

# New York State International Training and Research Program-25 Years in Georgia

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**New York State**  
International Training  
and Research Program

# New York State International Training and Research Program

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# US-based NYS-ITRP partners



- *State University of New York (SUNY)*
  - School of Public Health, Albany
    - [www.albany.edu/sph](http://www.albany.edu/sph)



- *New York State Department of Health*
  - Division of Epidemiology, Albany
    - [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us)



- SUNY Downstate Health Sciences Center University, Brooklyn
  - [www.downstate.edu](http://www.downstate.edu)

# Training Opportunities (AITRP)

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- MS Degree in Epidemiology or Biostatistics (1-2 years)



- Pre and Postdoctoral Laboratory Training (1-2 years)

- Tb, HIV, parasitology, mycology

- MPH “Sandwich Program”

- TSMU + UAlbany School of Public Health



# History of NYS-ITRP

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- **Two components funded by Fogarty International Center**
  - AIDS International Training and Research Program (AITRP)
    - PI: Dr. Jack DeHovitz; Co-director Dr. Dale Morse
  - Global Infectious Diseases Research Training Program (GID)
    - PI: Morse; Co-director DeHovitz
- **AITRP funded since 1993; renewed in 2005; again in 2010**
  - Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary
  - Next phase: Baltics, Georgia (1995), Armenia, Russia
  - 2010 additions: Ukraine, Kazakhstan
- **Emerging Infections grant funded 1996 – 2005**
  - Expanded with TB training grant
- **GID Funded in 2005**
  - Focus on hepatitis in Georgia



# Fogarty HIV Research Program

- In 2013 the Fogarty International Center consolidated two HIV research training programs into one.
- One country, one grant with focus on developing in-country leadership-NYS-ITRP evolved
- 2016: Kazakhstan
- 2017: Ukraine
- Both applications linked a research NGO with a University based public health training program
- Focus: Implementation Science



# Training Accomplishments

- Total number of Fogarty Trainees = 191 (106 long-term, 85 short-term)
  - More than 60 short-term training courses held
- In-Country training/workshops: > 6100 health care professionals in the region
- More than 1500 books and journal articles published.
  - First or senior author in > 50%.
- Over 1000 Abstracts.



# Georgia Success

- 25 Georgians successfully complete long-term training with NYS-ITRP (1996-2011) in laboratory and population science
- Curriculum harmonization with TSMU SPH allowed 11 sandwich students to complete training (3 semesters Georgia/1 semester UAlbany SPH)
- 158 Publications post training
- 100% return rate





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🔔 [COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation.](#)

- [Latest COVID-19 public health information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [Latest COVID-19 research information from the U.S. National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#)
- [COVID-19 resources for global health researchers from Fogarty](#)

## Former Fogarty trainees help eliminate hepatitis C in Georgia

September / October 2015 | Volume 14, Issue 5

- [Full September / October 2015 Global Health Matters newsletter \[PDF <1M\]](#)

By *Cathy Kristiansen*

Georgia has launched a groundbreaking program to rid its population of hepatitis C - the first lower-middle-income country to tackle this challenge since a cure was discovered for the devastating disease. Leading the effort are a number of former Fogarty trainees, who are collaborating with the U.S. CDC and a pharmaceutical company that is donating its new drug.

As many as 150 million people globally are infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), resulting in about 500,000 deaths annually from cirrhosis or cancer of the liver, according to the WHO. Georgia reports one of the world's highest estimated HCV prevalence rates, reaching as much as 80 percent among its HIV-positive population, injection drug users and prisoners. The scientific team believes the country is an ideal candidate for HCV elimination with its small size and high prevalence of disease; strong governmental commitment; availability of modern diagnostic and treatment methods; and a cadre of well-trained personnel who are capable of planning and implementing such a complex initiative.



*Photo by Zaza Macharashvili*

Fogarty has supported efforts to build research capacity in Georgia for two decades and scientists there are working on eliminating hepatitis C from their country.

# Georgian NYS-ITRP Graduate Employers

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- Georgian Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center



- National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDCPH)



- Health Research Union (HRU)



- USAID supported projects



# Acknowledgements

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- Center for Disease Control (CDC) and PEPFAR



- SUNY Albany SPH, CDUHR, the Wadsworth Center

