

## Clearinghouse Update

### N I S M E D I N F O

#### Major Medical Web Site Now in Russian

In collaboration with the American Medical Informatics Association's Internet Working Group, the AIHA Clearinghouse has developed a Russian mirror version of Medical Matrix: the Guide to Internet Clinical Medicine Resources. Medical Matrix is a hypertext, hyperlinked database designed as a home page for a health professional's desktop computer. (Hypertext and hyperlinked refer to the capability to jump from one resource or document to another by selecting key words.) Developed by a group of medical and technology specialists, Medical Matrix provides easy World Wide Web access to the Internet's most useful medical resources, and is especially valuable for health professionals who don't have a lot of time to browse the Internet for information on a selected clinical topic. The Russian-language version is available through the NISMEDINFO Web site at <http://www.aiha.com/english/health/bulletins/index.cfm>.

Both the English and Russian sites provide an annotated review of Internet medical resources and instructions on how to access them. The English version of these pages can be viewed at <http://www.kumc.edu/mmatrix/>.

The Clearinghouse strives to provide information in other CEE/NIS languages as well. Please contact us if you have diskette copies of health-related materials that have been translated into any of these languages.

#### Epidemiology Information Available in Russian

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have produced a Russian-language version of their Epi Info database and statistics software. This software, along with a Russian-language version of the user manual, is available through the Clearinghouse. Developed jointly by the World Health Organization and CDC, Epi Info helps public health professionals conduct outbreak investigations and epidemiological studies. To receive the software and manual, send a request to [mstorey@igc.apc.org](mailto:mstorey@igc.apc.org), or visit this Web site: <http://www.aiha.com>

#### Accessing Web and Gopher Information Through E-mail

While many of the resources highlighted in this column are available only through the World Wide Web, some AIHA partnerships in CEE/NIS have e-mail accounts that do not provide complete access to the Internet. However, as long as you have the ability to send and receive e-mail messages, you can access the Web and other Internet resources. Individuals who currently are unable to access Web, Gopher, or FTP documents directly should contact the Clearinghouse for information about how to retrieve these documents through an e-mail.

## Information and Communications on Health in CEE/NIS

### N I S H E A L T H

#### NISHEALTH Home Page Directory

The NISHEALTH World Wide Web Home Page Directory features home pages from organizations and individuals involved in health and medicine in CEE/NIS. All of the sites listed below can be reached via the following URL: <http://www.aiha.com>

Individuals without Web access who are interested in receiving any of the materials listed below should contact Mark Storey at the address above.

MEDLAB: Association of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics Scientific Societies Research Center (Moscow, Russia)--This page currently includes information about a Moscow-based research and manufacturing company that produces bilirubin meters and portable photometric hemoglobinometers.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta, GA)--Resources available through this page include Monthly Public Health Reports from Armenia as well as a downloadable version of the Russian-language Epi Info software.

Family Health International (Baltimore, MD)--In addition to general information about Family Health International's activities in the NIS, the NISHEALTH home page of FHI features links to a number of Russian-language articles on reproductive health.

Other organizations with home pages in the NISHEALTH Directory include Abt Associates, Inc. (health care financing reform) and Wellstart International (maternal and child health). If you or your organization are interested in submitting materials to create a home page with the NISHEALTH Clearinghouse, please contact Mark Storey.

### **Overview of the AIHA Clearinghouse**

The AIHA Clearinghouse is an online information and communications center serving the AIHA partnerships and the broader international health community. Specifically, the Clearinghouse provides information relating to health and medical issues in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union. Clearinghouse subscribers include health professionals from CEE/NIS countries and representatives from international technical assistance and health research organizations. The Clearinghouse provides information on a variety of topics, including:

- activities of ongoing technical assistance projects and health-related organizations in CEE/NIS
- sources of funding for projects and research
- translated educational materials
- contacts in health-related and other technical fields

For CEE/NIS health professionals, the Clearinghouse also provides a regular source of current Western clinical and health policy information through the NISMEDINFO project.

Please send news, materials, and requests for information to:

Mark Storey  
AIHA Clearinghouse  
1212 New York Avenue, NW Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20005  
tel: 202-789-1136  
fax: 202-789-1277  
e-mail: [mstorey@igc.apc.org](mailto:mstorey@igc.apc.org)

NISHEALTH home page URL:  
<http://www.aiha.com/english/health/bulletins/index.cfm>  
or  
<http://alice.ibpm.serpukhov.su/friends/health/health.html>  
(may be a faster link for users in CEE/NIS)

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