

# Knowledge Hub Newswire

The Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia

A project of the American International Health Alliance

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## IN THIS ISSUE:

Snapshot – Knowledge Hub activities to date, in numbers

Knowledge Hub Calendar – Find out about training workshops and other upcoming events

Knowledge Hub in Review – Learn about recent activities

HIV/AIDS Resources – Links to useful information, evidence-based research, and more

### Snapshot

*These statistics reflect the Regional Knowledge Hub's activities from its inception in March 2004 to February 2006*

- Knowledge Hub courses held: **51**
- Healthcare professionals trained: **1294**
  - Ukraine: **722**
  - Russia: **500**
  - Kazakhstan: **29**
  - Tajikistan: **19**
  - Uzbekistan: **14**
  - Moldova: **9**
  - Kyrgyzstan: **1**

Ukrainian physicians who have earned nationally recognized advanced professional certification in adult/adolescent or pediatric AIDS treatment through the Knowledge Hub: **57**

### Knowledge Hub Calendar

*The following trainings are scheduled to take place at the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers  
March – May, 2006*

## UKRAINE

### *Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults*

April 3-7, 2006 – Kiev, Ukraine

On the initiative of the Open Society Institute (OSI), 20 healthcare professionals from Azerbaijan will take part in the *Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults* training in Kiev in April 2006. The focus of the training will be on the main principles of ART management and monitoring: team approach, antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, indications for therapy, side effects, patient counseling, and substitution therapy. The faculty will include leading healthcare and social care professionals from Ukraine and the United States.

### *Advanced ART and Opportunistic Infections in Pediatrics*

April 10-14, 2006 – Kiev, Ukraine

April 17-21, 2006 – Kiev, Ukraine

Two 5-day trainings on the *Advanced ART and Opportunistic Infections in Pediatrics* will be conducted for 48 health and social care providers from 16 regions of Ukraine in April, 2006. The participants, 16

multidisciplinary care teams, already underwent two phases of training on ART in November 2005 (Initiation of ART in Pediatrics) and in February 2006 (Pediatric ART Onsite Mentoring). The trainings organized with the financial support from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine will aim at the increase of the participants' level of knowledge and clinical skills in the sphere of pediatric ART.

***Advanced ART and Opportunistic Infections for Adults***  
**May 15-19, 2006 – Kiev, Ukraine**

This course will be the last in the series of the Knowledge Hub's ART for adults trainings conducted for the care teams from eight Ukrainian AIDS Centers. The 24 participants represent care teams that previously completed *Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy for Adults* in November 2005 and *Adult Antiretroviral Therapy Onsite Mentoring* in February 2006. The training will be dedicated to the advanced principles of medical and social care to people living with HIV/AIDS on ART, and will address such issues as opportunistic infections, drug regimens and dosages, complications, side effects and drug adherence, and post-exposure prophylaxis. The training will be funded by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine.

***Adult Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) in Correctional Settings Onsite Mentoring***  
**May 15-19, 2006 – Ukraine**

Onsite mentoring will be organized for 28 healthcare providers from the clinics of the penitentiary system of Ukraine and 3 doctors from the selected regional AIDS Centers. This will be a continuation of the ART training series started by Knowledge Hub for representatives of the penitentiary system of Ukraine under the funding from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine in June 2005 and September 2005. During the onsite mentoring the participants will be able to present and analyze the clinical cases of their first ART patients, and to consult with the experienced mentors from the leading Ukrainian and US HIV/AIDS clinics.

***TB/HIV Coinfection***  
**May 22-26, 2006 – Kiev, Ukraine**  
**May 29 – June 2, 2006 – Kiev, Ukraine**

Two newly developed training courses will be organized by Knowledge Hub for 20 TB specialists and infectious diseases doctors from 20 regions of Ukraine. The participants of these trainings will be selected after consultations with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Ukrainian National AIDS Center, International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, and TB clinics. Knowledge Hub developed a training program based on HIV/TB coinfection protocols issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health.

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## **RUSSIA**

***Palliative Care in HIV/AIDS for HIV/AIDS Care Teams***  
**March 20-24, 2006 – St. Petersburg, Russia**

The training will be organized by the Regional Knowledge Hub for HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment in Eurasia in collaboration with Open Health Institute (OHI)/Globus project (Global Fund Round 3 consortium of Russian NGOs). 28 participants in the training will represent 12 AIDS Centers from St. Petersburg, Vologda, Krasnoyarsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Orenburg, Pskov, Buryatia, Tatarstan, Tver, Tomsk, Samara and Saratov. The training will focus on main components of Palliative Care for people living with HIV/AIDS for the multidisciplinary teams and will include lectures as well as bed-side exercises and on-site discussion of case studies.

***Palliative Care in HIV/AIDS for Decision Makers***  
**March 27-31, 2006 – Moscow, Russia**

This training will be conducted in the framework of a technical support project to the Russian Health Care Foundation (RHCF) and the Federal AIDS Center under the Global Fund's Round 4 project. The training will be conducted at the Federal AIDS Center, Moscow and will be attended by 11 head physicians and deputy head physicians from 11 regional AIDS Centers who play a significant role in formulating federal and regional strategies in the sphere of HIV/AIDS palliative care in Russia.

***TB/HIV Coinfection***  
**April 2006 – Moscow, Russia**

This new training offered by the Regional Knowledge Hub for HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment in Eurasia will be organized for 25 TB specialists, TB/HIV coordinators and infectious diseases doctors from nine regions of Russia under the Global Fund program and from four AIHA partnership sites. The training program was developed in collaboration with WHO and is based on the WHO and national protocols on HIV/AIDS coinfection. The training will help healthcare practitioners better understand the mechanisms of coinfection and find ways for effective conjoint treatment of patients with HIV and TB.

***Adult Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Onsite Mentoring***  
**March – May, 2006 – Russia**

The *Adult ART Onsite Mentoring* will be conducted for three adult ART care teams who underwent *Initiation of ART for Adults* trainings in Kiev, Ukraine, in April and June 2005. US partners from Providence, Rhode Island; New Haven, Connecticut; and Bemidji, Minnesota, will oversee the progress in treatment of patients on ART in the AIDS Centers in Togliatti, St. Petersburg, and Saratov. They will help the participating care teams refresh their knowledge on the principles of ART care and treatment, identify main challenges in their activities, and suggest ways of improvement of services rendered to the patients.

***Knowledge Hub in Review***

***These events were hosted by the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers during December 2005 – February 2006***

**TRAININGS:**

**UKRAINE**

***Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults***  
**December 12-16, 2005 – Kiev, Ukraine**

The training participants were 13 health and social care practitioners from Uzbekistan AIDS Centers, and three administrators from WHO offices in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The training covered such topics as counseling, components of HIV/AIDS care, goals of ART, general overview of ART drugs, roles and responsibilities of care team members, ART protocols, indications for ART, management of ART, switching regimens, ART for women of reproductive age. The participants had an opportunity both to get the necessary knowledge and practice their clinical skills during the didactical and practical break-out sessions.



ART care team from Tashkent follow the presentation.  
(Photo by G.Naumovets)

***Adult Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Onsite Mentoring***  
**February 6-11, 2006 – Ukraine**

Eight ART care teams (doctor, nurse and social worker) from eight AIDS Centers who had previously completed the *Initiation of ART* training course in November 2005, as well as doctors and social workers of the AIDS Centers with no previous training on ART, took part in an onsite clinical mentoring organized by AIDS Knowledge Hub. Mentoring included initial review of the patients selected for ART, according to

the starting criteria; preparation for treatment; patient counseling; basic evaluation of patients; selection of ART regimens; monitoring of treatment, and support for the treatment. The participants were able to fine tune their knowledge and practical skills through consultations with the experts – Dr. Yaroslava Lopatina from Lavra Clinic, Ukraine, and Richard Gettings, a freelance HIV/AIDS case manager from the United States.



Group of participants and trainers after a 2-day mentoring in Simferopol.  
(Photo by Richard Gettings)



Group of participants and trainers after a 2-day mentoring in Sumy.  
(Photo by Richard Gettings)

***Pediatric Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) On-Site Mentoring***  
**February 6-11, 2006 – Ukraine**  
**February 13-18, 2006 – Ukraine**

Two pediatric ART onsite mentorings were conducted at six Ukrainian regional AIDS Centers, February 6-18, 2006. Fifty pediatricians, nurses and social workers who had taken part in the Initiation of ART in Pediatrics course in September – October 2005 discussed the clinical cases of the patients newly accepted on ART, selection of ARV drugs regimens and monitoring of treatment, as well as evaluated the patients together with the international team of trainers – Dr. Alla Volokha, assistant professor, Kiev Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Education; Dr. Svetlana Komar, MD, consultant, Ukrainian National AIDS Center/International HIV/AIDS Alliance; Dr. Trudy Larson, professor of pediatrics and associate dean, University of Nevada School of Medicine. The mentoring trips helped the mentors identify strengths and weaknesses in pediatric HIV/AIDS management, as well as needs for the advanced training stage.

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## **RUSSIA**

***Laboratory Monitoring of HIV Infection and Antiretroviral Therapy***  
**February 6-10, 2006 – Saratov, Russia**

February 6-10, 2006, the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) implemented a five-day introductory course on quality improvement of laboratory tests in diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS at Saratov AIDS Center with the participation of international and local faculties. A total of 23 participants who perform or supervise testing and laboratory quality assurance from different regions in Russia attended this training course in Saratov, including heads of laboratory departments from AIDS Centers, specialists in serology, immunology and PCR diagnostics. Most of the participants represented four sites of the USAID project on HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment that is jointly conducted by AIHA and URC in Saratov, Togliatti/Samara, St. Petersburg and Orenburg. WHO supported the additional participation of laboratory professionals from Krasnodar, Irkutsk, and Chechen Republic. The curriculum was developed by the Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in collaboration with the US Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and the Federal AIDS Center in Moscow. The trainers for this training were Harvey George and Geneve Allison of APHL; Evgenia Buravtsova and Lidia Serebrovskaya of the Federal AIDS Center; Anna Kruglova, PCR specialist, and Dr. G.Tsyganova of the Federal Research Institute of Epidemiology.



Dr. G. Tsyganova (Federal Research Institute of Epidemiology) conducts a practical session for participants from Irkutsk and Saratov.  
(Photo by Elena Vovc)

**Pediatric Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Onsite Mentoring**  
**January 30-31, 2006 – St. Petersburg, Russia**  
**February 2-3, 2006 – Togliatti, Russia**

Three pediatric ART faculty – Dr. Yury Fomin, deputy head physician from the Federal Pediatric AIDS Center in Ust-Izhora; Dr. Larisa Afonina, head infectious diseases doctor from the Federal Pediatric AIDS Center in Ust-Izhora; and Nancy Calles, pediatric nurse at the Baylor College of Medicine, Texas – worked with the pediatric ART teams from St. Petersburg and Togliatti trained in *Initiation of Pediatric ART* in June 2005 for the purpose of mentoring and identifying needs for advanced training in clinical management of children with HIV. The onsite mentoring activities included initial review of patients selected for ART according to the criteria for starting ART, preparation for treatment, patient counseling, basic evaluation of patients, selection of ART regimens, monitoring of treatment, support for treatment. Faculty and care teams also reviewed side effects, regimen change, adherence, and psychosocial counseling. The mentors examined and discussed on average approximately 6 to 10 patients with each trainee team. Mentors also evaluated practical skills development and demonstrated problem-solving skills to the trainees.



Dr. Yury Fomin, Deputy Head Physician, Federal Pediatric AIDS Center in Ust-Izhora, discusses with participants the role of team approach in HIV/AIDS care and treatment.  
(Photo by Elena Vovc)



Trainees from St. Petersburg City AIDS Center (Dr.E.Yastrebova, L.Mosina, RN, and Dr.N.Dyldina) discuss clinical cases.  
(Photo by Elena Vovc)

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For more information on this section please visit [www.aidsknowledgehub.org](http://www.aidsknowledgehub.org) > What the Knowledge Hub does > Training Courses, or follow the link: [www.aidsknowledgehub.org/eng/mastering/trainings/browse/](http://www.aidsknowledgehub.org/eng/mastering/trainings/browse/) .

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**MEETINGS:**

**UKRAINE**

**Pediatric HIV/AIDS Strategy in Ukraine**  
**January 24, 2006 – Kiev, Ukraine**

On January 24, 2006, the Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS together with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, United Nations Children's Fund Office in Ukraine, American International Health Alliance and Canadian Society for International Health held a meeting on Pediatric HIV/AIDS Strategy in Ukraine. The meeting was aimed at discussion of the development of comprehensive care model and human capacity building plan in pediatric HIV/AIDS care and treatment in Ukraine. The national response to the impact of HIV/AIDS on children is one of the priorities within the National Program on HIV/AIDS. Progress has been made in prevention of



J.Smith, AIHA Executive Director, Dr. R.Moiseenko, Head of Department, Ministry of Health of Ukraine, and Dr.Yu.Voronenko, Rector, Kiev Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, open the meeting.  
(Photo by G.Naumovets)



Tatyana Tarasova (UNICEF), Jim Smith and Zoya Shabarova (AIHA) summarize the round table discussion.  
(Photo by G.Naumovets)



mother-to-child transmission, training of pediatric antiretroviral therapy (ART) care teams to provide ART to children, initiation of social support services to children living with HIV/AIDS. However, comprehensive pediatric HIV/AIDS care model need to be formulated, pediatric health services for children with HIV/AIDS need to be further developed to clearly define roles and coordination between children's polyclinic, AIDS center, pediatric in-patient facilities, specialized pediatric services.

The meeting was attended by 40 representatives of Ukrainian state and non-governmental organizations, international programs involved in the implementation of pediatric HIV/AIDS care and treatment in Ukraine. Through presentations and discussions, the meeting achieved its main objectives: (1) reviewed the current situation on pediatric HIV/AIDS in Ukraine; (2) analyzed the components needed to address the entire continuum of care for children with HIV/AIDS; (3) identified and discussed the related human capacity building needs and other resource requirements; (4) achieved consensus on capacity building priorities to improve the availability and quality of treatment, care and support for children living with HIV/AIDS; and (5) outlined the key elements of a comprehensive pediatric HIV/AIDS strategy for Ukraine.

### **HIV/AIDS Resources**

Primary funding for EAKN is provided by the  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
(USAID)



#### **Useful links to HIV/AIDS-related information and evidence-based research**

*The EurasiaHealth AIDS Knowledge Network (EAKN) is a special initiative to identify key resources related to the care and treatment of HIV/AIDS and adapt and translate them for use by health professionals in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The EAKN Library consists of a core set of textbooks and guidelines that have been developed by the world's leading experts on HIV/AIDS. As these materials are updated in English, EAKN updates the Russian-language versions maintained on its Web site. In addition to the core set of key documents, the EAKN Library includes a variety of HIV/AIDS information resources, including patient education materials, articles, and abstracts.*

Among the most recently added or updated documents in the EAKN Library are:

- Twenty-four of 29 chapters from the newly edited *HIV Medicine 2005*, by B. S. Kamps. This comprehensive book is recommended for practicing healthcare workers from various specialties and for instructors at medical institutions of higher learning and advanced training faculties, as well as for all those providing health care to people living with HIV/AIDS. The rest of the book is to be translated by March 2006.  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/index.jsp?sid=1&id=9270&pid=7101&lng=ru>
- Twenty chapters from the *Textbook of Pediatric HIV Care*, by S. Zeichner and J. Read. This comprehensive textbook provides the definitive account of effective care for pediatric HIV patients. The rest of the book is to be translated by the end of 2006.  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/index.jsp?sid=1&id=9281&pid=7101&lng=ru>
- The Global AIDS Learning and Evaluation Network (GALEN) module *HIV Prevention in the Clinical Settings (No. 1)*. This module offers guidance about how to integrate effective prevention and harm reduction interventions into the clinical management of HIV disease.  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/index.jsp?sid=1&id=9440&pid=3542&lng=en>
- *Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in Pediatric HIV Infection*, developed by the Working Group on Antiretroviral Therapy and Medical Management of HIV-Infected Children convened by the National Pediatric and Family HIV Resource Center (NPHRC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These guidelines, updated in November 2005, address the pediatric-specific issues associated with antiretroviral treatment and provide guidelines to healthcare providers caring for infected infants, children, and adolescents.  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/index.jsp?sid=1&id=7897&pid=3542&lng=en>

In addition to *HIV Medicine 2005* and the *Textbook of Pediatric HIV Care*, the EAKN Library is translating various other publications and recent abstracts from medical conferences. *The Pocket Guide to Adult HIV/AIDS Treatment*, released in January 2006, will be made available in Russian in the beginning of March. One GALEN module – *Management of Pediatric HIV Infection (No. 10)* – is in the final stage of translating and will be posted by mid-March. Another major translation that has recently begun is *Medical Management of HIV Infection 2005-2006* by J. G. Bartlett, the English version of which was released in December 2005.

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