



AIHA Update

News from the American International Health Alliance

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AIHA to Conduct Series of HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Activities in St. Petersburg and Orenburg This Month

With Support from PEPFAR and USAID, Projects Have Contributed to Strengthening Capacity of Russian Counterparts to Train Healthcare Workers, Provide Quality Care to PLWHA

MOSCOW, RUSSIA, MAY 13, 2009 — The American International Health Alliance (AIHA) announced today that it will conduct a series of final trainings and related activities at partner sites to further contribute to capacity building of Russian health and allied professionals involved in the treatment, care, and support of people living with HIV or AIDS.

With support from the American people through the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in Moscow, the following events will take place in St. Petersburg and Orenburg from May 17-29:

St. Petersburg

- **May 17-19 – Professional Development in HIV Medicine Workshop on Triple Diagnosis (HIV/TB/Hepatitis) in IDUs.** This is the sixth workshop conducted through the PEPFAR-supported public-private partnership between AIHA and ViiV Healthcare, a private pharmaceutical company. Russian and international experts serve as trainers and mentors to a group of 27 physicians who provide care and treatment to PLWH in 24 of Russia's regions most heavily impacted by HIV and AIDS.
- **May 19-20 – HIV/AIDS Case Management Database Training.** AIHA will conduct a two-day training on the use of its Case Management Database. This important tool is designed to facilitate greater cooperation among medical and social service organizations to improve the provision of effective, comprehensive, and integrated treatment, care, and support to PLWH. Russian experts will train 30 St. Petersburg area social workers and psychologists on use of the database, as well as topics including clinical interview methodology, data collection, needs assessment, and care plan development. This course is the final in a case management training series that includes basic and advanced trainings, as well as onsite mentoring.
- **May 19-21 – Workshop on an Integrated Approach to Treatment of HIV/TB/Hepatitis Co-infection in Substance Users.** Some 25 HIV/AIDS care team members from St. Petersburg who have already completed an onsite mentoring program on the management care for substance users with triple diagnosis will learn about advanced issues of treatment of HIV/TB and HIV/Hepatitis co-infections in substance users, drug resistance and drug interaction issues, successful models of treatment and rehabilitation for PLWHA with drug dependence from leading Russian experts and their US counterparts from Elmhurst Hospital Center and Yale University. Selected tuberculosis, infectious disease, and narcology specialists involved in the provision of care for patients with triple diagnoses will also attend.

- **May 21 – Sisters of Mercy Palliative Care Graduation Ceremony.** AIHA will participate in a ceremony marking the graduation of 21 Sisters of Mercy from the faith-based organization “Charitable Fund Dyakoniya,” who have completed a year-long course on palliative care at the Pavlov State Medical University. The ceremony will include distributing awards honoring the dedicated efforts of US and Russian professionals who contributed to the success of the HIV/AIDS partnerships and related programs.

Orenburg

- **May 24-26 – Course on Viral Hepatitis C and B and HIV: Management Strategies for Co-infected Patients.** This new course, developed by AIHA the Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia, was adapted by the Orenburg Medical Academy and focuses on issues of treating patients with HIV and hepatitis, including monitoring treatment efficacy, ART hepatotoxicity, and the prevention and management of side effects. Faculty from the Orenburg Medical Academy and US partners from Elmhurst Hospital center will co-teach the course.
- **May 27-29 – Workshop on HIV/AIDS Palliative Care for Nurses.** Palliative care experts from St. Petersburg and Orenburg will conduct this 3-day training for nurses who provide care to PLWHA. Topics will include general issues of palliative care and specifics of HIV/AIDS palliative care for nurses, pain assessment and pain relief issues, symptom treatment, nutrition, patient and family education, spiritual support, and prevention of burnout syndrome for caregivers.

Since 2004, AIHA's US Government-supported HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs in Russia have trained more than 3,000 health and allied professionals in HIV treatment and care—including the provision of ART. During that time, 120 Russian professionals completed a training-of-trainers program and 22 became master trainers in partner sites, with 3,559 patients in St. Petersburg and more than 6,700 in other regions of Russia receiving ARVs as of March 2010.

In addition, AIHA has established three AIDS Training and Educational Centers and 11 HIV Information Resource Centers in St. Petersburg and Orenburg to enhance capacity of healthcare providers to continue training and improve quality of care through access to evidence-based research.

Other key programmatic accomplishments include:

- Training 100 percent of primary level infectious disease specialists in St. Petersburg to manage ART, 80.3 percent of whom have completed a three-step HIV/AIDS training program that includes an introductory course on ART for adults, onsite mentoring program, and an advanced course on ART and treatment of opportunistic infections.
- Implementation of a three-level educational program to strengthen the role of nurses in HIV/AIDS care; 65 nurses in St. Petersburg and Orenburg have been trained in the basics of HIV-infection and 21 nurses from St. Petersburg have completed all three courses and will receive certificates from Pavlov State Medical University.
- Collaboration with partners at Pavlov State Medical University's Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Department and the St. Petersburg City AIDS Center on the development of training materials for a newly approved course on HIV Medicine, which includes a 20-chapter curriculum and a corresponding training manual and lecture series, that will be distributed to Russian medical universities and medical academies for postgraduate education by November 2010.
- Conducting study tours to the United States for 106 Russian medical professionals and policymakers.

Senior US government representatives in Russia including USAID/Russia Mission Director Terry Meyers, USAID/Russia Health Office Director Cheryl Camin, and USAID/Russia Health Office Senior Advisor, Elena Gurvich are expected to attend the training seminars on May 19-21, as well as the graduation ceremony for Sisters of Mercy in St. Petersburg.

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