

## People in the News

### New Faces and Staff Changes

**Anna Antalova**, formerly a Slovak and Hungarian language trainer with the Peace Corps, is the new executive assistant for the AIHA Regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe, Bratislava, Slovakia.

**Priya Chandra**, formerly a program analyst for NIS partnership, is now a program analyst for Healthy Communities and Health Management Education Partnerships in CEE.

**Brenda Diaz** is the new travel counselor at Omega Travel, AIHA's travel agency.

**Julie Dixon** is the new administrative deputy director in AIHA's Moscow office.

**Janel Lardizabal**, a graduate of Georgetown University with a Master of Arts degree in Russian area studies, joins AIHA as a program analyst for NIS partnerships.

**Mailet Minassian** worked as the special assistant to the chief financial officer at Children's National Medical Center prior to becoming special assistant to the associate director.

**Lara Moninghoff**, after receiving her master's degree in international affairs and bachelor's in biology, became a new member of our program analyst staff for West NIS partnerships.

**Richard Morrison**, PhD, is the new coordinator of CEE health management education programs and AUPHA Fellow. Prior to joining AIHA and AUPHA, Morrison was the executive director of the Virginia Board of Health Professions.

**Barbara Ruben**, the new publications manager, was formerly editor of Environmental Action Magazine and a contributing writer for Physicians Financial News. Ruben serves as editor of CommonHealth and will oversee the development of new electronic and print publications.

**Sona Strbanova**, formerly a representative with USAID Prague, joins AIHA as the new coordinator of special projects in Central and Eastern Europe.

### People and Partners in the News

Russian First Deputy Health Minister **Alexandre Tsaregorodtsev** was appointed Minister of Health and Medical Industry. He replaces Eduard Nechaev, who left the position in November. Tsaregorodtsev spoke at AIHA's NIS partnership conference in St. Petersburg, Russia last fall, where he told participants, "We now need to introduce new notions that serve the consumers of medicine and assess the costs of medical care. At the same time, we must not deny the accumulated experience of the traditional system of health. We must develop federal medical standards and feedback, licensing and accreditation, certification of medical equipment and uniform pricing for medical care."

**Jakov Nakatis**, president of St. Petersburg Medical Center in the name of Sokolov in St. Petersburg, Russia, was accepted as a foreign affiliate of the AmHS/Premier Health Alliance. The first foreign affiliate from Russia, Nakatis will participate in Premier meetings on health care reform, clinical trials and issues as they relate to Premier hospitals and network members.

**Toomas Vilosius**, MD, was reappointed to his post as Minister of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia in November. An advocate of health reform and supporter of the partnership program, Vilosius is expected to continue the path of progressive health reform initiated in his earlier term.

USAID appointed two new project directors in the Baltics. **Robert Maushammer** in Estonia and **Howard Handler** in Latvia began serving in posts last October.

**Elizabeth Jones** replaces former Ambassador **William Courtney** as the new US ambassador to Kazakhstan.

**Robert Alexander** is the new health and humanitarian assistant for the USAID Mission to Central Asia in Almaty, Kazakhstan.