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### Snapshot

*These statistics reflect the Regional Knowledge Hub's activities from its inception in March 2004 through September 30, 2012*

- Knowledge Hub courses held: **264**
- Healthcare professionals trained: **6437**
  - Russia: **2837**
  - Ukraine: **2170**
  - Uzbekistan: **450**
  - Belarus: **221**
  - Kazakhstan: **158**
  - Moldova: **145**
  - Tajikistan: **111**
  - Kyrgyzstan: **108**
  - Azerbaijan: **58**
  - Estonia: **29**
  - Turkmenistan: **24**
  - Armenia: **1**

Medical specialists who have earned nationally recognized advanced professional certification in adult/adolescent or pediatric AIDS treatment through the Knowledge Hub:

- Ukraine: **294** physicians
- Russia: **66** physicians and **22** nurses

The Knowledge Hub offers more than 40 courses on a broad range of HIV-related care and treatment topics, including:

- An Integrated Approach to Treatment and Management of HIV/TB/Hepatitis Infection in Substance Users
- A Three-Step HIV/AIDS Program for Nurses
- Case Management: Patient Adherence to ART (for social and medical workers)
- An Integrated Care Model for PLWHA
- A Training-of-Trainers Course: HIV/AIDS for Social Workers
- Support of Sexual and Reproductive Health in People Living with HIV
- Organ and System Complications in Patients with HIV-Infection
- Laboratory Diagnostics of Opportunistic infections and Monitoring of HIV Treatment Quality
- Viral Hepatitis C and B and HIV: Management Strategies for Co-infected Patients
- Advanced Pediatric ART and Management of Opportunistic Infections
- PMTCT
- Advanced Adult ART
- HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care for Injecting Drug Users

- Management of HIV and TB Co-Infection

Ten of these courses have been developed with support from the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

In 2011-2012, the following six courses were updated based on recommendations from WHO/EUROPE and the key regional and international KH experts:

- Advanced ART in Adults and Adolescents
- Advanced pediatric ART and management of opportunistic infections (3-day course)
- Advanced pediatric ART and management of opportunistic infections for multidisciplinary teams (5-day course)
- Tuberculosis and HIV: management strategies for co-infected patients
- Viral hepatitis C and B and HIV: management strategies for co-infected patients
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV

The course “Organ and System Complications in Patients with HIV-Infection” is now provided with notes to the slide presentations.

### **Knowledge Hub Calendar**

***The following trainings and events are scheduled to take place at the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers during October 2012***

**October 5** (*Copenhagen, Denmark*)

#### **Meeting of WHO/EURO Regional Knowledge Hubs: Past, Present, and Future**

Representatives from WHO/EURO and the three Knowledge Hubs focusing on HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care, Harm Reduction, and HIV Surveillance in the region will meet to discuss issues of improved joint technical assistance to countries with an emphasis on implementation of the European Action Plan for HIV/AIDS 2012-2015.

**October 22-26** (*St. Petersburg, Russia*)

#### **Training for Multidisciplinary Teams from Moldova on the Provision of Comprehensive Care to People Living with HIV**

In response to a request from Center PAS in Moldova, AIHA will conduct a 5-day training on a multidisciplinary approach to providing comprehensive care to PLWH. This training is designed to arm Moldovan physicians, nurses, and allied caregivers with the knowledge and skills they need to better coordinate medical care and social services for patients living with HIV. Representatives from Moldovan social regional centers and NGOs, along with social workers from central and local public authorities will participate in this course, which will be taught by expert faculty from St. Petersburg.

### **Knowledge Hub in Review**

***These events were hosted by the Knowledge Hub or affiliated centers, or attended by staff, between May and September 2012***

Four clinical protocols on HIV/AIDS for WHO's European Region, which were revised by WHO in 2011-2012 were presented for healthcare specialists from Russia and the CIS through two medinars:

**September 25:**

- Prevention of HIV Transmission from HIV-infected Mothers to Their Infants: Optimizing Clinical Management and Effective Interventions toward Eliminating New Pediatric HIV Infections (2012)
- Pediatric HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care (2012)

This medinar is available at: <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100291/>

**September 27:**

- Patient Evaluation and Antiretroviral Treatment for Adults and Adolescents (2012)
- Management of Hepatitis B and HIV Co-infection (2011)

This medinar is available at: <http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100292/>

**Knowledge Hub Co-Funded and Collaborative Activities**

**September 10-12 (Yalta, Ukraine)**

**Meeting of the Regional Expert Board on TB and Infectious Diseases: New Training Courses and Innovative Teaching Methods for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education in TB and Infectious Diseases in the CIS Region**

This meeting was conducted in the framework of the AIHA's "Strategic Health Partnership initiative" with support from USAID. Some 26 regional experts — most of them TB Department heads from leading medical schools in nine CIS countries, representatives from all WHO Collaborating Centers in Russia, and representatives of TB Research Institutes — attended this meeting. The event focused on sharing new and innovative teaching methods. It also served as a forum to showcase five new courses on the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis and HIV that were developed by AIHA in close cooperation with leading medical universities throughout Russia.

The following courses were introduced and discussions ensued about their adaptation and implementation in other countries spanning Eurasia:

- **Issues of Specialized Medical Care for HIV/TB Co-infection**  
*A distance learning course developed by North Western Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov (formerly known as the St. Petersburg Medical Academy for Postgraduate Studies)*
- **Current Issues of TB Diagnostics and Treatment**  
*Developed by Northern State Medical University in Archanglsk*
- **Laboratory Diagnostics of Tuberculosis**  
*Developed by the Central TB Research Institute in Moscow*
- **Multi-Drug Resistant TB Treatment and Diagnostics**  
*Developed by the Central TB Research Institute in Moscow*
- **Undergraduate Elective Course on HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections**  
*Developed by the I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University*

All participants received a set of educational materials that included these courses, a CD with HIV/AIDS courses developed by AIHA and the Regional Knowledge Hub for HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment, and CDs containing medinars on evidence-based HIV and TB protocols.



## Russia

### **New AIHA/Russia Web Site Launched**

AIHA launched a new Russian language web site ([www.aiha.ru](http://www.aiha.ru)) in July to showcase its programs and initiatives in Russia and elsewhere in Eurasia. A valuable resource to Russian-speaking health and allied professionals, the new site features a broad range of training materials and resources on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and other critical public health issues affecting the region.

### ***Medical Management of HIV Infection 2011*, J. Bartlett and J. Gallant**

In cooperation with MSD, AIHA finalized the translation and printing of *Medical Management of HIV Infection 2011* (J. Bartlett and J. Gallant) in July. 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 healthcare to people living with HIV/AIDS.

### **XIX International AIDS Conference, Washington DC, July 22-27, 2012**

AIHA and various representatives of the Knowledge Hub participated in AIDS 2012, which was held in Washington, DC, in July. Staff presented results of the Medical Chart Audit and Patient Satisfaction Survey conducted in St. Petersburg in 2010-2011 during two poster presentations titled: Assessment of Adherence to HAART: Results of Medical Chart Audits and Anonymous Social Surveys of Patients at the St. Petersburg City AIDS Center; and The Impact of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) on the Social Adaptation of Drug Users: Results of an Anonymous Survey in Patients of the St. Petersburg City AIDS Center.

In addition, two noted HIV/AIDS experts — Jurgen Rockstroh, editor of the textbook *HIV Medicine 2011*, and John Bartlett, editor of *Medical Management of HIV Infection 2011* — spoke at special sessions conducted at AIHA's organizational exhibit to promote the Russian-language versions of these preeminent HIV/AIDS care and treatment resources.



**September 17-21**

**Study Tour on an Introduction to HIV/AIDS Medical Education for Faculty from Leading State Medical Institutions in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**

*St. Petersburg, Russia*

At the request WHO Country Offices in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and with support from WHO and AIHA's "Strategic Health Partnership initiative", AIHA organized a study tour teachers and tutors from leading state medical institutions from these two Central Asian nations. An introduction to integrating HIV/AIDS into medical education was provided for 11 faculty from Kyrgyzstan and six from Tajikistan, along with WHO representatives from both WHO Country Offices. The group visited St. Petersburg City AIDS Center, Botkin Infectious Disease Hospital, and St. Petersburg Pavlov State Medical University, which represent the main institutions involved in HIV/AIDS medical education in St. Petersburg. During these visits, AIHA staff and Russian experts provided training on various aspects of HIV prevention, treatment, care, and social support. Participants also learned innovative methods of teaching HIV/AIDS-related topics at both the pre-service and in-service levels.

**Medical Webinars**

The following medical webinars — medinars — for healthcare specialists from Russia and other countries in the region were conducted by AIHA in conjunction with Russian and international experts thanks to the support of the American people through AIHA's USAID-funded Strategic Health Partnership Initiative:

- **Current Issues of Pediatric TB: Epidemiology, Vaccination, Early Detection**  
*author/presenter: Anna Starshinova (June 1)*  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100284/>
- **CCR 5 Antagonist Maraviroc: A Medical Lecture**  
*author/presenter: Pavel Khaykin (June 6)*  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100286/>
- **Operational Research and MDRTB**  
*author/presenter: Joseph R. Masci (June 8)*  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100285/>
- **TB Diagnosis and Treatment in Children**  
*author/presenter: Anna Starshinova (June 15)*  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100287/>
- **Differential Diagnosing of Pulmonary TB**  
*author/presenter: Elena Torkatyuk (June 25)*  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100288/>
- **MDRTB: Treatment Adherence**  
*author/presenter: Joseph R. Masci (July 9)*  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100289/>
- **HIV/TB Clinical Case Discussion**  
*author/presenter: Aleksandr Panteleev, (September 21)*  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100290/>

- **TB Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities**  
author/presenter: *Elena Myasnikova (September 28)*  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/1002913>

All other Medinars conducted in 2011-2012 are available at:  
<http://www.eurasiahealth.org/health/resources/100244/>

## Kazakhstan

### **Development of National Clinical Protocol on Diagnostics and Treatment of HIV/Hepatitis B and C co-infection in Children and Adolescents for Kazakhstan**

In response to a request from the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Global Fund project in Kazakhstan, the Republican AIDS Center, Ministry of Health, and with support from the AIHA's "Strategic Health Partnership initiative", an AIHA Knowledge Hub expert finalized the national clinical protocol on diagnostics and treatment of HIV/Hepatitis B and C co-infection in children and adolescents for Kazakhstan thanks to funding from the American people through AIHA's USAID-supported Strategic Health Partnership Initiative. This protocol will soon be available on the Knowledge Hub web site.

**June 11-15**

### **Training Sessions on Research Methodology and Distance Learning**

(Almaty and Shymkent)

In response to requests from the Almaty Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and the Shymkent International Hoca Ahmet Yesevi Turkish-Kazakh University, AIHA conducted a series of trainings in both cities thanks to funding from the American people through AIHA's USAID-supported Strategic Health Partnership Initiative:

- **Introduction to Research Methods**, a 5-day course provided to 33 faculty members from the Shymkent International Hoca Ahmet Yesevi Turkish-Kazakh University by Russian experts Vasilij Vlasov and Svyatoslav Plavinskiy; and
- **Distance Learning Through Webinars**, a 1-day workshop was provided to 40 faculty members from the Almaty Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education; a second session was conducted for 33 faculty members from Shymkent International Hoca Ahmet Yesevi Turkish-Kazakh University. Both courses were taught by an expert from AIHA.

## Turkmenistan

### **Development of Six National HIV/AIDS Clinical Protocols for Turkmenistan**

In response to a request from the UNFPA/Turkmenistan office and with financial support from UNFPA and AIHA's "Strategic Health Partnership initiative", AIHA and Knowledge Hub experts from the Federal AIDS Center developed the following six national HIV/AIDS clinical protocols based on the HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care Clinical Protocols for the WHO European Region:

- Patient Evaluation and Antiretroviral Treatment for Adults and Adolescents
- Management of Hepatitis B and HIV Co-infection
- Management of Opportunistic Infections and General Symptoms of HIV/AIDS
- Palliative Care for People Living with HIV
- Post-exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Infection
- Support for Sexual and Reproductive Health in People Living with HIV

Through this project, AIHA facilitated two workshops with Russian HIV/AIDS experts from the Federal AIDS Center and key national working groups in Ashgabat June 25-29 and August 28-29. The protocols developed are currently under revision by a group of national specialists and they will be available Knowledge Hub web site as soon as they are finalized.



## Uzbekistan

### Opening of a New Clinical Department at the Republican AIDS Center of Uzbekistan/Regional Training Center on HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment for Central Asia in Tashkent

AIHA and its partners in Uzbekistan celebrated the opening of a new clinical department at the Republican AIDS Center of Uzbekistan/Regional Training Center on HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment for Central Asia in Tashkent on September 24. Representatives from Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health, various international organizations working in the country, and other key national and international stakeholders participated in the opening ceremony. The Regional Training Center was established in 2010 with funding from the World Bank's Central Asian AIDS Control Project and technical support of AIHA and the Knowledge Hub. The objective of this Center is to strengthen regional capacity to train human resources for health, specifically on issues related to the care and support of PLWH. The Center provides continuing medical education and enhances competencies of health and allied caregivers. It also supports the scale up of access to current evidence-based medical information. The Regional Training Center is currently supported by the Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health and international organizations including Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.