LRC Achievement Awards

In 2002, AIHA organized a series of five regional conferences for representatives from partnership Learning Resource Centers (LRCs). One of the purposes of these conferences was to give Information Coordinators the opportunity to discuss lessons learned and best practices in their efforts to harness information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve health-care at their institutions. In recognition of some of the most successful and innovative accomplishments in this area, AIHA is now awarding Certificates of Achievement to a number of LRCs who have demonstrated the highest standards of excellence. These achievements are sorted into the following six major categories, each of which represents a different aspect of how LRCs can expand the use of ICT to promote various aspects of healthcare improvement:

- Application of Evidence-based Practice and Clinical Practice Guidelines
- LRC Sustainability
- Educational Technologies
- Community Outreach
- Telemedicine
- Information Systems Development

The list of LRCs that have received awards is provided below, sorted alphabetically by country. Several LRCs are receiving awards for multiple categories of achievement.

Albania

University Hospital "Mother Teresa," Tirana (Telemedicine)
Information Coordinator Miranda Zhegu has conducted numerous teleconsultations to assist medical staff with diagnoses and treatments for ophthalmology and otolaryngology cases. Through these teleconsultations, the institution has established regular contacts with healthcare facilities in Italy and the United States.

Armenia

Emergency Medicine Services Center, Yerevan (Telemedicine)
Information Coordinator Nelli Tadevosyan has conducted regular teleconsultations with colleagues in Germany and the United States to help diagnose and treat trauma, radiology, neurosurgery, pediatric, renal and other cases.

Erebuni Hospital, Yerevan
(LRC Sustainability and Information Systems Development)
Due to the efforts of the Information Coordinator Armen Parsadanian, the Erebuni Hospital amended its charter to allow paid LRC services for personal use by staff and for outside visitors. Using these funds, the LRC partially paid for a computer classroom and an institutional local area network. The LRC staff have connected over half of the hospital's departments to the network, including the maternity house, pharmacy, insurance company and nursing college.

Belarus

Polyclinic #36, Minsk (Application of Evidence-based Practice and Clinical Practice Guidelines)
The LRC staff have researched evidence-based resources and partici-pated in the development of practice guidelines for the prevention of cardiovascular diseases for the treatment of arterial hypertension among diabetes patients, cancer with concurrent cardiovascular conditions, and acute cystitis.

Croatia

General Hospital, Zadar
(Information Systems Development)
Information Coordinator Ozren Pestic has led the development of a hospital-wide health information system. Addressing project planning, application development, technical aspects and staff training issues, he developed a process and created a project workbook, which serves as the blueprint for current and future health information system develop-ment at the hospital.

Czech Republic

Medical Library, Palacky University, Olomouc
(Application of Evidence-based Practice, Community Outreach, Educational Technologies, and LRC Sustainability)
Information Coordinator Jarmila Potomkova, together with several local faculty, physicians, scientists and students, has established a multidisciplinary evidence-based practice (EBP) working group, which promotes EBP in the academic medical field and helps to develop training materials on EBP for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The LRC has also received several grants to conduct training courses, to develop a CD-ROM-based resource and to purchase equipment and journal subscriptions for the medical library.

Postgraduate Medical Academy, Prague
(Community Outreach, LRC Sustainability, and Educational Technologies)
Information Coordinator Eva Lesenkova has developed curricula and conducted a number of training sessions on medical searching and critical appraisal strategies for medical librarians, students, physicians and nurses. The LRC has also received a grant to develop a Medical Virtual Library, which would provide authorized access to full-text journal articles and other documents for remote users.

Georgia

Women's Wellness Center, Kutaisi
(LRC Sustainability, Application of Evidence-based Practice and Clinical Practice Guidelines)

The LRC staff has participated in the development and implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of cervical dysplasia and for the management of uterine fibroids. The LRC also received a grant from the Soros Foundation to promote evidence-based practice in the Imerety region. Additionally, to cover basic costs the LRC signed an agreement with the local medical college to offer students paid subscription to the LRC resources and services.

Center for Disaster and Emergency Medicine, Tbilisi
(LRC Sustainability and Educational Technologies)

Information Coordinator Oliko Asatiani has developed a variety of interactive training modules on emergency medical services using Microsoft Power Point and Macromedia Flash software. The LRC has actively supported grant proposal activities for the institution and received equipment and resources as part of institution-wide grant projects for disaster management and curricula development.

National Information Learning Center, Tbilisi (Community Outreach, Educational Technologies and LRC Sustainability)

The National Information Learning Center (NILC), a national-level LRC, has been the leader in health information support services for the Ministry of Health and other healthcare institutions in Georgia. The NILC serves the medical community by producing regular native-language publications, offering literature search and document delivery services, and by disseminating information via its Web site. The NILC also conducts computer training and specialized workshops on the use of information technologies. The NILC has received numerous grants to participate in telemedicine, distance education, Web design and other projects.

State Medical University, Tbilisi (Educational Technologies)
Information Coordinator Ilia Razmadze has developed interactive training modules in chemistry using Macromedia Flash for undergraduate students.

Kazakhstan

Kazak Scientific Research Center of Pediatrics and Children's Surgery, Almaty (LRC Sustainability)
Information Coordinator Zhuldyz Abdrakhmanova has engaged sponsors and introduced paid services for outside users. These activities have helped to provide funds for additional equipment and CD-ROMs. To further support LRC activities, the Research Center administration established a full-time paid Information Coordinator position.

Kazakhstan School of Public Health, Almaty
(Educational Technologies and LRC Sustainability)

Due to the efforts of Information Coordinator Saule Kozhabekova, information technology and teleconsultation courses have been incorporated into standard curricula at KSPH. As part of the healthcare management visiting seminars, LRC on Wheels offers the same courses in other parts of Kazakhstan. To cover costs and generate revenue, the LRC rents its equipment and facilities to other organizations and provides paid IT training to outside users.

Model Family Medicine Center "Demeu," Astana
(Community Outreach)

The LRC staff regularly develops educational materials and provides information support to various specialized community clubs organized at the medicine center. Focusing on healthy lifestyle promotion and basic emergency medicine procedures, these materials are used to educate children, teenagers, parents, the elderly and cardiac patients.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz State Medical Academy (KSMA), Bishkek
(Educational Technologies and LRC Sustainability)

Under the leadership of Information Coordinator, Zhydyzkhan Ismailova, the LRC staff regularly organizes Internet Days at the academy to teach students information technology and research skills. The LRC staff is also spearheading the creation of a multimedia library and an educational server for students. To capitalize on the costs of the Internet connection, the LRC shares its unlimited access with other departments, which connect to the Internet in the early morning or late evening hours. The LRC has also won several grants and prizes from the Soros Foundation and other donors to purchase equipment and develop an electronic library system.

KSMA Medical Center, Bishkek (Telemedicine)
Information Coordinator Galina Sergeeva has conducted numerous teleconsultations that had helped provide diagnosis and long-term treatment for noma, osteogenesis, chondroid cancer, gastrointestinal inflammation, histoplasmosis and other cases. She also provides regular staff training on teleconsultation ethics and procedures.

Moldova

Botanica District Polyclinic, Chisinau
(Application of Evidence-based Practice)

Information Coordinator Genadie Curochkin developed a course on evidence-based practice for residents and medical students being trained at the polyclinic family medicine center. He has also published an evidence-based guide for family physicians.

Moldova Medical and Pharmacy University, Chisinau
(Educational Technologies)

Information Coordinator Oleg Lozan has led the creation of Internet classrooms for medical students and developed a number of educational CD-ROMs for various university departments. The LRC staff have also designed databases for student records.

Romania

University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila," Bucharest
(Educational Technologies)

Through research and collaboration with several international institutions, Information Coordinator Adriana Galan has been improving the university public health curricula. A thorough review of the content, teaching methods, evaluation, and assigned readings has helped to improve curricula for both face-to-face and distance learning modules.

Inspectorate of Public Health, Cluj (LRC Sustainability)
To continue to sustain access to the Internet, Information Coordinator

Doina Suciu has mobilized all key staff at the institution to support the LRC and received administrative backing to fully finance Internet payments from the institutional budget.

Institute of Public Health, Cluj (LRC Sustainability)
The LRC staff's efforts to actively disseminate resources and to develop a local area network for the institution have led to the wide support of the LRC and helped to secure continued access to the Internet from the institutional budget.

Hospital of Occupational Medicine, Cluj (LRC Sustainability)
Information Coordinator Horatiu Bocsa has made significant efforts to integrate the LRC into the hospital infrastructure and to convince staff of the importance of the LRC and its resources. This wide support has helped the LRC to gain administrative backing to fully finance Internet access from the institutional budget. Additionally, part of the funds recovered from the outpatient services are used to support other LRC costs and activities.

Center for Reproductive Health and Family Planning "Elena Doamna," Iasi (Community Outreach)
Information Coordinator Laura Coca and other LRC staff have utilized e-mail, Internet and other technologies to facilitate communication and information exchange between medical staff and the community. The Center's Web site provides educational information and offers patients an opportunity to sign up for prenatal classes, set up appointments and ask confidential medical questions on-line. The LRC staff is also actively working with teenagers, involving them in special technical and educational projects.

Russia

Central Rayon Hospital, Korsakov, Sakhalin Oblast (Community Outreach)
The LRC staff have been publishing a hospital newsletter, "Pulse," which features regular columns for hospital news, developments in Russian and international healthcare and articles on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of various medical disorders. Additionally, the LRC staff produce full-page inserts for a local newspaper on such topics as family planning, women's health and seasonal disease prevention.

Maternity House, Kurgan (Community Outreach)
Information Coordinator Sergey Kosintsev and other LRC staff have worked with teenagers to develop educational materials and to prepare interactive training sessions on healthy lifestyles, reproductive health, first aid and other topics. The LRC has mobilized its resources to bring trainers and visual aids to a larger audience of adolescents at a summer camp.

Medical Information Analytical Center, Samara (Information Systems Development)
Information Coordinator Petr Tyapukhin and other staff have been the leaders in health information systems development in the Samara region. They provide technical and methodological expertise to local healthcare institutions and support the regional healthcare information network on data standardization, legislative, telemedicine, distance education and other issues.

Central Medical Unit #50, Sarov (Telemedicine and Information Systems Development)
Information Coordinator Andrei Bordashov has been instrumental in the development of a new telemedicine center at the institution, working on equipment selection, teleconsultation rules, staff training, relationship-building with consulting organizations and technical aspects of the project. He has also led the establishment of a corporate network and an electronic patient record system.

Central Rayon Hospital, Schuche, Kurgan Oblast (Application of Evidence-based Practice)
Under the leadership of Information Coordinator Tatyana Chernysheva, several hospital departments have adopted the Gram stain method for the diagnosis of bacterial vaginosis. Based on a list of recommendations compiled by a specially assembled working group, the staff initiated a campaign to educate and convince the hospital administration, the head of the clinical laboratory and other staff to adopt the new diagnostic procedure. To ensure the implementation of the new procedure, the LRC staff have developed brief instructions for lab workers and continue to provide consultations and training to the medical staff.

State Medical Academy in the name of Mechnikov, St. Petersburg (Application of Evidence-based Practice and Clinical Practice Guidelines)
Information Coordinator Batyr Aslanov has been actively involved in the development and implementation of clinical practice guidelines on rational antibiotic prophylaxis, hand cleaning procedures, perinatal care, endoscopic procedures, endoscopic equipment sterilization, and health care worker biosafety for various hospitals in St. Petersburg and other Russian cities.

State Medical University in the name of Pavlov, St. Petersburg (Educational Technologies)
Information Coordinator Andrei Martynikhin has led the development of the Russian-language thesaurus of medical terms based on the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS, developed by the US National Library of Medicine), which can be used for the standardization of information retrieval, electronic patient records, and translation of medical terminology.

International Emergency Medical Services Training Center, Vladivostok (Community Outreach)
Information Coordinator Vladimir Ivaschuk has developed a Web site on emergency medical services (www.emsvlad.ru), which offers first aid information for the public as well as guidelines, calculators, lectures and other information for medical professionals. The staff has also published a first aid book, "'Till the doctor comes," which, with the help of sponsors, was published and distributed to police, firefighters, rescue workers, and secondary school teachers in the region.

Hospital #2, Vladivostok (Application of Evidence-based Practice)
Information Coordinator Alexandr Dubikov has developed and successfully implemented a "protocol of informed consent," which helps to empower patients through active decision making and the use of EBP resources. This document, adapted to individual diagnoses, explains disease etiology, treatment goals, patient and physician responsibilities, and lists a variety of treatment options and their costs. Together, the

patient and the physician decide on a course of treatment, sign the document and keep a copy for their records. This interaction and participation has helped to transform the healthcare experience for most patients who over time have become better informed, more involved and empowered.

Slovakia

Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University, Martin
(Application of Evidence-based Practice)
In collaboration with several colleagues, Information Coordinator Tibor Baska has researched and published a review of nicotine replacement therapy in smoking cessation. This review took into account economic conditions in Slovakia and was later used to develop practice guidelines at a local Non-Smoking Promotion Center.

Faculty Hospital, Kosice
(Application of Evidence-based Practice)
Information Coordinator Peter Krcho has organized an Open Medical Club of Eastern Slovakia, which brings together a group of physicians who are promoting evidence-based medicine in clinical practice. In their monthly meetings, the physicians share experiences about the application of clinical guidelines in Slovak hospitals, brainstorm about ways to involve academia in EBM work, and discuss tools and techniques for finding and disseminating evidence-based resources.

Ukraine

Hospital #25, Donetsk (Community Outreach)
Information Coordinator Olga Lysenko has recruited school children volunteers to disseminate health promotion resources to their peers. Using the Internet, the LRC staff created age-appropriate educational brochures on substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and STI prevention. The information coordinator has also trained six teenagers on issues related to HIV/AIDS and STI prevention, three of which were chosen as instructors to conduct educational sessions for other students and to disseminate educational materials.

Oblast Trauma Hospital, Donetsk
(Community Outreach and Telemedicine)
Information Coordinator Alexei Kolodezhny has developed a Web site (www.trauma.donetsk.ua), which serves as a clearinghouse for Russian-language and local healthcare resources. The Web site received an award from HealthAtoZ Web site and signed the HONCode, a code of conduct for the provision of authoritative and reliable medical information on the Internet. Additionally, the hospital staff have provided consultations on a variety of orthopedic and trauma issues using e-mail and other LRC resources.

Oblast Student Hospital, Kharkiv
(Community Outreach)
Information Coordinator Anneta Krivobok has led the development of educational brochures on mental health and other health promotion issues for the students of city colleges and universities. Additionally, the LRC regularly collaborates with educational and clinical institutions in the city to provide them with information resources and fulfill information requests.

Polyclinic #5, L'viv (LRC Sustainability)
Due to the efforts of Information Coordinator Yuri Filts, the LRC has become an Internet service subprovider, offering the best quality Internet connection in the city district. Per the terms of the agreement with the local Internet Service Provider, as the number of subscribers increases, the LRC will be able to make its own Internet connection costs self-sustainable.

Oblast Hospital, Odessa
(Community Outreach, Information Systems Development)
Information Coordinator Grigory Tyapkin has developed a Web site (www.mednet.odessa.ua) that has become a national healthcare portal. It includes information about regional healthcare providers, articles on different medical specialties, a drug index, links to on-line journals and other resources. Additionally, he established a hospital-wide computer network and designed several databases for patient records and hospital statistics.

State Medical University, Odessa
(Application of Evidence-based Practice)
Information Coordinator Yuri Vorokhta has been incorporating the principles of evidence-based practice into the university curriculum. He has also prepared several practice guidelines on acute poisoning and developed a method for quantitative evaluation of reproductive health for the local family medicine center.

Oblast Hospital, Uzhgorod (Community Outreach)
Information Coordinator Oleg Dobosh and the LRC staff have been collaborating with the local medical library to share resources and enhance each other's capabilities. They have developed a bibliographic database and placed a donated computer in the library, thus integrating LRC resources with the library catalogue. The LRC staff are also working with local health promotion NGOs, providing information and technical resources for community actions.

Rayon Hospital, Zhovkva, L'viv Oblast (Community Outreach)
Information Coordinator Volodymyr Borovyk has been actively involved in promoting information technologies for nursing education. He has helped to design a nursing certification program for family practice and regularly conducts training on the application of information technologies in medicine.

Uzbekistan

National Republican Center for Emergency Medicine, Tashkent
(Application of Evidence-based Practice and Clinical Practice Guidelines, LRC Sustainability)
The LRC staff have been actively participating in the development of clinical practice guidelines and researching rational methods for prescription, diagnostics and treatment to improve clinical and economic outcomes. A number of common practices have been updated and improved based on the reviews of the LRC staff. The LRC has also become a basis for a new scientific department, which utilizes LRC resources to conduct analytical activities, enhance international contacts, develop staff skills and research new technologies.