

HIV/AIDS Twinning Center



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Twinning Center Launches Second Clinical Associates Partnership in South Africa

The Twinning Center announced in early June the formation of a new partnership in South Africa that will support PEPFAR by increasing human resources for health.

Established with support from CDC/South Africa and in close cooperation with the South Africa National Department of Health, this partnership links the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg with Emory University School of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program in Atlanta.

Partners will work together to strengthen Witwatersrand's Clinical Associates Program, which was launched under the Faculty of Health Sciences and Centre for Rural Health in 2008.

A key focus of the partnership will be building capacity of faculty and clinical supervisors to more effectively train Clinical Associates Program students in the provision of quality medical care — including ART and treatment for opportunistic infections — to people living with HIV or AIDS in rural areas in South Africa.

Students complete their clinical training in rural areas of South Africa's Northwestern Province, where many of them will serve after completion of the three-year program.

Emory University School of Medicine has a strong history of providing care to medically underserved areas through

required rotations in rural areas of Georgia and service-learning programs in resource-challenged clinics outside of Atlanta. Their wealth of knowledge and experience in educating mid-level medical professionals through the Physician Assistant Program will play a critical role in strengthening the Clinical Associates Program at the University of Witwatersrand.

This is the Twinning Center's sixth partnership in South Africa and the second established this year to bolster the capacity of local universities to train clinical associates.

TASWA Lauds Twinning Center and Its Partners at 2010 World Social Work Day in Tanzania

The Tanzania Social Workers Association (TASWA) celebrated World Social Work Day on March 16 in Dar es Salaam.

At a gala event, TASWA officials presented Twinning Center staff with an award showing their appreciation for AIHA's ongoing support of the association's capacity-building efforts.

Although TASWA was established in 2002, the organization soon became inactive.

With support from PEPFAR through USAID/Tanzania, partners from the Tanzania Institute of Social Work, Jane Addams College of Social Work, and the US National Association of Social Workers have been providing technical assistance to TASWA.



Twinning Center Tanzania's Dr. Fabian Mwombeki and Jane Lubulira at the

St. Petersburg Nurses Complete Third in a Series of HIV/AIDS Palliative Care Courses



The HIV/AIDS Palliative Care Training Program for Nurses includes both classroom activities and hands-on clinical sessions.



A group of 21 nurses who work at district-level infectious disease clinics and the St. Petersburg City AIDS Center completed a training course titled "HIV Palliative Care for Nurses" conducted by AIHA and its partners with support from PEPFAR through USAID/Russia.

Held March 22-24 at the City AIDS Center's Inpatient Department, the course is the culmination of a three-part HIV/AIDS training series that leads to official certification from St. Petersburg's Pavlov State Medical University. The first two courses in this series are "Basics of HIV Infection: Improving Tolerance to PLWHIV" and "Adherence to ART Regimens."

Faculty for the March training included palliative care expert

Mary Jo O'Hara of Miami University in Florida; Elena Rydalevskaya, director of Diakonia Charitable Foundation; and Fr. Maxim Pletnev, a Russian Orthodox priest. Key experts from the City AIDS Center — head nurse Marina Petrova, head of psycho-social services Olga Koltsova, and head of palliative care Dr. Olga Leonova — rounded out the training team.

The course included lectures, interactive role plays, case studies, and group activities, as well as hands-on clinical sessions conducted at the AIDS Center's Inpatient Department.

Topics covered during the three-day course included an overview of palliative care concepts, managing chronic

versus acute conditions in HIV patients, the nurse's role in outpatient care and support for PLWHIV, and patient stages, from recovery to hospice care.

Group discussions and role plays were used to demonstrate effective methods of delivering bad news to patients and their families, as well as to highlight the importance of psycho-social and spiritual support for people living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS.

Based on analysis of pre- and post-training tests, the nurses demonstrated an impressive increase in knowledge, improving their scores by 68 percent. They will receive their certificates from Pavlov State in May of this year.

HIV Media Partners Present at Ohio University Communication and Development Conference

Twinning Center partners at the University of Kentucky School of Journalism and Telecommunications conducted a panel presentation April 3 at the Ohio University Communication and Development Conference.

Associate Professor Chike Anyaegbunam, Professor Beth Barnes, Assistant Professor Mel Coffee, and Assistant Professor Alyssa Eckman shared their experiences working in partnership with the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication Educational Trust (ZAMCOM) to improve media coverage of HIV/AIDS.

Launched in 2008 with support from PEPFAR and USAID/Zambia, this partnership has worked to improve the quality and scope of HIV

reporting in Zambia through targeted training of editors, reporters, and community radio journalists.

The University of Kentucky experts provided an overview of HIV/AIDS in Zambia and current information about journalism and media in the country. They also described ZAMCOM's mission and existing capacity, as well as how the partners have been collaborating to strengthen indigenous capacity in a sustainable manner.

The presentation highlighted the value of professional exchanges. On trips to the United States, the Zambian partners learn about effective health communication programs being implemented in Kentucky through first-

hand observation. During one such exchange, for example, ZAMCOM staff visited a rural radio station to learn about a Community Correspondents Program, which recruits locals to share their stories. They also learned about a radio series called "Living with a Killer," a program that Anyaegbunam helped the station develop to overcome the stigma of diabetes and encourage people to seek treatment.

Lessons learned during this visit were then applied to ZAMCOM's efforts to help people in their own country rise above HIV-related stigma, get tested, and start treatment if indicated.

The University of Kentucky has worked with ZAMCOM to reinvigorate HIV/AIDS reporting in Zambia through community-based participatory communication, as well as training programs for community radio correspondents and print journalists. Partners are also working to strengthen ZAMCOM's organizational capacity.

Tanzania Nursing Initiative Delivers Mobile Libraries to Schools in Ilala and Singida Regions

Nurses in Tanzania provide the bulk of all healthcare services to a vast majority of the population, yet they have very little access to critical educational texts and reference materials that can guide their practice and make their care more effective.

Particularly in rural, hard to reach areas, lack of access to up-to-date medical resources poses a significant challenge, which is why the Twinning Center's Tanzania Nursing Initiative delivered International Council of Nurses (ICN) Mobile Libraries to three nursing schools in the country's Ilala and Singida regions.

Housed in transportable, moisture and insect resistant trunks, the ICN Mobile Libraries make access to much-needed medical information a reality for these front-line care providers.

"The resources contained in the Mobile Libraries are in line with Tanzania's nursing curriculum and are especially beneficial to schools in remote, difficult to reach areas of the country," says Mrs. Eliaremisa Ayo, Assistant Director of the Nurse Training Unit of Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Muhimbili School of Nurse Teachers in Dar es Salaam's Ilala Region and Kiomboi School of Nursing in Kiomboi, Singida Region, were the first two nursing schools to receive the Mobile Libraries through the HIV/AIDS Twinning Center partnership that links Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences School of Nursing with the University of California-San Francisco School of Nursing. The third Mobile Library was delivered to Mbulu School of Nursing in Mbulu, Arusha Region in early summer.

Supported by PEPFAR through CDC/Tanzania, partners are strengthening nursing education throughout Tanzania, particularly in the field of HIV/AIDS treatment, care, and prevention.

AIHA and its Tanzania Nursing Initiative partners conducted a three-day workshop in Dar es Salaam April 13-15 to train 15 nurse tutors from the schools on use of the Mobile Libraries, which contain the most up-to-date editions of more than 80 nursing and health texts.

Key topics covered during the training included how to set up the library, local policies and guidelines for managing the library, searching for information, responding to requests for information, and effective research techniques.

Speaking on behalf of the group at the conclusion of the workshop, Muhimbili School of Midwifery Nurse Tutor Mr. Saturine Managwa expressed gratitude on behalf of his counterparts at all three schools receiving the Mobile Libraries.

"We are thankful to the US Government, AIHA, and the Tanzania Nursing Initiative team for providing our schools with these important resources," he said. "We promise you that we are going to train, disseminate information about what we have learned, and influence the effective use of these Mobile Libraries in our institutions for the purpose of updating our knowledge and, more importantly, improving our services."

Only three other nursing schools in Tanzania possess a Mobile Library; 37 institutions currently house Nursing Libraries for Refugee Health.

AIHA and its Tanzania Nursing Initiative partners worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to select the three schools where the Mobile Libraries were placed.

To be selected, the schools had to be situated in an area with limited resources; had to have a minimum of 60 students in attendance and a venue for students to use as a reading place; and had to show a commitment to operating the library, including a staff member or volunteer who would take responsibility for the library's day-to-day operations and management.

In the coming year, partners will closely monitor the implementation of the libraries at these three pilot institutions to determine if the project should be expanded to other nursing schools throughout the country.

Initially, partners focused on the development of the Tanzania HIV/AIDS Nursing Education Program (THANE), a 12-module, 10-day curriculum that provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS training for nurse tutors working in all of Tanzania's nursing schools.

Following this early stage of the partnership, focus in 2008-2009 shifted to integrating the newly developed HIV/AIDS content into the national pre-service nursing curricula. In 2009, master trainers educated through the partnership successfully disseminated THANE to all nursing schools in the country, distributing curricula and providing training on the materials to nurse tutors at each institution. To date, some 400 nurse tutors have been trained to deliver the THANE course to students.

Partners have expanded their work and now collaborate with local stakeholders, including the Tanzania Nurses and Midwives Council and the Tanzania Nurses Association to help to strengthen capacity at both organizations.

Working closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, partners have strengthened nursing education by providing technical assistance on the revision of nurse curricula, spearheading the development of a revised national nursing curriculum.



Through the Twinning Center's Tanzania Nursing Initiative, three of these nursing schools — including Kiomboi School of Nursing in the Singida Region, which is pictured here — received ICN Mobile Libraries complete with the latest editions of some 80 nursing and health texts.

Russian Partners Conduct Series of Capacity Building Activities in St. Petersburg, Orenburg



Drs. Frederick Altice of Yale University (seated at desk) and Joseph Masci of Elmhurst Hospital Center (standing) field questions during a training on triple diagnosis among substance users held May 19-21 at the St. Petersburg City AIDS Center.



St. Petersburg psychologists, social workers, and peer counselors get some hands-on practice using AIHA's Case Management Database at the May training.



A group of 21 Sisters of Mercy who completed a year-long palliative care training course at Pavlov State Medical University received their certification during a gala ceremony in St. Petersburg on May 21.

AIHA and its Twinning Center partners in Russia conducted a final series of training workshops and related activities in May, wrapping up a number of successful projects in St. Petersburg and Orenburg.

Since 2004, AIHA's US Government-supported HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs in Russia have trained more than 3,000 health and allied professionals in HIV treatment and care — including the provision of ART.

During that time, 120 Russian professionals completed a training-of-trainers program and 22 became master trainers in partner sites, with 3,559 patients in St. Petersburg and more than 6,700 in other regions of Russia receiving ARVs as of March 2010.

In addition, AIHA established three AIDS Training and Education Centers and 11 HIV Information Resource Centers in St. Petersburg and Orenburg to enhance capacity of healthcare providers to continue training and improve quality of care through access to evidence-based research.

More recently, thanks to the support of PEPFAR and USAID/Russia, a number of projects have built on the strong foundation laid by these earlier partnership programs, further strengthening Russia's capacity to train healthcare workers to provide high quality treatment, care, and support to PLWHIV.

In St. Petersburg, AIHA conducted four events, including the sixth in a series of workshops through the PEPFAR-supported public-private partnership between AIHA and Viiv Healthcare, a private pharmaceutical company. Held May 17-19, the Professional Development

in HIV Medicine Workshop on Triple Diagnosis (HIV/TB/Hepatitis) in IDUs brought together a distinguished group of 27 physicians who provide care and treatment to PLWH in 24 of Russia's regions most heavily affected by HIV and AIDS.

A similar workshop was conducted May 19-21 for 25 HIV/AIDS care team members from St. Petersburg who have already completed an onsite mentoring program on the management care for substance users with triple diagnosis. Selected TB, infectious disease, and narcology specialists involved in the provision of care for patients with triple diagnoses also attended.

This course, titled "Integrated Approach to Treatment of HIV/TB/Hepatitis Co-infection in Substance Users," focused on advanced issues of treatment of HIV/TB and HIV/Hepatitis co-infections in substance users, drug resistance and drug interaction issues, successful models of treatment and rehabilitation for PLWHIV with drug dependence.

Leading Russian experts and their US counterparts from Elmhurst Hospital Center and Yale University served as faculty for both these events.

AIHA conducted an HIV/AIDS Case Management Database Training May 19-20 for 30 St. Petersburg area social workers and psychologists. Russian experts taught participants how to use the database, as well as topics including clinical interview methodology, data collection, needs assessment, and care plan development. AIHA's Case Management Database is an important tool is designed to facilitate greater cooperation among medical and social service organiza-

tions to improve the provision of effective, comprehensive, and integrated treatment, care, and support to PLWHIV. This course was the final in a case management training series that includes basic and advanced trainings, as well as onsite mentoring.

On May 21, AIHA participated in a ceremony marking the graduation of 21 Sisters of Mercy from the faith-based organization "Charitable Fund Dyakoniya." The graduates completed a year-long course on palliative care at Pavlov State Medical University.

AIHA joined with partners in Orenburg to conduct a Course on Viral Hepatitis C and B and HIV: Management Strategies for Co-infected Patients May 24-26. This new course, developed by AIHA and the Regional Knowledge Hub for the Care and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Eurasia, was adapted by the Orenburg Medical Academy and focuses on issues of treating patients with HIV and hepatitis, including monitoring treatment efficacy, ART hepatotoxicity, and the prevention and management of side effects. Faculty from the Orenburg Medical Academy and US partners from Elmhurst Hospital center co-taught the course.

Finally, a Workshop on HIV/AIDS Palliative Care for Nurses May 27-29. Palliative care experts from St. Petersburg and Orenburg served as faculty for this 3-day training for nurses who provide care to PLWHIV. Topics included general issues of palliative care and specifics of HIV/AIDS palliative care for nurses, pain assessment and pain relief issues, symptom treatment, nutrition, patient and family education, spiritual support, and prevention of burnout syndrome for caregivers.

Nurse Clinician Pete Rankin Talks about the Many Challenges of Working in an Ethiopian ER

During a professional exchange in February, University of Wisconsin-Madison nurse clinician Pete Rankin blogged about his experience working in the Emergency Room at Black Lion Hospital in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. The Twinning Center thanks him for the narrative excerpted here, which provides a unique view of the kind of work our partners do in the field during exchanges.

Tuesday, Feb. 16 — I got to spend the day at the Black Lion Hospital Emergency Room. Ryan [Wubben, emergency physician and clinical assistant at the University of Wisconsin] and Mike [Wells, an emergency physician specialist at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa] spent the day teaching the first class in the new Emergency Medicine Training Center, which had just opened the day before. They were teaching a trauma class. This was the first time this class had ever been taught in Ethiopia. I headed over to the ER. On the previous trip, I had walked through the ER several times, but had never spent a long period of time there. I was nervous about what to expect...

They currently use a model of multiple providers, which is very uncommon in the United States, but they will be moving to the single provider model that we have at UW and is used in most American ERs. The multiple provider model splits patients into two different categories at triage: medical, which means they will be seen by an internal medicine resident and that their problem is medically-related; or surgical, which means they will be seen by a surgical resident because their problem may potentially require surgery.

I spent the day shadowing Bahailu, a CRNA [certified registered nurse anesthetist] who basically acted as the charge nurse, walking around trouble-shooting problems and helping out as needed.

The ER is typically staffed by six nurses and several residents and interns. It has 23 beds, but can quickly expand to 50 or more. In a typical day, they triage about 120 to 150 patients and see about 80 of them. The ones who are not seen in the Emergency Room are referred to a clinic.

Wednesday, Feb. 17 — Today was the first day I started teaching the Ethiopian nurses. Before the trip I had been asked to teach a few lectures on emergency medical service topics such as documentation and ambulance operations, and had prepared lectures based on this. Yesterday I found out that they wanted two 1-day classes and a skills training on some new equipment that had arrived at the Training Center the previous Sunday.

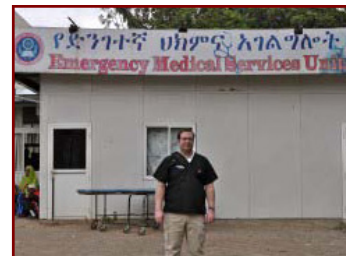
Luckily, I had enough lectures ready and just needed to organize them. After working as an EMT for six years, I knew the skills well. I organized the class into two parts with about five hours of lectures and nine different presentations in all, as well as about two hours of skill stations. We would go over C-collar placements, log rolling patients, placing on back boards, proper lifting techniques, and using a Kendrick Extrication Device (KED).

The nurses worked for the Addis Ababa Fire Brigade manning the ambulances. Each ambulance was staffed with two nurses and a driver. The city's EMS is very young, only about seven months old. There are several private

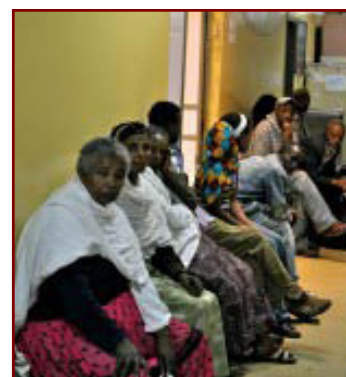
ambulance services and the Red Cross operates a small service, but this was the first organized EMS with a central communications system that tied into the city's emergency call number — 939.

Today I taught 24 students. I learned that the Fire Brigade staffs three ambulances in the city — three ambulances for a city of about 5 million people. Compare this to Madison, which has eight ambulances for 250,000 people. Even with this large population, they do not do a large number of calls, usually only about 12 a day for all ambulances combined. Most of the calls were for laboring mothers or traffic accidents (known as RTAs, or road traffic accidents). Ethiopia has one of the highest RTA fatality rates in the world, and starting the fire brigade ambulances was an effort to reduce this.

In the afternoon, we went over to the Training Center and started working on the skills stations. We did back board/log rolls/lifting, using the KED, and C-collar placement. Ryan and Bahailu each took a station and the students spent about two hours going through all of them. The students came alive and enjoyed learning new skills. Their shyness disappeared and they became very talkative. They worked well as a team and teaching the class one of the more satisfying things I have ever done professionally. I felt that I was really making an impact.



Pete Rankin outside Black Lion Hospital's Emergency Room.



Patients waiting to be seen by Emergency Room staff.



Ethiopian nurse medics during the skills-building portion of the training course.

Photos courtesy of Pete Rankin.

Conferences, Grants, and Opportunities



2010 National STD Prevention Conference
March 8-11, 2010
Atlanta, USA

14th International Conference on Infectious Diseases (ISID)
March 9-12, 2010
Miami, USA

HIV/AIDS 2010: The Social Work Response
May 27-30, 2010
Denver, Colorado, USA

37th Annual Global Health Council Conference
June 14-18, 2010
Washington, DC, USA

4th International Conference on Peer Education, Sexuality, and HIV and AIDS
June 16-18, 2010
Nairobi, Kenya

5th International Workshop on HIV Transmission: Principles of Intervention
July 15-16, 2010
Vienna, Austria

Children & HIV: Family Support First
July 16-17, 2010
Vienna, Austria

2nd International Workshop on HIV Pediatrics
July 16-17, 2010
Vienna, Austria

HIV Testing: Global Challenges, Global Strategies, Global Impact
July 17, 2010
Vienna, Austria

XVIII International AIDS Conference
July 18-23, 2010
Vienna, Austria

4th Global Summit on HIV/AIDS, Traditional Medicine & Indigenous Knowledge
August 2-5, 2010
Cape Coast, Ghana

Open Forum 4: Key Issues in TB Drug Development
August 18-19, 2010
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2010 Ryan White Grantee Meeting & 13th Annual Clinical Conference
August 23-26
Washington, DC, USA
25th IUSTI-Europe Conference
September 23-35
Tbilisi, Georgia

International Conference on Opportunistic Pathogens
September 28-30, 2010
New Delhi, India

18th International Congress on Palliative Care
October 5-8, 2010
Montreal, Canada

3rd Access to Healthcare in Africa Conference
October 6-7, 2010
Johannesburg, South Africa

3rd Botswana International HIV Conference
October 13-16, 2010
Gaborone, Botswana

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Visit us on the Web at

www.TwinningAgainstAIDS.org

The HIV/AIDS Twinning Center mobilizes and coordinates the resources of healthcare and allied professionals in the United States and abroad to effectively build capacity to reduce HIV infection rates and provide care to those infected with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS in support of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Funded by PEPFAR through a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, the Twinning Center is a project of the American International Health Alliance, a US-based nonprofit dedicated to helping limited-resource communities make positive, sustainable changes that improve accessibility to a broad range of high-quality healthcare services and preventive programs.

The contents of this newsletter are the responsibility of AIHA and the Twinning Center and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States government or other funding agencies.

