

## **AIHA Directions**

### **Eli Lilly Donates Insulin in Uzbekistan**

Pharmaceutical manufacturer Eli Lilly and Company donated 40,000 vials of insulin to Uzbek hospitals in September. Part of the shipment of the biosynthetic human insulin, Humulin, will be used to treat women with gestational diabetes at the high-risk pregnancy clinic at the Second Tashkent State Medical Institute (TASHMI II) in Tashkent, an AIHA partnership hospital. The insulin was also distributed to hospitals in every Uzbek oblast.

A ceremony marking this first donation of insulin to Uzbekistan was attended by the First Deputy Minister of Health of Uzbekistan Ravshan Sultanov, TASHMI II Rector Hamid Karimov, US Ambassador to Uzbekistan Stanley Escudero, Eli Lilly Central Asian Representative Cem Colakoglu, USAID Representative Barry Primm and partners attending an AIHA-AUPHA health management program in Tashkent.

Ambassador Escudero noted his support for the insulin donation and AIHA partner training program, which he said "is important as it gives a new knowledge and also gives a chance for people from different countries to share their experience."

### **Armenian Hospitals Receive \$15 Million Department of Defense Equipment Donation**

Yerevan partnership hospitals, the Erebuni Medical Center and Emergency Scientific Medical Center, were among eight Armenian hospitals that received a \$15 million donation of excess US military medical supplies. The October 18 arrival of over 240 containers--holding such equipment as beds, incubators and blood bank refrigerators--was greeted by US Ambassador to Armenia Peter Tomsen, Armenian Health Ministry officials and representatives of the recipient hospitals.

"We are pleased to transfer this equipment into the extremely capable hands of our Armenian colleagues," Tomsen said at the turnover ceremony. "This shipment represents the United States' continued commitment to the Armenian government and people."

A 32-person team of US medical engineers organized by Colonel John Post, US Department of State coordinator for the Department of Defense medical equipment donation program, worked alongside Armenian biomedical engineers in the eight hospitals for over a week to ensure proper installation and training on the donated equipment.

### **New Slovak Partnership Announced**

AIHA has announced a new partnership in the Slovak Republic that will focus on community-based health initiatives. It will pair two communities in Central Slovakia, centered around the cities of Banska Bystrica and Martin with The MetroHealth System in Cleveland.

Partnership activities will include developing a capacity for health system planning and decision-making; defining the roles of local government and community-based organizations in developing and influencing health policy; conducting community health assessments; empowering citizens from diverse sectors of the community to focus on health and effect change; and facilitating the establishment of local health councils.

A memorandum of understanding with MetroHealth will be signed in February.

## **New US Hospital Joins Albanian Partnership**

Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids, Michigan signed a memorandum of understanding in December to participate in AIHA's partnership program with three hospitals in Tirana, Albania. The University Hospital Center of Tirana, the University Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Central Trauma Hospital have participated since 1994 in AIHA's partnership program with Jacobi Medical Center in Bronx, New York. Butterworth, a 529-bed not-for-profit teaching hospital, is replacing Jacobi as the US partner.

The Albanian partnership has focused on women's and infants' health, emergency medical services, nursing, and health management and administration. With the participation of Butterworth, the partnership is expected to develop a healthy communities program as well.

## **Tallinn-Washington, DC Partnership Graduates**

Mustamae Hospital and Tallinn Central Hospital in Tallinn, Estonia, marked the end of their two-year partnership with The George Washington University Medical Center (GWUMC) in Washington, DC at an October 20 ceremony at Tallinn City Hall. The partnership focused on five initiatives: emergency/disaster medicine, health management, women's health, nursing and family practice.

The partnership has "given a tremendous amount of support to our nurses and to their work ... and especially for me in leadership and team working," said Ulvi Jogi, chief nurse at Mustamae Hospital.

The end of the partnership coincided with the closing of the USAID mission in Estonia, which was commemorated at a September ceremony in Tallinn. Estonian President Lennart Meri, US Ambassador Lawrence Taylor and Thomas Dine, assistant administrator for USAID's Bureau for Europe and the New Independent States, attended the event.

Dine praised US efforts to aid Estonian health care reforms in recent years, noting that such reforms "have resulted in shorter hospital stays, increased outpatient services and growing numbers of patients treated." He added, "This could not have been achieved without our joint efforts to improve the training of professional staff and decentralize health care management and financing."

## **NIS Nurses Sponsor Regional Teleconferences**

The world seems a little smaller to Russian and US nurses thanks to an innovative teleconferencing system that bridged hospitals across the ocean this fall.

This first AIHA nursing teleconference, held November 4 and 5, linked nurses from the University of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital in New York with 30 nurses from the Moscow region, including ones from Savior's, Central Clinical and Pirogov hospitals. Nurses from Dubna's Hospital No. 9 and Central City Hospital also attended. Nurses discussed ways to enhance teamwork among nursing staff, identify personal communication and behavioral styles, and communicate effectively in a team setting.

"Team performance is more important than individual members," said Linda Knox, RN, MS, University of Rochester. "Members focus on making quality improvement and the process focuses on details and what went wrong rather than who was at fault."

A second teleconference, on November 5, between Jewish Hospital and Healthcare Systems in Louisville, Kentucky and the Moscow and Dubna nurses allowed participants to discuss quality improvement issues.

AIHA plans to sponsor a series of nursing workshops via teleconference throughout the NIS this winter.

## **Nursing Conference Held at Pirogov Hospital**

More than 150 nurses from AIHA and non-partnership hospitals across the NIS attended a conference on nursing interventions in trauma held at Pirogov Hospital in Moscow in December.

The agenda included discussion on triaging patients with thoracic trauma and surgical complications; ethical issues in trauma care; and the effects of violence on health care.

Joanne Garvey, RN, MS, staff nurse at the cardiology department, Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts noted the important role of the nurse in motor vehicle trauma. The incidence of traffic-related injuries has increased in the NIS since the early 1990s, according to a 1995 Russian Interior Ministry Traffic Police Department report. The NIS average annual incidence of automobile crashes is several times higher than in the rest of the world, and is due to poor road conditions and transport facilities which are used longer than considered safe, according to the report. These problems make the job of the trauma or emergency department nurse much more demanding, conference participants said.