

Knowledge Hub Newswire

The Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia
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Vol. 2, No. 7

Winter 2006 - 2007

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Snapshot

These statistics reflect the Regional Knowledge Hub's activities from its inception in March 2004 through February 2007

- Knowledge Hub courses held: **107**
- Healthcare professionals trained: **2600**
 - Ukraine: **1205**
 - Russia: **1222**
 - Azerbaijan: **29**
 - Kazakhstan: **29**
 - Tajikistan: **18**
 - Uzbekistan: **34**
 - Moldova: **9**
 - Belarus: **53**
 - 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
March - May 2007*

UKRAINE

Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for Adults **April 2-6, 2007 – Dnipropetrovsk**

This course will be introductory for the care teams (doctor, nurse and social worker) from city AIDS Centers located in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The training is organized within the framework of Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative project aimed at increasing workforce potential of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast in response to HIV/AIDS.

Introduction to HIV Care **May 14-18, 2007 - Dnipropetrovsk**

Next group of doctors and nurses from Dnipropetrovsk rayon hospitals will attend this training. Under supervision of experienced foreign and Ukrainian doctors the trainees will go through theory and practice in symptoms of HIV-infection, laboratory diagnostics, most common skin and genital tract infections

(GTI) manifestations. Interactive sessions and role plays will give training participants better understanding of how to counsel patient before HIV testing and after it.

Adult ART Onsite Mentoring

May 21-25, 2007 – Dnipropetrovsk Oblast

During this mentoring visit Knowledge Hub and Clinton Foundation plan to organize clinical sessions with patients who are going to start ART, or who are already on ART and either developed side effects or other complications related to ART. The mentoring sites will include Dnipropetrovsk, Kriviy Rih, Ternivka/Pavlohrad and Nikopol.

Initiation of Pediatric ART

May 14-18 and May 21-25, 2007 (TBD) – Odesa

Sponsored by the Knowledge Hub in cooperation with UNICEF/Ukraine, these courses will provide an opportunity for Ukrainian doctors, nurses, and social workers to improve their clinical skills related to ART for children living with HIV/AIDS. A strong emphasis will be placed on general principles of pediatric ART, child assessments and counseling before drug administration, criteria for starting ART according to WHO and national protocols, drug regimens and dosages, follow-up services for children receiving ART, and post-exposure prophylaxis, among many other critical topics.

BELARUS

Advanced ART for Adults

April 23-27, 2007 – Minsk

The participants from Minsk, Gomel and Pinsk infection disease hospitals will reinforce their knowledge on the following ART topics: switching ART regimens, diagnosing and treatment of opportunistic infections, methods of increasing patient's adherence to ART. Special attention will be paid to treatment of HIV-associated tuberculosis (TB) and chronic infections in injecting drug users.

ESTONIA

Case Management Technical Assistance

April 19–20, 2007 - Tallinn, Estonia

The Knowledge Hub will provide an US expert in case management to conduct an assessment of social support infrastructure for HIV care and the potential for introduction of case management function in Estonian AIDS services and outline a related training curricula. The assessment is supported by funding from WHO/EURO.

RUSSIA

Initiation of ART for adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)

February 26 - March 2, 2007 - Yekaterinburg/Sverdlovsk oblast

In a follow up to the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for twelve GFATM/RHCF regions, ATEC-St Petersburg will conduct 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 co-teach the training course.

Course on Initiation of ART for adults in Bashkortostan Republic (ATEC - St. Petersburg)

March 12–16, 2007 - Ufa

The AIDS Training and Education Center (ATEC) in St. Petersburg, a Knowledge Hub Affiliate, with funding from the Russian Health Care Foundation, will implement a local training on Initiation of ART for

adults for 25 local HIV/AIDS specialists in Bashkortostan. Two ATEC faculty (St Petersburg MAPS) and faculty from the MAPS in Ufa city will teach the training course in a follow up to the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for twelve GFATM/RHCF regions.

TOT on Palliative Care (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
March 19–23, 2007 - St. Petersburg

Two international faculty and one national expert from the Federal AIDS Center of Russian Federation will conduct a TOT for the course on palliative care in HIV/AIDS. The course will also include clinical sessions conducted at in-patient unit of City AIDS Center and St.Petersburg MAPS affiliated geriatrics department.

Initiation of ART for adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
March 26-30, 2007 - Perm oblast

The ATEC-St. Petersburg, with funding from the Russian Health Care Foundation, will implement a local training on Initiation of ART for adults for 25 local HIV/AIDS specialists in Perm Oblast. Two ATEC faculty and faculty from the MAPS in Perm will teach the training course in a follow up to the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for twelve GFATM/RHCF regions.

Initiation of ART for Adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
April 9-13, 2007 - Saratov oblast

The ATEC-St. Petersburg, with funding from the Russian Health Care Foundation, will implement a local training on Initiation of ART for adults for 25 local HIV/AIDS specialists in Saratov Oblast. Two ATEC faculty and faculty from the MAPS in Saratov will teach the training course in a follow up to the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for twelve GFATM/RHCF regions.

Initiation of ART for adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
April 23-27, 2007 - Rostov oblast

The ATEC-St. Petersburg, with funding from the Russian Health Care Foundation, will implement a local training on Initiation of ART for adults for 25 local HIV/AIDS specialists in Rostov Oblast. Two ATEC faculty and faculty from the MAPS in Rostov will teach the training course in a follow up to the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for twelve GFATM/RHCF regions.

Regional Workshop on Post-Graduate HIV/AIDS Education and Training (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
May 21–25, 2007 - St. Petersburg

The Workshop will be held at the ATEC-St. Petersburg with support from WHO-EURO and AIHA/USAID for faculty members from key CIS post-graduate medical institutes including Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Led by faculty from the St. Petersburg MAPS, the workshop will introduce faculty to a variety of evidence-based curricula and training materials addressing basic HIV/AIDS education, introduction of ART, PMTCT, and other key topics. The workshop will also focus on effective pedagogical skills and the use of case studies and strengthen adult learning and interactive teaching skills of the participants.

Training on Palliative care for NIS professionals (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
May 21–25, 2007 - St. Petersburg

A training on palliative care will be provided by experienced US faculty and St. Petersburg practitioners from the ATEC-St. Petersburg clinical sites for Belarus care teams. This course will be funded by WHO-Belarus.

Initiation of ART for Adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
May 14-18, 2007 - Krasnodar region

The ATEC-St. Petersburg, with funding from the Russian Health Care Foundation, will implement a local training on Initiation of ART for adults for 25 local HIV/AIDS specialists in Krasnodar Region. Two ATEC faculty and faculty from the MAPS in Krasnodar will teach the training course in a follow up to the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for twelve GFATM/RHCF regions.

Initiation of ART for Adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
May 28 - June 1, 2007 - Volgograd oblast

The ATEC-St. Petersburg, with funding from the Russian Health Care Foundation, will implement a local training on Initiation of ART for adults for 25 local HIV/AIDS specialists in Volgograd Region. Two ATEC faculty and faculty from the MAPS in Volgograd will teach the training course in a follow up to the training of trainers held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for twelve GFATM/RHCF regions.

Knowledge Hub in Review

***These events were hosted by the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers
from December 2006 to February 2007***

TRAININGS:

UKRAINE

Adult ART Onsite Mentoring
December 18-21, 2006 – Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk

Onsite mentoring was organized for 38 participants (infection disease doctors, nurses and social workers) from 14 oblast and city AIDS Centers. This was a continuation of the ART training series started by Knowledge Hub for representatives of oblasts where ART had started recently. During the onsite mentoring the participants were 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. The mentoring was funded by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine.

Training-of-Trainers (ToT) for National Faculty on Introduction to ART for Adults
January 15-17, 2007 – Kyiv



Participants from Belarus at ToT
in Kyiv
(Photo: Grigory Naumovets)

This course addressed clinical training methodology with the goal of equipping national faculties to conduct subsequent trainings for local infectious disease doctors. The training-of-trainers involved 15 physicians who had completed the Knowledge Hub series on Adult ART (Initiation, Mentoring and Advanced). Five healthcare professionals from Belarus also participated in the training. The training was funded by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine (Ukrainian participants) and WHO/Regional Office for Europe (Belarus participants).

Advanced ART for Adults
January 29 – February 2, 2007 – Kyiv

This course was the last in the series of the Knowledge Hub's ART for Adults trainings conducted for the care teams from 11 AIDS Centers of Ukraine. The 34 participants represented care teams that had previously completed *Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy for Adults* in November 2006 and *Adult Antiretroviral Therapy Onsite Mentoring* in December 2006. The training was dedicated to the advanced principles of medical and social care to people living with HIV/AIDS on ART, and covered such issues as opportunistic infections, drug regimens and dosages, complications, side-effects, switching regimens, and palliative care. The training was funded by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine.



Dr. Suprunenko and Dr. Hetman
facilitating clinical session
(Photo: Grigory Naumovets)

Introduction to HIV Care
February 12 – 16, 2007 – Dnipropetrovsk

The course represented the first training organized jointly by Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative (CHAI) and the Knowledge Hub for Dnipropetrovsk Oblast health care providers working in the field of HIV/AIDS. The goal of this training was to increase knowledge of rayon infection disease doctors and nurses on such essential issues as: symptoms of HIV, patient's counselling, prevention, diagnostic management of the most common diseases in HIV-positive, in order to provide early identification of HIV infection and related care and referral, when needed. The training was funded by CHAI.

Adult ART Onsite Mentoring in Correctional Settings
February 26 – March 1, 2007 – Kherson Oblast

Knowledge Hub in cooperation with Prison Department organized two days of mentoring seminars for 2 groups of doctors and nurses from Prison system. The participants were given the opportunity to counsel patients who were preparing to start ART and those who were already taking ART as well as to monitor ART side effects and discuss treatment of most common opportunistic infections. The onsite mentoring was held at the hospital of Daryivka Correctional Facility. The training was funded by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine.

BELARUS

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

Within the project between the Knowledge Hub and WHO-Europe, 15 Belorussian infection disease doctors and nurses received training on the introduction of antiretroviral therapy for adults. The training course included lectures, practical exercises, and role-plays as well as examining and counseling patients to start ART.

Adult ART Onsite Mentoring
January 22–26, 2007 – Minsk and Gomel

Knowledge Hub held two days mentoring in Minsk and Gomel for 2 groups of doctors and nurses who participated in the Initiation of Adult ART training course in December 2006. Onsite mentoring was carried out under supervision of German and Ukrainian faculty. The participants were given the opportunity to counsel patients who were preparing to start ART and those who were already on ART as well as to monitor ART side effects and severe conditions of HIV infection.

RUSSIA

Initiation of ART for Adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)

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, the ATEC-St Petersburg started to implement local trainings in the GFATM round four regions in Russian Federation. The first local training on Initiation of ART in adults within this project was implemented for 25 local specialists in Irkutsk. Two faculty for St Petersburg MAPS and two faculty from Irkutsk were co-teaching the training course. One national faculty provided technical assistance in mentoring the teaching faculty in this course.

Advanced ART for Adults and Opportunistic Infections Management (ATEC - St. Petersburg)

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) has been conducted at the ATEC in St. Petersburg clinical site – St. Petersburg AIDS Center's inpatient department. The course incorporated 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. One international faculty and five local clinicians and specialists in care of PLHIV have been involved in teaching the course and conducting bed-side training sessions. At the end of training course, the medical doctors who completed all three stages of the training course on ART in adults (initiation of ART (1), on-site mentoring (2), and advanced training (3)) and local faculty have taken a three hours GALEN examination.

Initiation of ART for Adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)

January 15–19, 2007 - Ulyanovsk



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

Initiation of ART for Adults (ATEC - St. Petersburg)

February 5–9, 2007 - Chelyabinsk



In a follow up to the TOT held on November 7-14 in St Petersburg for twelve GFATM/RHCF regions, ATEC-St. Petersburg conducted 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 taught the training course certified through the St. Petersburg MAPS.

Intro to ART Training (ATEC - St. Petersburg)
February 19–22, 2007 - St. Petersburg

As part of the USAID funded AIHA workplan to support scale up of ARV services in the city of St. Petersburg, ATEC's clinical site (St. Petersburg city AIDS Center, inpatient department) implemented a training for 19 district chief infectionists of St. Petersburg, utilizing the Knowledge Hub's course on Initiation of ART in Adults as adapted through by the St. Petersburg ATEC. The course was held at the St. Petersburg AIDS Center with faculty from the MAPS, city AIDS Center and TB hospital.

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/.*

MEETINGS:

Human Capacity-building Strategy to Support ART Scale Up in Ukraine
January 25, 2007 – Kyiv, Ukraine

The Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV /AIDS in Eurasia conducted a meeting to analyze and plan for human capacity building activities to support national ART scale up in Ukraine, coordinate upcoming activities and discuss development of Ukrainian National Training Center. The meeting was attended by 17 representatives of international and Ukrainian organizations involved into the planning and implementation of the HIV/AIDS care and treatment program in Ukraine. The meeting archived it's main objectives: to review and discuss the lessons learned during Knowledge Hub training activities to date, to discuss the current and future learning needs of Ukrainian health workers with respect to HIV/AIDS care and treatment, and to discuss and coordinate among main donors Ukraine's human capacity building priorities for the next 2 years, including the critical next steps of (1) engaging the undergraduate and graduate schools of the health professions in HIV/AIDS related education, and (2) development of National Training Center as a sustainable capacity building agency for Ukraine.

For more information on this meeting please visit

www.aidsknowledgehub.org > *Capacity-Building Data and Publications.*

HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Delivery Model and Workforce Development Strategy Round-Table Meeting
February 6, 2007 – Chisinau, Moldova

The Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV /AIDS in Eurasia and American International Health Alliance (AIHA) representatives and experts participated in the meeting, organized by WHO/Moldova. They presented information related to Knowledge Hub training methodology, approach and workforce development activities in the region, shared the experience of providing comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment in AIHA partnerships sites in Russia and results and lessons learned from Ukraine's Program on ART Scale-up. Presented information, other international organizations and national stakeholders presentations set the stage for further round-table discussion of barriers and opportunities for universal access to treatment and care and ways to improve the HIV/AIDS service delivery model in Moldova, workforce development needs to support further ART scale-up in the country.

Meeting of Knowledge Hubs in the European Region. UNAIDS Co-sponsors meeting
February 26, 2007 - Moscow, Russian Federation

The Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV /AIDS in Eurasia representatives participated in the meeting of Knowledge Hubs in the European Region and presented information related to Care and Treatment Knowledge Hub. The course guide, annual report, latest newsletter, other information materials about the Knowledge Hub program and activities were distributed during the meeting. Meeting recommendations included the following main items: (1) a strategic look on the capacity building issues by all stakeholders is needed to determine the immediate needs of countries and the longer term need in

order to consolidate both; (2) competencies, skills and training offers have to be better advertised with donors and recipients of funds; (3) involve the Knowledge Hubss in all UNAIDS discussion about the development of Technical Support facility (TSF) in our region; (4) long term commitment to support Knowledge Hubs is needed.

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 four 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/>

New chapters include:

- ✓ Chapter 20. Metabolic complications of antiretroviral therapy in children
 - ✓ Chapter 23. Therapeutic drug monitoring
 - ✓ Chapter 26. Neurologic problems
 - ✓ Chapter 41. Herpesvirus infections
-
- 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
 - ✓ Antiretroviral therapy interruption guided by CD4 cell counts and plasma HIV-1 RNA levels in chronically HIV-1-infected patients.
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99250>
 - ✓ Suppression of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 Viral Load With Selenium Supplementation. <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99251>
 - ✓ Survival of Persons with and without HIV Infection in Denmark, 1995–2005
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99252>
 - ✓ Response to Antiretroviral Therapy after a Single, Peripartum Dose of Nevirapine
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99253>
 - ✓ CD4+ Cell Count 6 Years after Commencement of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy in Persons with Sustained Virologic Suppression
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99254>
 - ✓ Cyclosporin A Provides No Sustained Immunologic Benefit to Persons with Chronic HIV-1 Infection Starting Suppressive Antiretroviral Therapy: Results of a Randomized, Controlled Trial of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group A5138.
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99255>

- ✓ Randomized Trial of 2 Simplified, Class-sparing Regimens for HIV After an Initial 3- or 4-drug Regimen. <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99256>
 - ✓ Interruption of Enfuvirtide in HIV-1–Infected Adults with Incomplete Viral Suppression on an Enfuvirtide-Based Regimen. <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99257>
 - ✓ Elevated risk of lung cancer among people with AIDS. <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99258>
 - ✓ Reduction of HIV-1 RNA Levels with Therapy to Suppress Herpes Simplex Virus <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99259>
 - ✓ Hospitalization and Mortality among HIV-Infected Children after Receiving Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99260>
 - ✓ Male circumcision for HIV prevention in young men in Kisumu, Kenya: a randomized controlled trial <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99261>
- Several handout materials (pamphlets and brochures) developed by the staff of the Saratov AIDS Center, including
 - ✓ Advice for HIV Patients Receiving ART <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99240>
 - ✓ What are STIs? <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99238>
 - ✓ The Dangers of Drug Use <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/aids/health/resources/99237>
 - An article *Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of strategies to expand antiretroviral therapy in St. Petersburg, Russia*, that assesses the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of treating HIV-infected injection drug users (IDUs) and non-IDUs in Russia with highly active antiretroviral therapy HAART. <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/eng/health/resources/99241>

The EAKN Library is continuing to translate various publications, reviews of the latest articles from the leading peer-reviewed magazines, and recent abstracts from medical conferences.
