



# AIHA Update

*News from the American International Health Alliance*

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## AIHA Celebrates Five Years of HIV/AIDS Partnerships in Russia, Conducts Series of Events in St. Petersburg

USAID-supported Treatment, Care, and Support Programs Continue to Build Health System Capacity in Orenburg and St. Petersburg, Help Improve Services for PLWH

**ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, MAY 19, 2009** — The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) opened a three-day training on treatment of patients diagnosed with HIV, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and substance abuse today in St. Petersburg. This workshop is part of a series of events marking the fifth year of AIHA's USAID-supported partnerships and programs designed to strengthen institutional and human resource capacity to provide high-quality treatment, care, and support services to people living with HIV or AIDS in Orenburg and St. Petersburg.

With support from the American people, AIHA partners from the United States and Russia have trained some 2,545 health workers and allied professionals in HIV treatment and care—including the provision of ART—since the inception of the program in 2004. During that time, 47 Russian professionals completed a training-of-trainers program and 20 more became master trainers. As a result of this increased capacity, access to treatment greatly improved in both regions with partner sites in Orenburg and St. Petersburg respectively reporting 1,773 and 2,654 patients receiving ARVs as of March 2009.

Some 70 infectious disease, tuberculosis, and substance abuse specialists from Orenburg and St. Petersburg attended the workshop, which is titled "Integrated Approaches to Treatment and Management of HIV-TB-Hepatitis Co-infection in Substance Users." Faculty included distinguished experts from Pavlov State Medical University in St. Petersburg, which is hosting the event; St. Petersburg City AIDS Center; Elmhurst Hospital Center in New York City; and Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. A concurrent three-day training in case management has been organized for social workers from Orenburg Oblast AIDS Center and social service organizations in 10 districts of St. Petersburg. US and Russian faculty will identify potential trainers among the participants and conduct a one-day training-of-trainers seminar at the conclusion of the event.

In conjunction with these trainings, AIHA has also participated in a graduation ceremony for Sisters of Mercy who completed a year-long course on palliative care at the Pavlov State Medical University and hosted an awards ceremony honoring the dedicated efforts of US and Russian professionals who contributed to the success of the HIV/AIDS partnerships and related programs.

For more information about AIHA, please visit us on the Web at: [www.aiha.com](http://www.aiha.com). For more on USAID's programs in Russia, visit: <http://russia.usaid.gov>