

Providing Greater Access to Information and Technology

Through AIHA's Web site and Learning Resource Center project, the Technology and Information Resources (TIR) Unit currently is working on a number of initiatives designed to expand partners' access to health and medical information.

AIHA's Web Site

On AIHA's Web site, TIR staff has begun to create online task force information centers focusing on clinical initiatives such as women's health and emergency medical services (EMS). For each clinical area, the centers will offer translated materials and links to related medical resources on the Internet, as well as a description of AIHA's related initiatives. A site for the women's health initiative is already available--the main index page can be reached at: <http://www.aiha.com/index.jsp?sid=1&id=1284&pid=4739>.

Russian language documents available through the women's health site include: * Breast Cancer Self Exam (US National Cancer Institute) * What You Need to Know about Breast Cancer (US National Cancer Institute) * Breastfeeding Book (Wellstart) * Genital Infections and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (Magee-Women's Hospital) * Planning Your Family: Birth Control Options (Magee-Women's Hospital) * You Are Becoming A Woman (Magee-Women's Hospital) * An English language Catalog of Family Planning Education Materials in Russian and Central Asian Languages (Johns Hopkins University)

A similar site for AIHA's EMS Task Force is currently being developed with the help of task force members. Partner involvement in the task force information centers effort is critical because partners can often identify the best resources available for dissemination and translation.

Translated/Foreign Language Health and Medical Materials

TIR staff are updating AIHA's translated materials database. At this time, materials may be requested through an older version of the database (<http://www.aiha.com/trns/>). To make this database as comprehensive as possible, all AIHA partners are requested to send a list of foreign language health and medical materials that they produce or use to AIHA's new information analyst Dave Sturgill (dsturgill@igc.org). Sturgill also provides consultation and support to partners regarding medical information searches.

Russia's "Medicine for You" Site

This spring, AIHA will begin working with Russia's "Medicine for You" Web site (<http://www.medlux.ru>) to coordinate efforts to provide Russian-language medical materials online. Sponsored by the Russian Ministry of Health, the city government of Moscow and the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, the Russian-language "Medicine for You" site offers access to a drugs and pharmaceuticals database and a number of NIS medical newsgroups. Its "medical library" links to a variety of medical Web servers in the NIS, a virtual encyclopedia on epilepsy and the Russian Ministry of Health Web page.

Learning Resource Centers

AIHA is continuing to provide training and support to the more than 90 information coordinators responsible for maintaining partner Learning Resource Centers. In February and March, three regional training workshops were held for NIS information coordinators in L'viv, Moscow and Almaty. The workshops emphasize creating navigation tools to allow staff at partnership institutions to easily find information through the Internet. Each information

coordinator is creating an "Electronic Library Index" (ELI), which includes links to key medical information sites as well as to full-text clinical documents that have been saved on the hard drive of resource center computers. Physicians and staff who frequent the Learning Resource Centers will be able to use the ELI as a reference to help them find information quickly. Each Electronic Library Index also provides a link to the Medline and Core Biomedical Journal Collection databases, which AIHA has made available to the Learning Resource Centers through Ovid Technologies, Inc.

Staff at partnership institutions should submit search requests to their information coordinator, and if the coordinator cannot find the information, he or she can contact Dave Sturgill for further assistance. For additional information about the Learning Resource Center project, contact project coordinator Mark Storey, at mstorey@igc.org.