerstone of this highly interactive clinical training program. Workshops and distance learning courses utilize the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care's Global AIDS Learning and Evaluation Network (GALEN) modules, a medical training and certification initiative particularly well-suited to the realities of treating HIV in limited-resource settings, along with other leading textbooks and materials related to the provision of ART and management of care for patients living with HIV or AIDS. GALEN certification helps assure quality of care and is awarded to licensed physicians who demonstrate mastery of 12 subject areas of HIV medicine by passing a comprehensive 190-question examination. With USAID support, AIHA facilitated the translation into Russian of the GALEN modules, as well as and more than 600 other resources, which are currently available online through AIHA's EurasiaHealth AIDS Knowledge Network.

Senior representatives of USAID/Russia — including Mission Director Leon S. Waskin and Health Office Director Cheryl Kamin — joined experts from the Russian Federal AIDS Center; Botkin Hospital; St. Petersburg TB Hospital No. 2; Goethe Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany; GSK; and AIHA at a closing ceremony for the program participants.

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