

## AIHA Conducts Information Coordinator Training Workshops

Representatives from 87 partnership Learning Resource Centers (LRCs) in the NIS and CEE attended training workshops in July to hone their skills in information technology and learn how to apply new technologies--from teleconferencing to advanced Internet applications--at their institutions. The workshops were conducted by AIHA Technology and Information Resources staff and were held in L'viv, Ukraine and Krk, Croatia.

Previous workshops helped teach information coordinators the skills needed to establish their LRCs as a source of information for staff, much like a library. The July workshops provided them with the tools and skills to transform the LRCs into centers for interactive learning, conferencing and communication. For example, LRCs are now facilitating teleconsultations and online conferences among physicians from around the world, and partnerships are using their centers to organize live interactive chat sessions.

A session on evidence-based medicine (EBM) gave participants a better understanding of how to evaluate the information that they access via the Internet and databases made available by AIHA through the Web and CD-ROM. Information coordinators said they are interested in EBM as a tangible way to improve the health care delivery system in their hospitals and that they prefer a more active and responsible role of analyzing and filtering the information they disseminate.

A training-of-trainers session helped information coordinators learn how to resolve such problems as teaching practitioners with widely varying computer skill levels and working with colleagues who are computer phobic. Advice included limiting training sessions to one hour with the introduction of just five new ideas or skills and printing out a sample of information found on the Internet to entice non-computer users to go online.

Other sessions focused on proposal writing to obtain grants, basic and advanced Web page design, Microsoft Office programs, database design and use of Cyrillic on computers and the Internet. An open forum gave information coordinators the opportunity to discuss both the challenges of their roles and resources that they have found useful.

For example, Aleksandr Dubikov, MD, information coordinator from City Hospital No. 2 in Vladivostok, Russia, spoke about why the concepts of evidence-based medicine are important to the LRC project. Peter Krcho, MD, a neonatologist from Faculty Hospital in Kosice, Slovakia talked about how information on antibiotics use that he obtained from the Internet helped him cut costs at the hospital. Pavel Gulyayev, from the Almaty Institute of Pediatrics in Kazakstan, discussed how to keep abreast of current information sources by spending an hour per day online.

The workshops also introduced new LRC project workplan activities: Information coordinators will conduct surveys among staff at their institutions to determine barriers to information access and work to improve access. Information coordinators are also preparing reports of examples in which the Internet was used to help treat a patient, educate staff or otherwise improve their hospitals as a way to help spur hospital staff to increase their use of information technology. In addition, information coordinators will add new elements to their Web pages to encourage greater information sharing, from newsletters to reports of new research.

For more information on the LRC project, contact Mark Storey, Technology and Information Resources coordinator, at [mstorey@igc.apc.org](mailto:mstorey@igc.apc.org), or access AIHA's Web site at <http://www.aiha.com/lrc/>.

## **LRCs Offer New CDs**

The following CDs are now available in partner Learning Resource Centers:

### **Stat!-Ref Medical CD ROM Collection**

The Stat!-Ref CD allows keyword searching across the full text and tables of 27 medical titles, including: Merck Manual of Diagnosis & Therapy and Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment.

### **Oxford Textbook of Medicine**

The Oxford Textbook of Medicine covers the scientific basis and clinical practice of internal medicine and its subspecialties.

### **Oxford Textbook of Surgery**

The Oxford Textbook of Surgery (OTS) is a landmark reference resource for practicing and trainee surgeons and medical students. It contains up-to-date descriptions of the latest developments in surgical practice and full-color illustrations.

### **Russian Medicine (provided to NIS LRCs):**

Produced by the State Central Scientific Medical Library, Russian Medicine is a bibliographic database of Russian-language medical periodicals, dissertations, collected papers and books.

### **The Cochrane Library**

The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR) is a full-text database containing systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials.