

# 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 through May 2006*

- Knowledge Hub courses held: **68**
- Healthcare professionals trained: **1594**
  - Ukraine: **834**
  - Russia: **654**
  - Azerbaijan: **29**
  - Kazakhstan: **29**
  - Tajikistan: **19**
  - Uzbekistan: **14**
  - Moldova: **9**
  - Belarus: **5**
  - Kyrgyzstan: **1**

Ukrainian physicians who have earned nationally recognized advanced professional certification in adult/adolescent or pediatric AIDS treatment through the Knowledge Hub: **87**

### Knowledge Hub Calendar

*The following trainings are scheduled to take place at the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers  
June – August 2006*

#### UKRAINE

#### **Advanced Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults and Opportunistic Infections (OIs) Management in Correctional Facilities**

**June 5-9, 2006 – Kiev**

This course is the last in the series of Knowledge Hub Adult ART trainings conducted for healthcare teams from 12 correctional facilities. ART is already available at some of the correctional facilities in the southern regions, and will be launched soon in the others. Establishing future cooperation mechanisms between Regional AIDS Centers and hospitals at the correctional facilities is an essential next step. Therefore, the participation of an official from the State Department of Punishment Execution and 4 representatives of the respective AIDS centers is a very important aspect of this training. In addition to national faculty, an American physician from Albany Medical Center will share his experience on treatment provision for HIV/AIDS patients in the prison system.

### ***Tuberculosis/HIV Coinfection***

**June 19-23, 2006 – Kiev**

This is the second Knowledge Hub organized training on Tuberculosis/HIV Coinfection. It involves 24 infectious disease doctors and tuberculosis (TB) specialists from Oblast TB dispensaries. The goals are to educate infectious disease doctors on early diagnosis of TB (especially extra pulmonary forms), to provide basic knowledge on TB treatment for HIV-positive patients, and to facilitate collaboration among relevant healthcare facilities for the benefit of PLWHA.

### ***Antiretroviral Therapy for Injecting Drug Users on Substitution Therapy***

**July 3-7, 2006 – Odessa oblast**

This new Knowledge Hub training is being conducted in collaboration with the International Harm Reduction Development Programme. The target audience consists of teams made up of a narcologist, an infectious disease doctor, a social worker from the AIDS system, a social worker from narcology, and a harm reduction specialist. Teams from Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa, Kiev, Mykolayiv, and Simferopol are participating, representing the pilot regions for the substitution therapy (ST) program. Among the training topics are treatment of HIV-positive IDUs with TB, ARV interactions with illegal drugs, case management of HIV-positive IDUs on ART, and ART management in pregnant women addicted to drugs.

### ***Training-of-Trainers for National Faculty on Basic Adult Antiretroviral Therapy***

**July 17-19, 2006 – Kiev**

This course addresses clinical training methodology with the goal of equipping national faculties to conduct subsequent trainings for local infectious disease doctors. The training-of-trainers involves 7 physicians who completed both the Knowledge Hub series on Adult ART (Initiation, Mentoring, and Advanced) and the intensive HIV/AIDS Clinical Perceptorship Programme conducted by AHF-Global Immunity. National faculty from the postgraduate medical institution is also invited to the training.

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## **RUSSIA**

### ***Training-of-Trainers on Adult Antiretroviral Therapy***

**June, 2006 – St. Petersburg**

This course is organized at the St. Petersburg AIDS Training and Education Center, a recently established affiliate of the Regional Knowledge Hub for HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment in Eurasia for regions where the Russian Federation Global Fund Project, Round 4, is being implemented. Approximately 35-40 infectious disease specialists will receive training in teaching methodology, presentations, and public speaking in relation to adult antiretroviral therapy topics. In July and August, these newly trained trainers will be involved in local trainings in 9 Russian Oblasts.

### ***Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV local training***

**June-July, 2006 – St. Petersburg**

During this local training, 25-30 healthcare providers will learn about ART and PMTCT, neonatal assistance to children born to HIV-positive mothers or mothers with unknown status, PMTCT for women addicted to drugs, HIV counseling and testing, and post exposure prophylaxis.

### ***Advanced Pediatric Antiretroviral Therapy and Opportunistic Infections Management***

**July 17-21, 2006 – Ust Izhora**

The training group will consist of Russian caregivers who participated in the Initiation of Pediatric ART and on-site mentoring courses along with 5 participants from Belarus (supported by WHO) who were trained during the May 22-26 in Ust Izhora. A multidisciplinary team made up of international and national faculty will facilitate the training. The course will emphasize advanced principles of medical and

social care to PLWHA on ART, and address issues such as opportunistic infections, drug regimens/dosages, complications, side effects, drug adherence, and post-exposure prophylaxis.

### *Knowledge Hub in Review*

*These events were hosted by the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers from March 2006 to May 2006*

#### **TRAININGS:**

##### **UKRAINE**

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

**April 3-7, 2006 – Kiev**

Nineteen health and social care practitioners participated in the training from the Azerbaijan AIDS Center, infectious disease hospitals, and NGOs. The course covered topics such as counseling, components of HIV/AIDS care, goals of ART, a general overview of ART drugs, roles and responsibilities of care team members, national ART protocols, indications for and management of ART, switching regimens, and ART for women of reproductive age. The participants had an opportunity to gain the necessary knowledge and to practice their clinical skills during the didactical and practical break-out sessions. The training was organized with financial support from the Open Society Institute-Assistance Foundation Azerbaijan, under the auspices of the Global Fund program.



Azerbaijani narcologist describing ST programme in her country.  
(Photo: Grigory Naumovets)

###### ***Advanced Pediatric Antiretroviral Therapy and Opportunistic Infections Management***

**April 10-14, 2006 – Kiev**

**April 17-21, 2006 – Kiev**

Two five-day trainings on *Advanced Pediatric ART and Opportunistic Infections Management* took place for 44 health and social care providers from 16 regions of Ukraine. The participants, 16 multidisciplinary care teams, completed two series of ART trainings in November 2005 (Initiation of Pediatric Antiretroviral Therapy) and in February 2006 (Pediatric ART Onsite Mentoring). The trainings, organized with financial support from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine under the Global Fund program, aimed to increase the participants' level of knowledge and clinical skills on pediatric ART. Nineteen pediatricians received national certificates issued by the National Kiev Medical Academy of Post-graduate Education.

###### ***Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT): Workshops***

**April 10-19, 2006 – Odessa**

The goal of the PMTCT workshops (conducted under an agreement between the Knowledge Hub and Azerbaijan's National Office on Reproductive Health and Family Planning to implement a Global Fund program) is to develop human resource capacity on PMTCT for Azerbaijan. The workshops aimed to give participants both a theoretical understanding of and a practical know-how regarding core PMTCT elements, based on World Health Organization/UNICEF/United Nations Population Fund strategies and national standards. The 19 participating caregivers from Azerbaijan were also given the skills to conduct trainings on PMTCT. The workshops were conducted at the Southern Ukraine AIDS Education Center (SUAEC) in Odessa.

###### ***Adult Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) in Correctional Settings On-site Mentoring***

**May 15-19, 2006 – Kherson and Donetsk**

On-site mentoring was organized for 24 healthcare providers from clinics within the Ukrainian penitentiary system and five doctors from selected regional AIDS Centers. This was a continuation of the

Knowledge Hub ART training series for the same audience supported by the Global Fund via the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine. Under the supervision of a physician from Lavra Clinic, Kiev, and a physician from Albany Medical Center, New York, the participants presented and analyzed clinical cases of their first ART patients.



Mentoring participants at Infectious Disease Department, Hospital of Kherson Correctional Facility No 10. (Photo: Lana Kulchynska)



Representatives of Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk oblast correctional facilities during mentoring at the Donetsk Oblast AIDS Center. (Photo: Lana Kulchynska)

### ***Advanced Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults and Opportunistic Infections Management*** **May 15-19, 2006 – Kiev**

This course was the last in the series of Knowledge Hub Adult ART trainings conducted for teams from eight Ukrainian AIDS Centers. Twenty-five representatives from care teams that previously completed *Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy for Adults* in November 2005 and *Adult Antiretroviral Therapy Onsite Mentoring* in February 2006 participated. This training emphasized advanced principles of medical and social care to PLWHA on ART and addressed issues such as opportunistic infections, drug regimens/dosages, complications, side effects, drug adherence, and post-exposure prophylaxis. The training was funded by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine under the Global Fund program.

### ***Tuberculosis /HIV Coinfection*** **May 22-26, 2006 – Kiev**

This new course was organized by the Knowledge Hub for 17 TB specialists and infectious disease doctors from Donetsk, Luhansk, Sumy, Vinnytsya, Kiev, Mykolayiv and Poltava. The Knowledge Hub developed a training program based both on HIV/TB coinfection protocols issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) and on recommendations of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. Along with increasing the participants' level of knowledge, the training also worked to improve collaboration between TB dispensaries and AIDS centers with respect to patient referral, examination, diagnosis, and treatment. The training was funded by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine through the Global Fund program.



Infectious Disease doctors and TB specialists discuss prescription of ART to HIV-positive TB patients. (Photo: Grigory Naumovets)

## **RUSSIA**

### ***HIV/AIDS Palliative Care*** **March 20-24, 2006 – St. Petersburg**

The Knowledge Hub, in collaboration with the Open Health Institute (OHI)/Globus project (Global Fund Round 3 consortium of Russian NGOs), organized a training for 28 representatives from the following 12 AIDS Centers: St. Petersburg, Vologda, Krasnoyarsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Orenburg, Pskov, Buryatia, Tatarstan, Tver, Tomsk, Samara, and Saratov. The training focused on components of palliative care for people living with HIV/AIDS and was delivered by multidisciplinary teams in the form of lectures as well as bed-side exercises and on-site discussion of case studies.

**Adult Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) On-site Mentoring  
March – May, 2006 – Russia**

A total of three *Adult ART On-site Mentorings* were conducted for eight health care providers as a follow-up to the *Initiation of ART for Adults* trainings held in Kiev in April and June of 2005. US partners from Providence, RI; New Haven, CT; and Bemidji, MN oversaw the progress in clinical practice on ART in the AIDS Centers in Togliatti, St. Petersburg, and Saratov. They helped the participating care teams refresh their knowledge on the principles of ART care and treatment, identify main challenges in their activities, and identify ways of improving patient services. Mentoring took place within framework of AIHA/USAID partnership program.

**Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT): General Knowledge  
April 25-28, 2006 – Orenburg**

This general PMTCT course sought to give participants both a theoretical understanding of and practical competence with the core elements of PMTCT based on WHO/UNICEF/United Nations Population Fund strategies and national standards. This training was conducted within the framework of an AIHA/USAID partnership. The faculty consisted of 1 international expert (from Ukraine) and 3 Russian trainers. The 35 participants included physicians, nurses, and midwives from the Orenburg maternity hospitals.



Training participants at work (Photo: Elena Vovc)

**Initiation of Pediatric Antiretroviral Therapy  
May 22-26, 2006 – Ust Izhora**



Training participants ready to see the patient (Photo: Stela Bivol)

The training group consisted of 24 participants from the Orenburg, Leningrad, Chelyabinsk, Samara, Saratov, and Irkutsk oblasts along with 5 participants from Belarus (supported by WHO). Seven faculty members, including 2 physicians from Nevada and New York, facilitated the training. The course addressed ARV regimens, the WHO staging system, vaccination of children born to HIV-positive mothers, and adherence promotion and monitoring.

**Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT): General Knowledge  
May 2-5, 2006 – Saratov and Togliatti**

In line with the goal of the PMTCT training program in Russia, this workshop gave participants a theoretical and practical understanding of the core elements of PMTCT based on WHO/UNICEF/United Nations Population Fund strategies and national standards. Teams of trained Russian faculty facilitated simultaneous local PMTCT trainings in Saratov and Togliatti. Topics covered included ART and PMTCT, neonatal assistance to children born to mothers with unknown status, PMTCT for women addicted to drugs, HIV testing and counseling, and post exposure prophylaxis. Forty-seven practitioners, nurses, and midwives from local maternity houses received training.

**Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy for Adults  
May 29 – June 2, 2006 – St. Petersburg**

Seventeen health and social care providers, including 9 representatives of medical academies of post-graduate studies, participated in the training from St. Petersburg, Leningrad Oblast, and Orenburg. Among the topics covered were counseling, components of HIV/AIDS care, goals of ART, a general

overview of ART drugs, roles and responsibilities of care team members, national ART protocols, indications for and management of ART, and switching regimens. The training occurred within the framework of the AIHA/USAID partnership program.

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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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## CONFERENCES:

### **AIDS Conference for Eastern Europe and Central Asia** **May 15-17, 2006 – Moscow, Russia**

The Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV /AIDS in Eurasia participated in the first regional AIDS conference and presented six posters on the Knowledge Hub and related HIV/AIDS programs. In addition, the director of the Ukraine PMTCT Project conducted a presentation about the project during the conference. The Knowledge Hub and AIHA set up a booth at the conference exhibition that enabled conference participants to learn more about regional programs and receive the latest Russian language publications on HIV/AIDS, developed by the EurasiaHealth AIDS Knowledge Network.

Also during the conference, Eurasia Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinator Zoya Shabarova delivered a presentation entitled: “The Regional Knowledge Hub’s strategy to build human resource capacity for rapid scale-up of Ukraine’s ability to provide antiretroviral therapy to PLWHA.” Shabarova described Knowledge Hub methodology, training approaches, and courses, and underscored that the Knowledge Hub provides training not only for Ukrainian specialists, but also for healthcare professionals from Russia and other countries throughout the region. Copies of the presentation and poster used at the conference are available on the Knowledge Hub web site at:

[http://www.aidsknowledgehub.org/attaches/6/671/KHub\\_May2006\\_Summary\\_Eng.ppt](http://www.aidsknowledgehub.org/attaches/6/671/KHub_May2006_Summary_Eng.ppt)

[http://www.aidsknowledgehub.org/attaches/6/670/KH\\_Ukraine\\_ART\\_en.pdf](http://www.aidsknowledgehub.org/attaches/6/670/KH_Ukraine_ART_en.pdf)

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## ARTICLES:

### UKRAINE

#### ***Skills-based Training for Medical Professionals Offers Prospect of a Brighter Future to Ukrainians Living with HIV/AIDS***

Every disease has a human face, and HIV is no exception. In fact, HIV has many different faces that may be imagined in many different ways—the face of a child distorted by physical pain, the face of his mother exhausted by despair, or the stricken faces of young men and women when they learn their life-altering diagnosis. These faces, however, reflect only one side of the epidemic. When treatment and compassion are available, HIV can be overshadowed by the faces of the neighbors, friends, and loved ones who make up any society. These are unique individuals with stories to tell, contributions to make, and hopes to fulfill. In Ukraine, where 90,000 people are officially registered as HIV-positive and unofficial estimates are exponentially higher, the hope of a brighter future for those living with HIV/AIDS is increasingly becoming a reality.

"Today, I know I can live with this disease, but 10 years ago I was convinced that I was not long for this world," says Maxim Nikolayenko, a patient at the HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Department of the Gromashevsky Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases in Kyiv. Nikolayenko remembers how, many years ago, department head Svetlana Antoniak helped dispel his gloomy thoughts. "She told me 'people in the West live with this problem and you will also live.' In those days, that sounded like a challenge, though, because there were no antiretroviral drugs in Ukraine and only intolerance toward people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). She and her colleagues were the only specialists who helped us and we survived because they truly cared about us."

Only people who were themselves touched by HIV/AIDS realize how the burgeoning epidemic in Ukraine set off a battle for something there would seem to be no need to fight for in a civilized society—the right to life. PLWHA, their relatives and close friends, and the doctors who treated them paint a poignant picture of how things were, as do those who worked in the handful of international and nongovernmental organizations that recognized the early warning signs of the epidemic and answered their call.

"These people fought against stigma and discrimination. They fought for the right to be treated, for the right to work, to speak, to be heard. They fought for the right to keep on living and to have a future," Svetlana Antoniak recalls. She was a legendary figure during that difficult period and virtually every resident of Ukraine who has encountered HIV/AIDS knows her name. She managed to do what nobody even dared think about during the height of the AIDS epidemic in the mid-1990s. A time when scarce healthcare funding allocated barely 50 cents a day for the feeding of gravely ill patients and requests by HIV-positive people to be seen at state-run hospitals and clinics were turned down without explanation. There was no question of treating patients with antiretroviral therapy then—it was simply unavailable in the country.



Yaroslava Lopatina (left) and Svetlana Antoniak (right) with Angela and Maksim, two of their patients at the HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Department. The couple says these doctors are like family to them.  
(Photo: Vira Illiash)

In the face of these dire social and financial conditions, Antoniak armed herself with optimism and created a team of care providers from her department and representatives of public HIV service organizations founded by PLWHA. According to Antoniak, this close-knit multidisciplinary team has made the battle possible to endure. Through collaboration, the team managed to find funds to buy medicines and conditions began to improve for patients in the HIV/AIDS department. Then the alliance started to fight for patient rights, including the right to receive care through Ukraine's public healthcare system. Lobbying the government for access to life-saving antiretroviral medicines and more extensive cooperation with international organizations were next on their agenda.

Slowly, positive changes were made, until every patient who received treatment in Antoniak's department did everything in his or her power to stay under the team's care. And why not when the atmosphere at the clinic was nurturing and the staff highly professional? In addition, the department was the first place in Ukraine to administer antiretroviral therapy (ART). And so, with only 20 beds, it became an oasis attracting people from all over the country. Still, the number of people with AIDS continued to rise to a point where the problem could no longer be ignored. In 2004, life-saving antiretroviral drugs to treat large numbers of patients arrived in Ukraine thanks to support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

"Before that, only 100 people in the entire country enjoyed the privilege of ART, but thousands of patients desperately needed treatment," Antoniak says, stressing the fact that having the drugs does not automatically mean that people's lives are saved. "For many years Ukraine was an isolated country and we really felt the effects of that situation. We had no experience with providing ART and there were no specialists in the country who knew even a little bit about it. We scavenged through the wilderness of the English-language literature, studying various regimens and how to administer them. We used WHO protocols as our practical guide. We collected crumbs of information. Then the international organizations came to our aid," she recounts.



After reviewing a complicated case study on ARV side-effects during one of the Knowledge Hub's training courses, Christian Trader, physician from the AIDS Clinic in Berlin answers questions of participants, while John Marangio, care manager at AIDS Healthcare Foundation/Positive Healthcare, and Alexander Telnov, project physician at Medecins sans Frontieres' office in Odessa look on. (Photo: Vira Illiash)

and international strategic partners. The Knowledge Hub's mission is to help Ukraine—and other countries in the region—train qualified specialists to provide effective treatment and care to PLWHA.

The Ministry of Health, the Ukrainian National AIDS Center, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, and several other international organizations combined efforts to develop protocols for ART for adults and adolescents, for providing antiretrovirals to children, for treating opportunistic infections, and for laboratory monitoring of HIV. "We had the basics as of 2003, but everybody understood that without clinical experience, it would be impossible to introduce this therapy into practice. It is not enough just to have standards and protocols. You have to know how to put theories into action and we could only acquire this experience through close contact with international specialists who have been treating people living with HIV for a few decades," she explains.

The opportunity for Ukrainian doctors to initiate this contact came in March 2004 when the Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia was opened in Kyiv through a WHO project funded by the German Society for International Cooperation (GTZ) and managed by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) in cooperation with national

"The opening of the Knowledge Hub was very timely because it preceded the launch of nationwide efforts to provide ART, which began in August 2004," Antoniak recalls. "It was a heady time. We had to introduce the therapy, while simultaneously training specialists. The coordination of these efforts was a notable achievement that can be credited to successful cooperation among the Ministry of Health, the National AIDS Center, and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, which was the principle recipient of the Global Fund's 'Overcoming the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Ukraine' program," she says, explaining, "This grant provided financing for the training of Ukrainian specialists, and AIHA and other strategic partners at the Knowledge Hub provided crucial technical assistance and support."

HIV/AIDS experts from Europe and the Americas who have both clinical and teaching experience, along with regional HIV experts, were tapped as faculty and the Knowledge Hub began offering courses that focus on arming medical and allied healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills they need to provide comprehensive treatment and support to PLWHA. Antoniak and the doctors from her department were also invited to share their experience as instructors, while the HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Department itself became the clinical base for the center. Curricula are designed to address key HIV topics ranging from the provision of ART and patient counseling to palliative care and treating opportunistic infections. Each course is rooted in proven adult education methodology and features lectures, case studies, interactive discussions and role plays, and—most importantly—practical training in clinical settings.

"What is great about the Knowledge Hub is the fact that it gives healthcare professionals the knowledge they need for use at a patient's bedside," Antoniak affirms. In other words, course participants are given the opportunity not merely to listen to lectures on theory, but also to immediately practice what they learn through interaction with each other and with real patients. Another key element of the Knowledge Hub training methodology is its strong focus on continuous follow-up training and clinical mentoring. After a group of participants completes a five-day course, instructors travel to various regions of the country to supervise their work on site and help the newly trained healthcare providers select the most appropriate candidates for ART and prescribe the correct treatment regimen with a higher degree of confidence and professionalism. After several months, the trainees return to Kiev for more in-depth study of ART.

"Thanks to these training cycles, the physicians began to administer treatment with greater skill. They learned the importance of closely monitoring each patient and worked to improve the working relationship—or partnership—between clinicians and patients," Antoniak says, stressing that when it comes to treating HIV, there is nothing more important than trust. "Doctors should set an example of



treating patients as human beings. That is the only way they can provide effective care to PLWHA because doing so requires understanding their problems."

Acknowledging that the Knowledge Hub's work has brought about changes in the system of care for PLWHA in Ukraine, Antoniak continues, "We were able to introduce the team approach to HIV/AIDS care. This model has long been used in the West and involves close collaboration among doctors, nurses, and social workers to better address medical issues and provide the psychological and social support each patient needs. This method helps us free doctors from the burden of dealing with every little problem, while at the same time ensuring the patient's adherence to therapy, improving his or her quality of life, and bringing our system of care up to international standards."



Ukrainian multidisciplinary HIV/AIDS care teams attend a course on ART initiation for adults and adolescents last November in Kiev.  
(Photo: Andriy Styopkin)

At this time, 76 care teams have been trained in Ukraine; 30 specialize in pediatric care thanks to funding from UNICEF and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. Representatives from 24 Ukrainian regions have received training and the HIV/AIDS care team approach is currently operational in 19 of Ukraine's 26 oblasts. In real numbers that translates into 636 Ukrainian care providers trained. These practitioners are now treating 3,186 patients in 24 regions spanning the country. By the end of 2006, another 500 Ukrainian doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals will have been trained by the Knowledge Hub.

Today, approximately 600 people are receiving antiretrovirals in Kyiv, although almost all Ukraine's ART patients were undergoing their treatment there until recently. "It is gratifying to see that the doctors involved in caring for PLWHA living in the regions are working with a high degree of self-sacrifice. All of them have developed a greater need to enhance their level of knowledge and now they feel a strong sense of duty to the patients who come to them for help," Antoniak says, noting with satisfaction that thanks to the Knowledge Hub, the practitioners have begun to work together more closely and exchange experiences.

"In the time since the Knowledge Hub was established, we have surmounted a huge obstacle by breaking down a system that kept us closed off from our colleagues here in Ukraine and around the world, as well as from a whole group of patients who need us desperately," Antoniak stresses, explaining that only through close collaboration and complete mutual understanding is it possible to create effective care services for PLWHA in Ukraine. The goal, she concludes, is to create a system in which there will be no place for discrimination, where patients will feel that they are valued members of society with full civil rights and a guaranteed future. "Now in Ukraine, by building a strong core team of well-trained HIV/AIDS specialists, we have the opportunity to truly help PLWHA. And that is of paramount importance for their future and the future of our country."

### **HIV/AIDS Resources**

Primary funding for EAKN is provided by the  
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(USAID)



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

### **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 are:

- The Russian-language version of *HIV Medicine 2005*, by B. S. Kamps is fully available online, and is currently being reviewed by a committee of AIDS specialists from Eurasia to help assure the quality and accuracy of the translation, as well as prepare an introduction with notes regarding adaptation of text for local conditions. 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.  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/health/resources/82169/>
- *The Pocket Guide to Adult HIV/AIDS Treatment*, written by J. Bartlett is fully available online and in a hard copy. This quick reference for prescribing antiretroviral drugs, antiretroviral therapy, opportunistic infections, and related issues was printed in May 2006 and distributed by AIHA at the EECAAC Conference in Moscow.  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/health/resources/82726/>
- *2005-2006 Medical Management of HIV Infection*—this comprehensive clinical handbook is edited by J. Bartlett and J. Gallant of the Johns Hopkins University Division of Infectious Diseases and represents the standard of care of the Johns Hopkins University AIDS Service. The Russian language version is in the process of being reviewed by a committee of AIDS specialists from Eurasia, who will help assure the quality and accuracy of the translation, as well as prepare an introduction with notes regarding adaptation of text for local conditions.  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/health/resources/82168/>
- Twenty-seven chapters from the *Textbook of Pediatric HIV Care*, by S. Zeichner and J. Read are available online. 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/eng/health/resources/85908/>
- The Global AIDS Learning and Evaluation Network (GALEN) module *Management of Pediatric HIV Infection (No. 10)*. This module focuses on aspects of HIV disease specific to infants and children, with special emphasis on clinical management.  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/health/resources/83000/>

The EAKN Library is continuing to translate the *Textbook of Pediatric HIV Care*, as well as various other publications, reviews of the latest articles from the leading peer-reviewed magazines, and recent abstracts from medical conferences.