

Knowledge Hub Newswire

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

These statistics reflect the Regional Knowledge Hub's activities from its inception in March 2004 through November 2006

- Knowledge Hub courses held: **100**
- Healthcare professionals trained: **2371**
 - Russia: **1136**
 - Ukraine: **1071**
 - Belarus: **44**
 - Uzbekistan: **34**
 - Azerbaijan: **29**
 - Kazakhstan: **29**
 - Tajikistan: **18**
 - 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: **107**

Knowledge Hub Calendar

*The following trainings are scheduled to take place at the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers
December 2006 – February 2007*

UKRAINE

Adult Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) Onsite Mentoring December 18-21, 2006 – Ukraine

Onsite mentoring will be organized for 39 participants (infection disease doctors, nurses and social workers) from 14 oblast and city AIDS Centers. This will be a continuation of the ART training series started by Knowledge Hub for representatives of oblasts where ART has started recently. 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 HIV/AIDS clinics.

Training-of-Trainers for National Faculty on Initiation of ART for Adults January 15-17, 2007 – Ukraine

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 at

least 14 physicians who completed the Knowledge Hub series on Adult ART (Initiation, Mentoring, and Advanced). 6 healthcare professionals from Belarus are also invited to participate in the training.

Advanced ART for Adults and Opportunistic Infections Management
January 29 – February 2, 2007 – Kyiv

This course will be the last in the series of the Knowledge Hub's ART for Adults trainings conducted for the care teams from 14 AIDS Centers of Ukraine. The 39 participants will represent care teams that have previously completed *Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy for Adults* in November 2006 and *Adult Antiretroviral Therapy Onsite Mentoring* in December 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 ART Onsite Mentoring in Correctional Settings
February 26 – March 2, 2007 – Kyiv

Knowledge Hub is planning to organize 2 day mentoring seminars for 2 groups of doctors and nurses from Prison system. The participants will be given the opportunity to counsel patients who are preparing to start ART or those who are already taking ART as well as to monitor ART side effects and severe conditions of HIV infection.

BELARUS

Initiation of ART for Adults
December 4-8, 2006 – Minsk

Within the project between Knowledge Hub and World Health Organisation (WHO) 15 Belorussian infection disease doctors and nurses will be introduced into Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults. The educational process will include both lectures and practical exercises and role plays as well as counseling patients preparing for ART.

Adult ART Onsite Mentoring
January 22–26, 2007 – Belarus

Knowledge Hub is planning to organize 2 day mentoring seminars for 2 groups of doctors and nurses who will participate in the Initiation of Adult ART training course in December 2006. Onsite mentoring will be organized at Gomel and Minsk infectious disease clinics. It will be carried out under supervision of German and Ukrainian faculty for those doctors who had completed Initiation into ART Course.

The participants will be given the opportunity to counsel patients who are preparing to start ART or those who are already taking ART as well as to monitor ART side effects and severe conditions of HIV infection.

RUSSIA

Initiation of ART for Adults
December 11-15, 2006 - Irkutsk

In follow up of the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for GFATM/RHCF and AIHA regions, AIHA and St Petersburg Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies will implement local training on Initiation of ART in adults for 25 local specialists in Irkutsk. Two faculty for St Petersburg

MAPS and two faculty from Irkutsk will be co-teaching the training course. One national faculty will be mentoring this course.

Advanced ART for Adults and Opportunistic Infections Management

December 18-22, 2006 – St. Petersburg

The first advanced course in ART management for care teams (physicians, nurses, social workers) from four sites (St. Petersburg, Samara, Saratov, Orenburg) will be conducted at the ATEC Russia Clinical site in St. Petersburg – St. Petersburg AIDS Center's inpatient department. The course will incorporate feedback from US peer professionals who have conducted adult ARV mentoring on care delivery during their AIHA/USAID sponsored partnership exchange trips in the fall/winter of 2005 and spring of 2006.

Initiation of ART for Adults

January (TBD), Ulyanovsk

In follow up of the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for GFATM/RHCF and AIHA regions, a local training on Initiation of ART in adults will be held for 25 local specialists in Ulyanovsk. Two ATEC faculty (St Petersburg MAPS) and two faculty from Ulyanovsk will be co-teaching the training course.

Initiation of ART for Adults

February (TBD), Yekaterinburg/Sverdlovsk oblast

Local training on Initiation of ART for adults for 25 local specialists in Sverdlovsk oblast. Two ATEC faculty (St. Petersburg MAPS) and faculty from Yekaterinburg will be co-teaching the training course.

Initiation of ART for Adults, Chelyabinsk

February (TBD)

Local training on Initiation of ART for adults for 25 local specialists in Chelyabinsk oblast. Two ATEC faculty (St. Petersburg MAPS) and faculty from Chelyabinsk will be co-teaching the training course.

Knowledge Hub in Review

***These events were hosted by the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers
from September 2006 to November 2006***

TRAININGS:

UKRAINE

HIV/AIDS and Cross-Sectoral Cooperation (for Head Physicians from TB Dispensaries)

September 13-15, 2006 – Kyiv

19 chief doctors of Oblast Tuberculosis (TB) dispensaries participated in this course. The objective of the training was not only to provide trainees with essential information on Coordination of HIV-infection and TB control measures at the regional level; peculiarities of TB treatment in HIV positive patients etc but also to facilitate cooperation with Oblast AIDS Prevention and Treatment Centers. It is expected that this training will promote better diagnosis of HIV-associated TB and timely treatment of HIV positive patients with co-infection and decrease HIV-related stigma and discrimination at TB dispensaries.



Chief TB doctors follow the slides of the presentations
(Photo: Grigory Naumovets)

Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults
September 18-22, 2006 – Donetsk

32 infectious disease doctors from different rayons of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv oblast participated in this training. The course covered topics such as counseling, components of HIV/AIDS care, goals of ART, 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. Two new local faculty who had recently completed TOT – one from Donetsk and one from Kyiv – were involved in the training for the first time.

Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults
September 25-29, 2006 – Simferopol

This course was conducted for infectious disease doctors from Mykolayiv, Odesa oblasts and from AR of Crimea. The course covered topics such as counseling, components of HIV/AIDS care, goals of ART, 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. This was also debut for two new local faculty from Mykolayiv Oblast and Crimean Republican AIDS Centers.

Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults
November 6 - 10, 2006 – Kyiv

Following the request submitted from the National AIDS Center Knowledge Hub organized this course for overall 39 participants (infection disease doctors, nurses and social workers). Most of the participants were from those Oblast AIDS Centers which prepare to start ART for adult HIV positive patients. The training was held at Lavra clinic.



Discussion on adherence promotion
(Photo: Grigory Naumovets)

Tuberculosis/HIV Co-infection
November 13 - 17, 2006 – Kyiv



Presentation of team members' responsibilities
(Photo: Grigory Naumovets)

This course seems to raise the biggest interest among the participants, especially for TB specialists who are rarely invited to participate in trainings or seminars. Such topics as diagnostic and management of TB in HIV positive with deep immune deficiency attracted the most attention. The participants also confessed that such joint learning process for infection disease doctors and for TB specialists promote better understanding and cooperation at the local level.

Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults in Correctional Facilities
November 20 - 24, 2006 – Kyiv

As the Prison Department of Ukraine endeavours to broaden access to ART for HIV positive inmates the necessity to educate prison doctors is increasing. It was the second group of prison health care providers who started their ART course at AIDS Knowledge Hub. The representative of the Prison department who visited the training clarified the process of ART provision to prisons and cooperation with Oblast AIDS Centers.

The trainings were conducted within the framework of the project “Strengthen the capacity of the AIDS healthcare system in Ukraine through the provision of a comprehensive unified professional training program”, supported by International HIV/AIDS Alliance within GFATM-funded project “Overcoming HIV/AIDS Epidemics in Ukraine”.



Prison doctors and nurses
at the workshop
(Photo: Grigory Naumovets)

BELARUS

Initiation of ART for Adults in Correctional Settings
November 27 – December 1, 2006 – Minsk

Within the project between the Knowledge Hub and the World Health Organization (WHO) 19 representatives from Belarus prison system took part in the Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults training in Minsk. The focus of the training was on the main principles of ART management and monitoring: team approach, ARV drugs, indications for therapy, side effects, patient counseling, and substitution therapy. The faculty included leading healthcare and social care professionals from Ukraine and USA.

RUSSIA

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) Training
September 12 – 15, 2006 – St.Petersburg

This training was conducted for 30 PMTCT providers in St.Petersburg (Women’s Consultations, Maternity Houses, AIDS Center, Pediatric Polyclinics, NGOs, Narcology Service) based on WHO/CDC PMTCT curriculum adapted by AIHA for Russian Federation. Three national faculty (trainers from St. Petersburg trained by AIHA at the TOT in December 2005) have been teaching the course. The target audience consisted of OB/GYN specialists and pediatricians from Krasnogvardeysky district in St. Petersburg.

Tuberculosis/HIV Coinfection
September 18-22, 2006 – St. Petersburg

The first Knowledge Hub training on Tuberculosis/HIV Coinfection has been implemented at clinical sites of the Infectious Diseases Hospital No.30 “Botkina” and City TB hospital No.2 in St. Petersburg, Russia. The training course hosted 30 participants including TB specialists, infectious diseases specialists, regional coordinators of TB/HIV from St. Petersburg, Orenburg, Orsk, Samara, Togliatti, Saratov and invited observers from interested counterparts. International faculty (from the United States and Italy) were co-teaching the course together with national faculty. The main goal of the training was to increase knowledge and develop clinical skills of practitioners and TB/HIV coordinators on managing HIV patients co-infected with TB; defining the diagnosis of TB at early stages and prescribing TB prophylaxis in HIV-infected. This course also



focused on strengthening the collaboration among relevant healthcare facilities for the benefit of PLWHA.

Study tour on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) for Russian specialists
September 27-29, 2006 - Odessa

Four OB/GYN specialists from Saratov, Engels, Balakovo (Saratov oblast) and one from Togliatti (Samara oblast) attended the regional PMTCT clinical training for OB/GYNs held in Odessa, Ukraine from September 27-29. The training on safe clinical techniques (including less invasive C-section technique) has been requested by regional medical workers during technical PMTCT meetings conducted in 2006, and arranged by AIHA at its PMTCT center of excellence in Odessa, Ukraine

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (PMTCT): General Knowledge
October 3-6, 2006 – Chelyabinsk

This general PMTCT course conducted by AIHA for the UNICEF project in Chelyabinsk, Russia provided participants with the core elements of PMTCT - both theoretical understanding and practical competence - based on WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA strategy and national standards. Topics covered in this course include ART and PMTCT, neonatal assistance to children born to HIV-positive mothers or mothers with unknown status, PMTCT for women addicted to drugs, HIV testing and counseling, stigma and discrimination issues, PMTCT program monitoring. One trainer from St.Petersburg and three local trainers taught the PMTCT general course in Chelyabinsk. Twenty three people have been trained in this course based on the WHO/CDC Generic Curriculum.

Study tour on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) for Russian specialists
October 11 – 13, Odessa, Ukraine

Two OB/GYNs from Orenburg and two from St.Petersburg participated in a three-day clinic-based training on techniques in delivery of HIV+ pregnant women at Odessa Clinical Hospital. The clinical training program focused on basic components of PMTCT, proficiency in clinical procedures including c-sections, and application in practice of acquired knowledge and skills.

Training on palliative care (end of life care) in PLWHA for faith-based agencies
October 24 - 28, St. Petersburg

A one-day TOT for 20 trainers and a two-day back-to-back training for 200 representatives of faith-based agencies from the North-West region of Russia was conducted in collaboration with the faith-based NGO “Christian Interchurch Diaconal Council of St. Petersburg.” One international trainer, Marianne Matzo (AIHA consultant) led the training events.

Training of Trainers (ToT) on Adult Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)

November 7–14, 2006



The AIDS Training and Education Center ATEC located within the St. Petersburg Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies (MAPS) site hosted the first training on Initiating the ART in adults and adolescents. This course was designed to train trainers of ART course for GF round four regions in Russia. Two international faculty (AIHA consultants) and one faculty from St. Petersburg MAPS (Medical Academy of Postgraduate Studies) provided seven-days training of trainers. Target audience consisted of medical schools faculty from 13 regions of Russian Federation (12 regions of the GF round four/RHCF¹ project in Russia and Orenburg State Medical Academy) and St. Petersburg

MAPS. One faculty from Moscow Medical Academy named after Sechenov has also attended the training course as observer. This training aimed to prepare instructors for regional schools of undergraduate and post-graduate medical education in basic ART in HIV/AIDS and communication and interactive teaching skills. A total number of 40 infectious diseases specialists were trained and received certificates of completion. By the end of this training course local trainings were also scheduled for 13 regions to be conducted by trained St. Petersburg MAPS faculty together with regional instructors. This training of trainers course represents the first phase of a joint AIHA/St. Petersburg MAPS project of integrating HIV/AIDS curricula into Russia's graduate and postgraduate education programs thanks to a grant from the Russian Healthcare Foundation (RHCF) within the frameworks of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria round four program.

Opening of AIDS Training/Education Center

October 16, 2006 – St. Petersburg

AIHA in conjunction with the St. Petersburg Medical Academy for Post Graduate Studies, the St. Petersburg AIDS Center, and the Pediatric HIV/AIDS Clinical Center of Russian Federation (located in Ust Izhora) has officially opened the AIDS Training and Education Center (ATEC) in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Representatives from St. Petersburg Vice-Governor's Office, Health Committee, USAID, US Embassy, US Consulate, UNICEF, professional education schools from 14 regions in the RF and representatives of St. Petersburg community of people living with HIV/AIDS attended the opening. The creation of this center is made possible with support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Health Organization (WHO), and other international donors and strategic partners. ATEC—St. Petersburg works in close collaboration with the Regional Knowledge Hub, both benefiting from and contributing to capacity building efforts in other countries spanning Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



St. Petersburg AIDS Center and Botkin Hospital (Infectious Disease Hospital No. 30) are the two clinical sites of the ATEC-St. Petersburg. The newly created center also collaborates with the Republican Infectious diseases hospital (HIV pediatric hospital) in Ust-Izhora. This is a regional clinical site of the Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia that works together with AIHA and interested counterparts on building capacities through the CIS region.

¹ The following are the regions of GFATM round four in Russia considered for the ToT course (due to the availability of medical schools in these regions): Altay, Volgograd, Irkutsk, Krasnodar, Saratov, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, Kemerov, Perm, Rostov, Ulyanovsk oblasts and Bashkortostan Republic.

ATEC-St. Petersburg and its affiliated clinical sites will help develop the institutional and human resource capacity the Russian Federation needs to reach its HIV/AIDS care and treatment goals through targeted training for physicians, nurses, and social workers. Through ATEC-St. Petersburg, AIHA and MAPS are working to integrate evidence-based HIV and AIDS curricula into Russia's graduate and postgraduate education programs thanks to a grant from the Russian Healthcare Foundation and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

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

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 are:

- Thirty 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.
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/health/resources/85908/>
- Twelve article reviews, prepared by the Internet project MedMir.com, which is aimed to provide Russian speaking medical professionals with timely, comprehensive and relevant clinical information in the form of the Russian language summaries of clinical study reports published in the top world medical journals
 - ✓ A Prospective Controlled Study of Neurodevelopment in HIV-Uninfected Children Exposed to Combination Antiretroviral Drugs in Pregnancy
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99119>
 - ✓ Disadvantages of Structured Treatment Interruption Persist in Patients With Multidrug-Resistant HIV-1 Final Results of the CPCRA 064 Study
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99118>
 - ✓ Initial highly-active antiretroviral therapy with a protease inhibitor versus a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor: discrepancies between direct and indirect meta-analyses
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99117>

- ✓ Causes of Death among Persons with AIDS in the Era of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy: New York City <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99116>
 - ✓ Less Than 95% Adherence to Nonnucleoside Reverse-Transcriptase Inhibitor Therapy Can Lead to Viral Suppression <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99115>
 - ✓ The Antiretroviral Therapy Cohort Collaboration. Rates of Disease Progression according to Initial Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy Regimen: A Collaborative <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99033>
 - ✓ The KLEAN study of fosamprenavir-ritonavir versus lopinavir-ritonavir, each in combination with abacavir-lamivudine, for initial treatment of HIV infection over 48 weeks: a randomised non-inferiority trial <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99032>
 - ✓ Predictive Value of Plasma HIV RNA Level on Rate of CD4 T-Cell Decline in Untreated HIV Infection <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99031>
 - ✓ A Once-Daily Lopinavir/Ritonavir-Based Regimen Provides Noninferior Antiviral Activity Compared With a Twice-Daily Regimen <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99030>
 - ✓ Effect of Perinatal Antiretroviral Drug Exposure on Hematologic Values in HIV-Uninfected Children: An Analysis of the Women and Infants Transmission Study <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99029>
- Three chapters from HIV InSite Knowledge Base - the comprehensive, on-line textbook of HIV disease from the University of California San Francisco and San Francisco General Hospital
 - ✓ Serious Bacterial Infections in Children with HIV <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/98797>
 - ✓ Coinfection with Hepatitis Viruses and HIV <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/98790>
 - ✓ Clinical Characteristics of Kaposi Sarcoma <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/98789>

The EAKN Library is beginning to translate the *HIV Medicine, 2006*, as well as various other publications, reviews of the latest articles from the leading peer-reviewed magazines, and recent abstracts from medical conferences.
