COMMON ACTION AGAINST HIV/TB/HCV
ACROSS THE REGIONS OF EUROPE

The CARE project (Russian perspective)

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The project has received funding from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation, Federal target program 2014-2020, unique project identifier RFMEFI61019X0020.

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CARE
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CARE: Common Action against HIV/TB/HCV across the Regions of Europe (Grant Agreement no. 825673)

Анализ современных тенденций в эпидемиологии ВИЧ-инфекции, гепатита С и туберкулеза в Европейском регионе, и в первую очередь в Российской Федерации, и разработка методов диагностики и прогнозирования течения и эффективности лечения указанных заболеваний (уникальный идентификатор проекта RFMEFI61019X0020)

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Project goals

- Improve the efficiency of diagnosis and treatment of patients with HIV infection, hepatitis C and tuberculosis in Europe and Russia
- Contribute to solving the tasks of the European Union, WHO, as well as the Russian government in controlling the spread of HIV infection, drug-resistant tuberculosis and hepatitis C infection
- Expand existing and create new databases containing structured clinical and laboratory data, as well as new collections of biological samples from all partner organizations, and facilitate access to them to all partners of the consortium
- The long-term goal of the CARE project is to create a research infrastructure, to extend the activities of the consortium beyond the scope of financing the project, strengthen the ties of partners in the use of technologies, protocols, collections, structured data and knowledge to support collaboration and future scientific research after the end of the project

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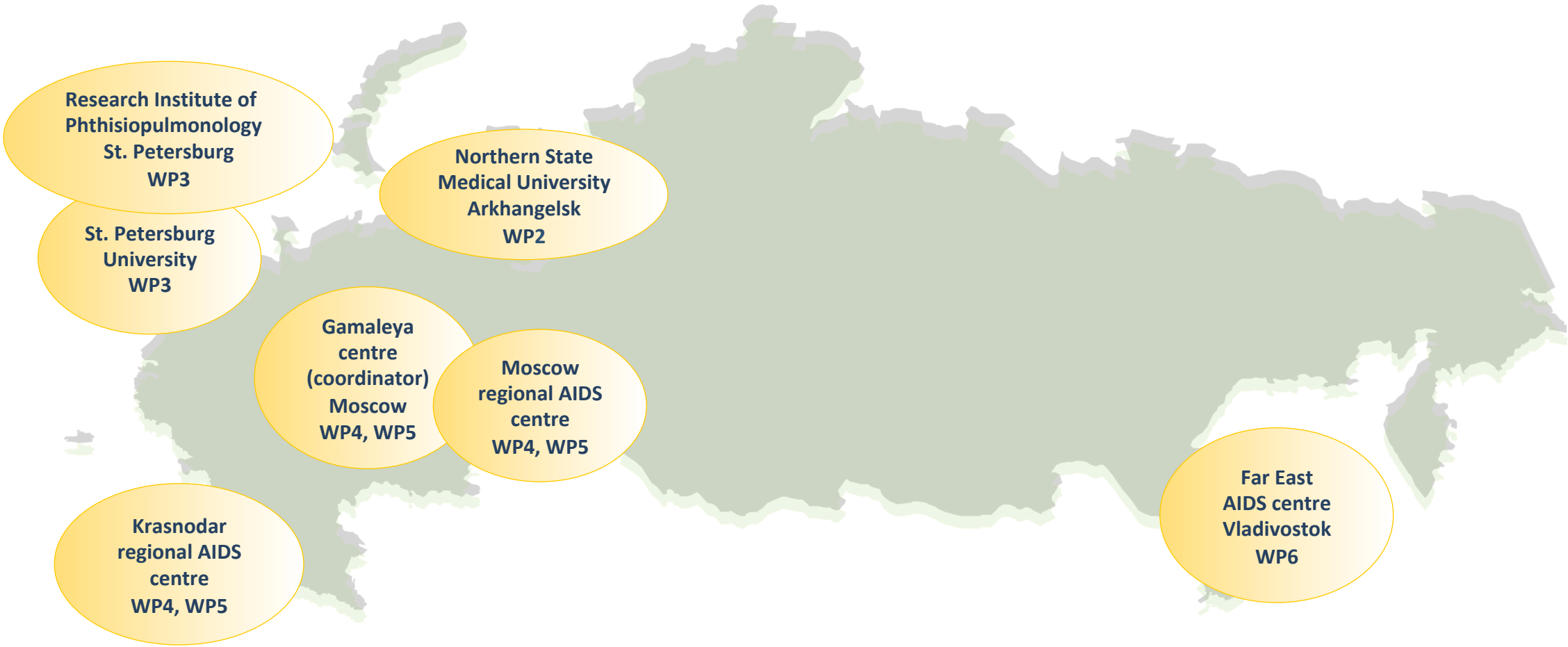

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The first stage of the project (2019)

The goal of the first stage of the project (2019) was

- to form a sustainable consortium of specialists in Russia and Europe that
- can perform research in these areas for a long time using
- the most modern methodology,
- common ethical standards,
- experimental protocols,
- data collection formats, and
- bioinformatics analysis tools.

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Expected outcome

- The outcome of the first stage should be the formation of an experimental basis for further research, including collections of biological material and systematic data on patients, as well as the introduction of a unified methodological and ideological approach to planning and conducting large-scale joint studies of socially significant infections – HIV, HCV and tuberculosis.

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The main tasks of the first stage of the project (2019) were

- achieving stable and continuous contacts between partners in Russia and Europe in each of the project areas,
- coordination of methodological solutions for each type of studies,
- development of protocols for joint experimental studies,
- the establishment of common ethical approaches, obtaining supporting documents,
- development of formats for collecting clinical and laboratory patient data,
- development of tools for collecting clinical and laboratory patient data,
- formation of patient cohorts for all types of studies,
- collecting infectious material samples for all types of studies,
- collecting clinical and laboratory patient data,
- conducting preliminary studies on collected samples,
- preparation of publications, including joint publications with European colleagues.

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Legal and standardization matters

PARTICIPANT	STUDY PROTOCOL/SOP	ETHIC APPROVALS
Gamaleya center/ Moscow/Krasnodar	Completed	Completed
Vladivostok center	Completed	Completed
Northern State Medical University	Completed	Completed
St-Petersburg University/RIP	Completed	Completed

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CARE East Cohort Establishment (HIV/HCV)

PARTICIPANT	BLOOD SAMPLES	CLINICAL DATA COLLECTION	HIV GENOTYPE
Moscow AIDS center	837	125	177
Krasnodar AIDS center	410	71	-
Vladivostok AIDS center	-	83	-
	1247 (of 2500)	279 (of 2500)	177 (of 600)

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Major issues

- insufficient funding from the Russian side (1: 5 ratio)
- delay for the project financial support at Russia (6 months)
- difficulties with entering into contracts with subcontractors
- lack of experience in international projects
- long wait for purchased materials
- lack of opportunity to purchase equipment
- heavy workload of specialists in AIDS centers

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Major achievements

- experience in international projects has been significantly expanded
- harmonized protocols for all types of research have been developed
- Intra-lab standardization of all experimental procedures has been achieved (SOPs)
- significantly expanded collections of samples and patient data in Russia
- a new method (NGS) is being introduced that will increase the methodological level of experimental work
- young specialists were trained in Europe, University of Siena
- two more students joined the team
- two articles have been published, two more are in print, two more are being prepared for submission

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Expectations/perspective

immediate

- established contacts with European colleagues
- common methodological and ideological approaches
- great reserve for future research
- introduction of the latest infection treatment regimens
- new diagnostic tests
- NGS as routine analysis tool
- on-line data collection tool
- development of strategic plans for the future research in Russia

further

- long-term cooperation
- raising the quality of research in Russia
- improving the quality of diagnosis and treatment of infected people
- raising awareness on increase of resistant microorganisms prevalence, including viruses
- focus on the study of the establishment of the HIV drug resistance monitoring system in Russia
- creating a systematic approach to the study of socially significant infections
- consistent research governmental funding

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Project participants express their great and sincere gratitude to the Russian Ministry of science and higher education for supporting the project and preparing this meeting

To the EU for the invitation to an important and interesting work

To the Russian Ministry of Health for attention to the problems of socially significant infections

To all European colleagues for their attention to problems and all possible assistance

To all international and Russian organizations and their leaders who have expressed interest in the project

To all patients who agreed to participate in the collection of material and data

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CARE Consortium

Denmark

REGION HOVEDSTADEN/CHIP

Georgia

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, AIDS AND CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER

Germany

EBERHARD KARLS UNIVERSITAET TUEBINGEN

FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM BORSTEL

KLINIKUM DER UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN

Italy

EURESIST NETWORK

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FEDERAL RESEARCH CENTRE FOR EPIDEMIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY NAMED AFTER THE HONORARY ACADEMICIAN N.F. GAMALEYA OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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