

Technology and Information Resources

Redesigned AIHA Web Site Launched

The AIHA Clearinghouse recently unveiled its redesigned World Wide Web site during the AIHA conference for Central and Eastern Europe in Budapest in May. The revamped site is a one-stop center where AIHA partners can access information about AIHA's activities and international health care that will be useful in enhancing partnership activity. With the addition of new AIHA staff member Jyothi Kanics, who spearheaded the redesign, AIHA has created a more dynamic site that begins to take advantage of the multimedia and interactive capabilities of Web technology.

Three Target Audiences

The format of the new Web site is designed for three core audiences, each of which will have its own home page:

AIHA Partners. Individuals involved with the AIHA partnership program can now access a calendar of partnership events, information on each of the AIHA partnerships and task forces, and AIHA reports and publications. This section contains an online version of *CommonHealth*, and plans are underway to launch a new online newsletter that will provide timely reports on partnership and AIHA events. Each of these resources include contact information to which users can turn for more details. This area also provides links to partner institution home pages when available.

CEE/NIS Health Professionals. This section focuses on providing educational resources for NIS/CEE users with Internet access. The keystone of this section is called the "AEducation Center," in which full-text materials in CEE/NIS languages are available online. In addition, this section features several resources intended to help users locate other Internet information sources, including the Medical Matrix site (mirrored in Russian), which guides users to the Internet's best and most substantive medical sites; and the NISMEDINFO Health Resources Bulletins, an annotated, bilingual guide produced by the AIHA information clearinghouse to point AIHA partners to the most relevant medical resources.

General Technical Assistance Community. The clearinghouse continues to provide information generally relevant to health and medicine in the CEE/NIS. This information includes sources of translated materials, grants and funding opportunities, project descriptions, regional health sector information, and a directory of individual e-mail contacts.

Check Headlines Regularly

Each of the three home pages can be accessed from the main home page, located at <http://www.aiha.com>

Information at the Web site is updated regularly. Once you select one of the three main links, you will go to a "Headlines" page that highlights new events and information in that section. Headlines may include anything from a change in plans for an upcoming conference to an announcement of a new grant competition.

A Russian-language version of AIHA's Web site is also accessible from the above-listed home page.

Plans for the Future

Over the next year, the Web site will continue to grow not only in terms of information, but also in its use of Web technology. Plans include efforts to enhance searching capabilities, additional links to partner pages, creation of CEE/NIS home pages, links to CEE/NIS country pages, creation of an online bulletin board, and development of interactive databases and learning modules.

Please check out the new site, and send any comments and/or suggestions to Jyothi Kanics, information analyst, AIHA, jkanics@aiha.com.