

\$3.1 Million Lilly Donation Boosts Partnerships in Russia

Eli Lilly and Company donated \$3.1 million in pharmaceuticals to four of AIHA's partnerships in Russia in January. Announcement of the donation was made in conjunction with US Vice President Al Gore's summit meeting in Washington, DC with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The donation and other news from the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission meetings was relayed through a teleconference sponsored by AIHA and Lilly that directly linked participants in Washington with those in Moscow via video.

Lilly donated \$2.1 million in insulin and related diabetes medication in support of expansion of the model diabetes disease management program in Dubna, Russia to five cities in the Moscow region. The project builds on the diabetes education program developed by partners in LaCrosse, Wisconsin and Dubna. The program will be replicated in the Moscow Oblast towns of Balashikha, Krasnogorsk and Dmitrov and in the catchment areas in the City of Moscow served by Pirogov Hospital and Hospital #83. Nearly 15,000 diabetics live in these areas.

In addition, Lilly donated \$1 million in diabetes and anti-ulcer medications and antibiotics to health administrations in Vladivostok, Murmansk and Stavropol, Russia, with a focus on AIHA's partner hospitals in these cities. These medications include: the biosynthetic human insulin Humulin to treat a total of more than 1,000 diabetes patients for a year; pediatric formulations of Ilosone and Ceclor antibiotics for the treatment of upper respiratory tract infections for 15,000 children; Vancocin, an intravenous antibiotic considered to be the last line of defense against resistant bacteria, for 150 patients; and Axid, used for the treatment of ulcers and esophageal reflux disease, for 1,500 patients.

"At Lilly, we believe very much that knowledge is powerful medicine, and just as disease knows no boundaries, we believe knowledge should know no boundaries as well. There should be no boundaries for the free flow of care," Lilly vice president Ronald F. Stowe told teleconference participants. Lilly has had more than 200 employees in Russia since 1991.

Tsaregorodtsev said that in addition to assisting thousands of patients in Russia, he hoped that Lilly's donation signaled a willingness to enter into joint ventures with drug companies in Russia.

"We are very proud that a US pharmaceutical company is taking a leadership position during this time of critical need for our Russian colleagues," said AIHA Executive Director James P. Smith.

Teleconference participants in Moscow included representatives from the Ministry of Health, USAID and local health officials of the regions receiving the donations.

"We have already achieved some success in infection control and orthopedics in working with the AIHA partnership program for four years," said Nikolai Shibkov, MD, minister of health for Stavropol Krai. "We consider our American colleagues as brothers and look forward to further progress."

Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission Cites Health Accomplishments

Officially titled the Joint Commission on Economic and Technological Cooperation, the commission's task since it began in June 1993 has been to enhance cooperation between the United States and Russia in the areas of space, energy, high technology, business development, the environment, agriculture and health. Recent progress in health care includes:

- Signing of a memorandum of understanding on registration of US pharmaceuticals in Russia and food safety issues;
- Signing of a joint declaration of school-based health education by Tsaregorodtsev and Shalala.
- Launching of a high-school-to-high-school exchange program, including a health promotion and education component in which ten students from Volgograd, Russia are now working with students in Medford, Oregon.
- A collaboration between the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the Russian government with three oblasts to stem the diphtheria epidemic in Russia.
- The publication of English and Russian language editions of a report on recent health statistics for both countries.
- Signing of an agreement between the Russian Ministry of Health and Searle Pharmaceuticals, with the assistance of USAID's Medical Technology Transfer Program, for the production of pharmaceuticals in the city of Izvarino.