

National Information Learning Centre

1999-2000

- The NILCs computer classroom has been used for training in the use of the Internet, MEDLINE Search, E-mail usage, MS Word, MS Excel, and PowerPoint. More than 210 persons, including 148 health professionals, have participated in NILC training sessions.
- 528 medical students, and 227 physicians are among the more than 1200 users who visited the NILC in 1998, performing 786 searches in Internet, 258 in MEDLINE/Ovid, and 587 e-mail transactions.
- 136 Persons have used NILC CD-ROM library of 70 titles.
- 584 Persons have used books from the NILC collection free of charge (118 titles)
- NILC staff has provided 375 searches for users at the site: 165 in MEDLINE/Ovid, and 210 in Internet. An additional 48 searches have been provided to the officials of Ministry of Health.
- Since April 1997, NILC issues the bi-weekly, bilingual bulletin, *Internet Medical Digest* (circulation 250-300 copies) and its shorter version, published in MOH Newspaper *Meditcina* (3,000 copies). Already 49 issues of the Digest have been published, eight pages each covering the most interesting topics of public health, health promotion, cardiology, oncology, AIDS/HIV, infectious diseases, epidemiology, disease prevention and control, clinical pharmacology, obstetrics and gynecology, TB prevention and control, and micronutrient deficiency. Electronic versions are maintained on the NILC web page. The NILC recently received a \$40,000 from the World Bank grant for Digest publishing from the World Bank's Health Promotion Program. (\$13,500 for Digest support per se, and left - for dissemination of Digest material via newspaper *Meditcina*).
- 268 requests for article delivery have been passed to the Emory Health Science Center Library as part of our interlibrary loan (ILL) agreement. 178 articles have been received through the ARIEL document delivery system (software provided with OSGF funds).
- The NILC web-page currently presents information about the healthcare system of Georgia (Structure of the MOH, its departments, State Medical Insurance Company, List of Tbilisi healthcare institutions). Planned expansion of this site will include additional information about both local and international healthcare programs.
- Director Z. Kirtava and US partners Carol Burns and Dr. Kenneth Walker have developed business plan and two mega projects, one of which was presented to Open Society (Soros) Foundation – 460,000\$ for 2 year term, another – to Deputy State Secretary - \$14,5

mln over 5 year term, including around 2,6 mln in projects where NILC would participate.

- Already 3 NILC staff have completed 4-month training programs in telemedicine and space communications technology with Professor Roald Sagdeev at the East-West Space Science Center (EWSSC) at the University of Maryland. NILC Director Z. Kirtava has completed 1.5 month training under same program at the EWSSC-UMD. NASA sponsors this Program.
- 38 videoconference sessions have been held with the EWSSC. 4 videoconferences have been held with the University of Cincinnati reuniting Ms. Karen Marsh (former NILC Co-Director for 4 months under OSGF sponsorship) with her colleagues at the NILC.
- Recently NILC has started Cardiology Consultancy pilot project in Telemedicine - which is aimed to gather second opinion of cardiac surgeons from Germany, US and Turkey thus assisting Georgian personnel of CathLab at the Emergency Cardiology Center (ECC) of the MOH to evaluate coronary angiography files and design operational intervention plan. 35 angiography images from the ECC have been already scanned, maintained on the NILC web-server and sent by e-mail to ECC partners in Bad-Krozingen, Milwaukee and Istanbul.
- Ms. Carol Burns, Emory Health Science Center Library Director, was supposed to visit Tbilisi in 1999. Regretfully, this hadn't been achieved, as Ms. Burns only had time to accomplish this trip either in June or in October – both times, when Dr. Zviad Kirtava, her counterpart visited US. It was discussed and agreed with AIHA, that Dr. Zviad Kirtava had against of visit Ms. Burns 2 visits to Atlanta accomplished. Both times the business plan of the NILC, as well as application to Soros Foundation and plans for medical Informatics development in regard of return of Dr. David Sheshelidze, fellow at Vanderbilt University was discussed with.
- Director Zviad Kirtava has participated in the AIHA annual Conference in Washington, DC, in Nov, 1999. He also participated in AMIA annual conference and made platform presentation at the parallel workshop dedicated to the IT development in healthcare sector of CEE/NIS and organized by the AIHA.
- AIHA has made substantial hardware upgrade for the NILC. Cisco 1605 R Reuter, 2 servers, and 7 PCs have been upgraded and equipped with UPSs. NILC's used Pentium-120 PCs have been redistributed to the 1- Nursing Association (Lia Mamaladze), 2- Mtskheta-Mtianeti Partnership (Ketino Loria). Also 1 laptop was purchased from the LRC sustainability Grant (coordinated with Mark Storey)
- NILC has succeeded to establish long-term cooperation with the Partnership for Peace Information Management System (PIMS). PIMS helped NILC to get more full text resources through the resources of the Uniform Service University of Health Sciences (USUHS), Bethesda, MD. Dr. Zviad Kirtava and Dr. Ken Walker met USUHS President, Admiral Dr. James Zimble, as well as Jim Hendrick and Dr. Rita Purcell (PIMS) in June, 1999 and agreed to organize their visit to Tbilisi in 2000.

- PIMS is going to establish high bandwidth wireless communication network in Tbilisi, Georgia between NILC/EMS, Central Clinical Hospital, Military Hospital and Military Medical School. These arrangements have been scheduled for Fall, 99, but have been postponed to early 2000.
- NILC staff (Z. Kirtava, D. Jorjoliani, D. Sheshelidze and K. Paposhvili) have presented paper titled **Telemedicine and Distance Learning - Georgia's yet limited experience and future perspectives** for TeleMed-98 Forum (London, U.K., Nov 24-26, 98), which have been selected not only for presentation, but also published in the *Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare* in 1999 (vol 5, Suppl. 1, S1:61-3).
- NILC personnel (Dr. Z. Kirtava, Dr. Kakha Paposhvili and Dr. David Jorjoliani) have drafted Georgia's **National Concept Plan for Telemedicine and Distance Medical Education**. This document was used as core structure for the corresponding chapters of the *National Health Policy of Georgia* and *National Strategy Plan for Health Policy Implementation 2000-2010*. These documents were discussed at the Donors Roundtable, organized by the WHO-EURO in Copenhagen, September, 1999 (Dr. Kirtava attended).
- NILC infocoordinator Helen Phagava made platform presentation at the AIHA workshop at the WHO-EURO in October, 1999.
- Printed resources - more than 130 medical textbooks;
- Multimedia resources - more than 80 CDs
- Online resources - Extended search capabilities in the following databases:
 - Medline/OVID - abstract collection from over 3,500 biomedical journals collected in the catalogue of the National Library of Medicine (NLM, USA); also - full-text articles from 15 most popular journals (provided by the AIHA/USAID)
 - MDConsult - full-text articles from 45 excellent medical journals, including Journals of and Clinics of collections, also on-line reference books, and Evidence Based Medicine collection (Provided by the Partnership for Peace Information management system - PIMS and Uniform Services University of Health Sciences - (USUHS, Bethesda, MD, USA);
 - Other Full-text electronic journals (more than 150) from the USUHS
 - EBSCO - provided by OSGF/Soros Foundation;
- Direct electronic delivery of full-text articles from Emory University Library (Atlanta, GA, USA) and USUHS Learning Resource Center, using Ariel document delivery software;
- Opportunity for the users of the NILC to search Internet, Medline and other resources, as well as use NILC's CD-library at the NILC computer class;

- Medical Web-publishing - abstracts and articles maintenance at the NILC server;
- Computer classes in IT (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet search, Medline search, E-mail) – 7 Pentium III PCs, provided by the AIHA;
- Local Area Network, uniting not only 17 PCs of the NILC, but 7 computers of the National Health Management Center, 10 computers of the Continuous Medical Education
- E-mail service for the users of the NILC, Internet link via radiomodem (128 kbps) to SaNet;
- Internet and Intranet Link to Partnership to Peace Information Management System (PIMS), PIMS Tbilisi wireless high bandwidth (2 mgb/s) WAN including Military Hospital, Military Medical School and Central Clinical Hospital, TSMU - through PIMS server via Satellite communication.
- Telemedicine services - scanning of still images and distribution of queries for second opinion gathering through AIHA-partners mailing list (around 150 clinics and thousands specialists throughout USA, CEE and NIS);
- Distance Medical Education – Interactive Courses developed in cooperation with International Medical Programs (IMP, NY, USA) and Bi-lingual bi-weekly bulletin *Internet Medical Digest* - information about health promotion and disease prevention.

Projects:

- PIMS Tbilisi Network to provide high bandwidth wireless communication to Military Medical and Emergency Medicine Institutions - Partnership for Peace Information Management System (PIMS, Chantilly, VA, USA)
- Interactive Distance Medical Education - Interactive Courses developed in cooperation with International Medical Programs (IMP, NY, USA) and PIMS.
- Advanced Distributed Learning (ADL) – open source platform development in cooperation with Partnership for Peace (PfP) Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes, George C. Marshall Center (Garmish-Partenkirchen, Germany), International Relations and Security Network (ISN), and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (Zurich, Switzerland)
- *T Basic Course* Conversion to web-based source for ADL – in Cooperation with ADL group at Joint Forces Command, Joint Distributed Learning Center (Suffolk, VA, USA)
- Medical doctors Journal Club - in cooperation with Georgian Cardiology Association, UMCOR and different Pharmaceutical Companies representations in Georgia (Pfizer, Servier, Berlin-Chemie, Merck, Bristol Meyers Squibb, Glaxo, etc.)
- **NILC Staff:** Director, 3 Deputy Directors (Technical, Medical Informatics, Learning

Programs), Info-coordinator, technical assistant, web-designer, administrative assistant/IT class teacher, accountant.