

The New York State International Training and Research Program

**Fogarty 25th Anniversary
AIDS/TB Program Meeting**

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**Jack A. DeHovitz, MD, MPH
Director, Fogarty AIDS International Training and Research
Program**

**Professor, Medicine SUNY Downstate Medical Center
Adjunct Professor, University at Albany School of Public
Health**

**In March, 1990,
three months after
revolution took place
in the Czech
Republic, SUNY
Downstate took part
in a multi-
institutional
delegation to assess
the state of
Czechoslovak
medical care and
public health**

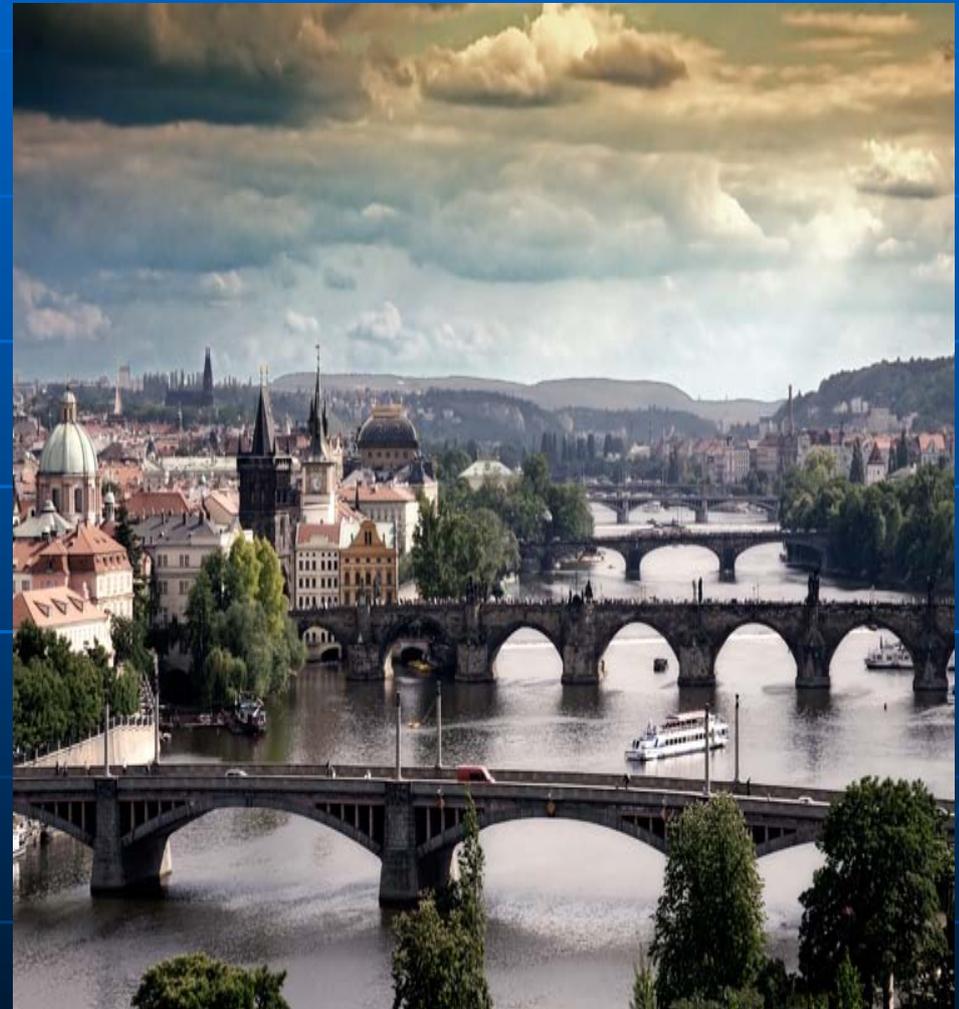


Early Training Efforts

- HIV prevalence was still relatively low in 1990s-first efforts funded by World AIDS Foundation.
- AIDS International Training and Research Program RFA emerged in 1993-post Communist countries eligible
- Training needs included both epidemiology and laboratory training linking public health school, Health Department lab, School of Medicine
- Initial Focus: Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary

HIV Disease in the Czech Republic, 1993

- First case reported in 1985
- ~240 cases by 1994
- 60% in MSM
- 2 cases in IDUs



Social and Political Disruption in region

- Dramatic decline in income and increase in income inequities-"shock therapy"
- Expansion of informal and criminal economies
- Highly structured public health system
- Rudimentary health promotion efforts
- Decline in health care as a prestigious career



The State of Science and Public Health Research

- Education: Research in Academy of Science, teaching in medical schools
- No tradition of peer review
- Resource rich
- No schools of public health
- Gerontocracy



Initial Training Opportunities

- MS in Epidemiology or Biostatistics
- Advanced In-Country Research Training Support
 - supports projects of fellows once upon their home return
- Advanced Laboratory Training (1-2 years)
 - TB, HIV, viral hepatitis, parasitology, mycology

Leaving Central Europe-2000

- Dramatic improvement in economic conditions
- Integration into European Union
- Stable HIV rates
- Development of Internal Grants Program
- Strong programs in CR and Poland



Hepatitis/HIV in Estonia -1990-2002

Incidence of reported HCV/HBV infections and absolut number of HIV positive cases in Estonia , 1988-2002

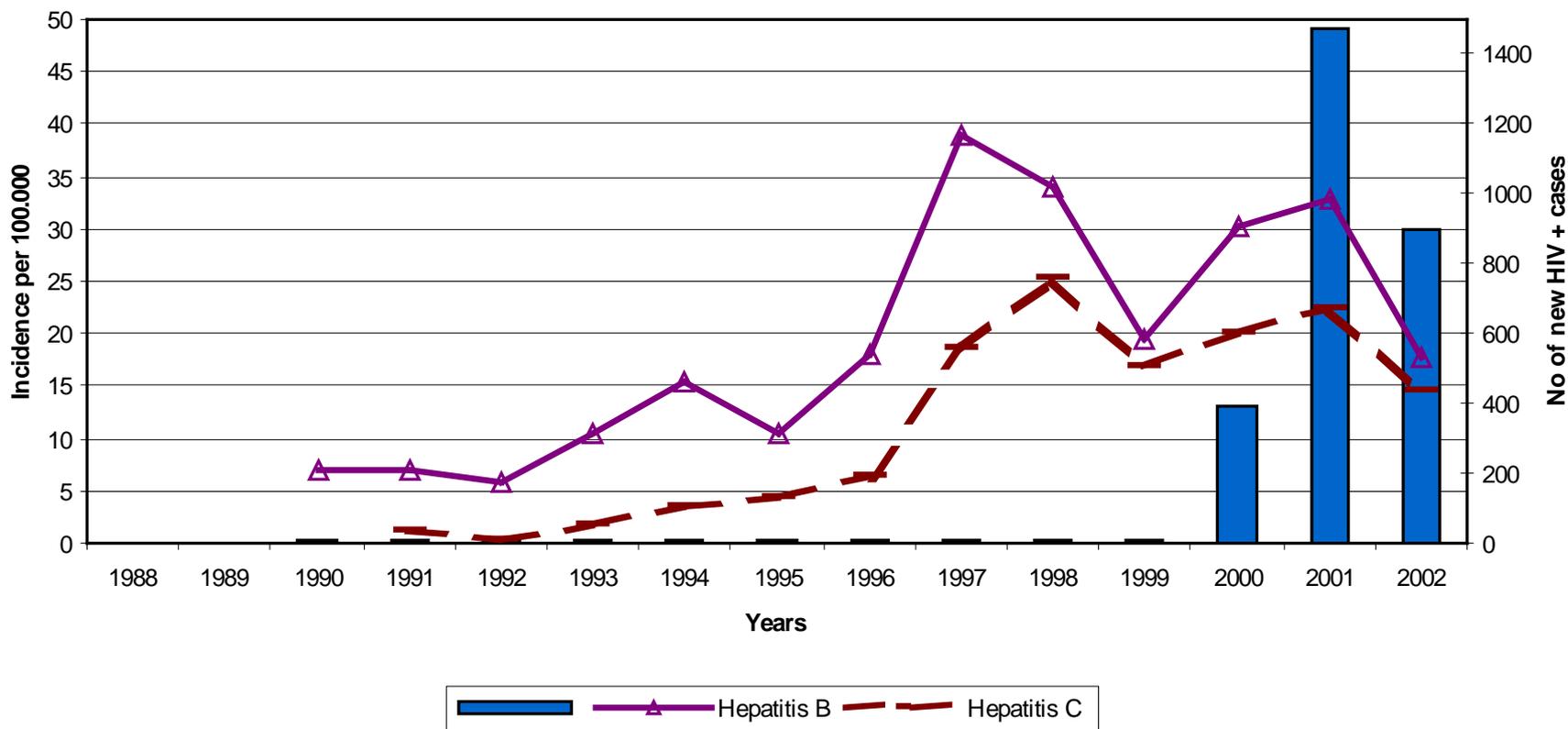
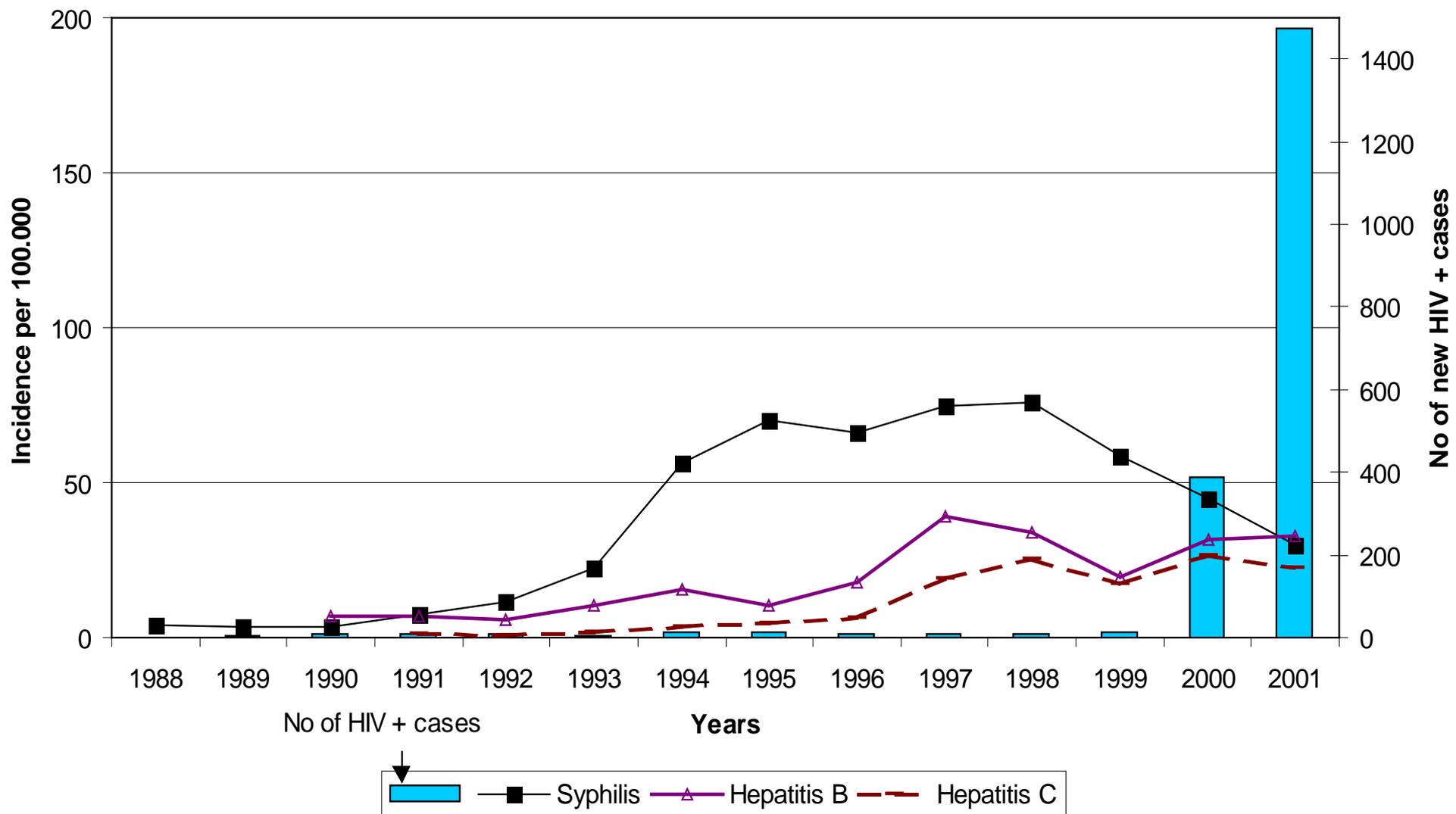
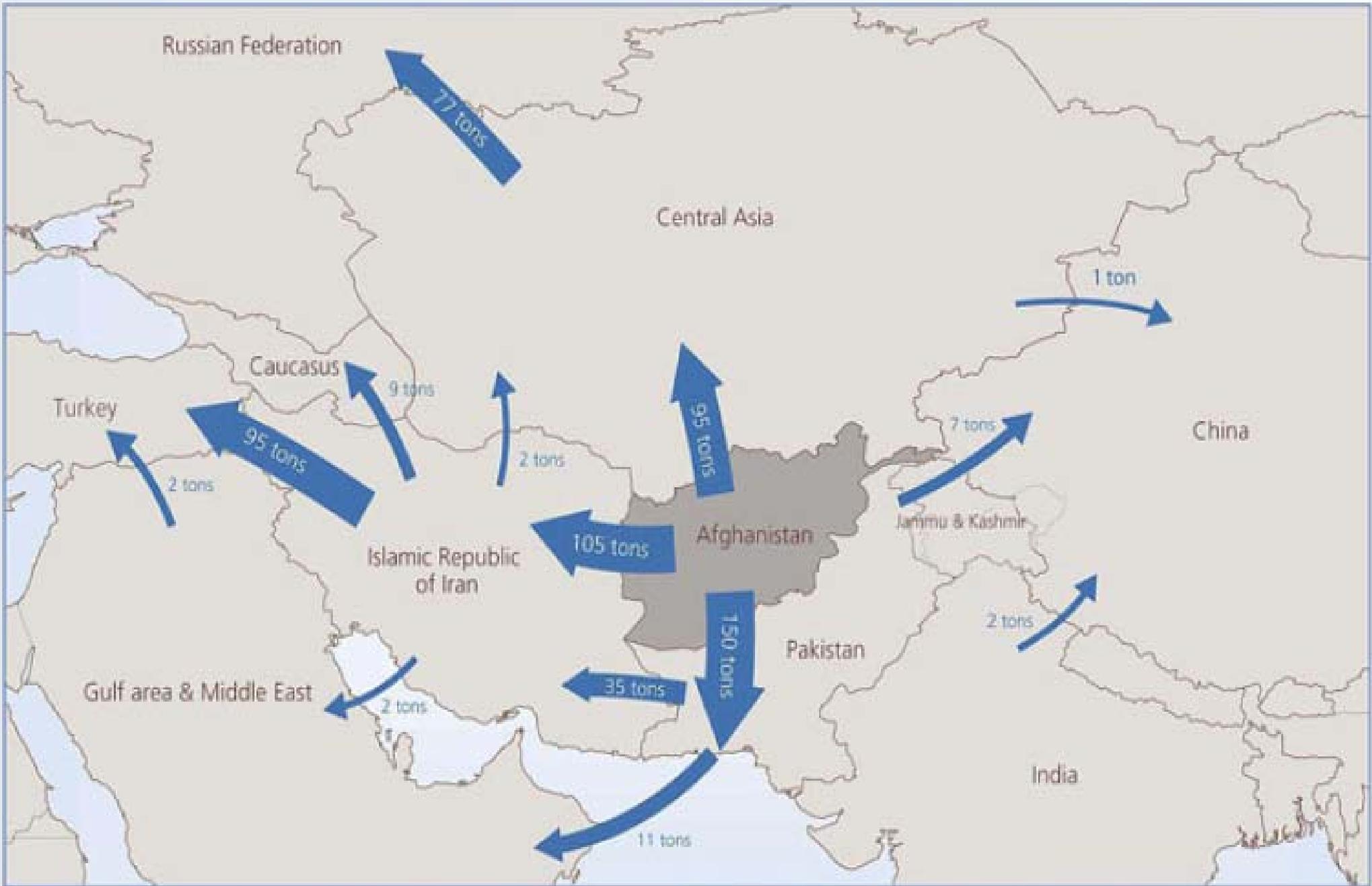


Figure 2. Incidence of syphilis, hepatitis B, hepatitis C and absolute numbers of reported HIV + cases in Estonia, 1988-2001.



Estimated regional heroin flows from Afghanistan, 2008



Moving East: 2000 and beyond

- Poorly developed research tracks
- Challenges of stigma, regional conflicts, internal migration
- Increased focus on substance use-
new domestic partners
- Emerging Schools of Public Health
- East to *farther* East collaboration
- Increased focus on institution
building

Joint NYS-ITRP/Tbilisi State Medical University of Public Health Agreement



NYS-ITRP Focus

Current Focus Countries

- Georgia
- Russia

+ Ukraine
+ Kazakhstan

Former Training Partners

- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Kosovo
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Armenia
- Poland
- Estonia

Outcomes

- Over 90 long term trainees
- Strong in-country links among trainees
- Close collaboration with other Fogarty programs
- Well thought out, individualized re-entry process is key
- Continued development of regional public health training