

Establishment of Alexander Gershman Educational Fund

Los Angeles-St. Petersburg Sister City Committee

Summary of the Medical Project (www.RAMPpartners.org)

The unique pilot project in St. Petersburg, Russia began in 1995-1996 when Russian medical leaders asked for help.

Russian physicians suffered from “information hunger”. Essentially, years of isolation had left doctors and their patients without resources.

During the ensuing years the following objectives were realized:

- Creation of an internationally renowned team of Western experts
- Identification of Russian medical leaders and facilities
- Collaborative development of up-to –date nephrology curriculum for advanced Fellowship training
- Training of selected Russian faculty for short term, focused studies of kidney disease in the West
- Creation of modern Russian –English medical dictionary , posted on web site and disseminated on CD's

Current status:

The first phase of the project focused on an educational strategy to provide a basis for improvement in clinical care. Much has been accomplished but as with every successful first step, new pressing needs have been identified.

The Fellowship Program began in September 2004 with 6 special Fellows.

They need:

- 1) Exposure to modern urology and identification of individuals with leadership potential
- 2) Understanding of renal pathology
- 3) Exposure and usage of Western educational methods
- 4) Provision and upgrading of equipment
- 5) Ongoing mentoring with Western faculty as well as short term study in the West

Sponsorship of the Alexander Gershman, M.D. Fund will allow the Project to move forward and ensure that gifted Russian physicians can reach their potential and take better care of their patients.