

St. Petersburg Center Focuses on Training HIV/AIDS Specialists in Russia, Improving Care for PLWHA

AIHA has joined forces with the St. Petersburg Medical Academy for Postgraduate Studies and affiliated clinical sites at the St. Petersburg AIDS Center and the Ust Izhora Clinical Center for Children and Women with HIV to establish an AIDS Training and Education Center (ATEC) in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Developed with funding from USAID and supported by the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development, this project represents a key step in the development of a unified framework for Russia's national efforts to build the health system capacity necessary to provide high-quality care to PLWHA.



Classroom activities at ATEC are augmented by clinical training and mentoring to ensure quality of care.

Officially opened in November, ATEC-St. Petersburg and its clinical sites are helping develop the institutional and human

resource capacity Russia needs to reach its HIV/AIDS care and treatment goals through targeted training for physicians, nurses, and social workers. Training courses are also targeting healthcare policymakers and clinic administrators, as well as allied care professionals ranging from psychologists and laboratory technicians to peer counselors and NGO representatives, to better ensure comprehensive, accessible care for PLWHA.

With support from the Russian Healthcare Foundation—the Global Fund's principle recipient in Russia—ATEC is initially focusing on building capacity in Altay, Bashkyrtostan, Chelyabinsk, Irkutsk, Kemerovo, Krasnodar, Perm, Rostov, Saratov, Sverdlovsk, Volgograd, and Ulyanovsk, which are designated priority areas under Global Fund's round-four grants.

With support from other donors, courses will also be provided to healthcare professionals striving to improve HIV/AIDS-related care and treatment elsewhere in Russia and in neighboring countries.

Published in the Fall 2006 edition of "Connections," a quarterly newsletter highlighting the American International Health Alliance's development programs in the EECA Region.