

**International Society of Nephrology Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa
St. Petersburg Project – November 9, 2005
Presented by Ellin Lieberman, M.D.**

The St. Petersburg Project dates back to 1996 when Russian nephrologists approached Western experts and requested assistance in upgrading/developing their postgraduate curriculum for nephrology fellows.

A pilot project evolved during the years 1997 – 2000.

The distinctive features included:

- **Needs assessment**
- **Team formed (Halperin, Rastegar, Cohen, Finkelstein and Lieberman)**
- **Russian faculty and effort led by Konstantin Gurevich assisted by Andrey Gurevich and Western coordinator - Lieberman**
- **Site visit by team members (Rastegar, Cohen, Finkelstein and Lieberman in 2000)**
- **Commitment to 4 month-fellowships in the West with specified mentors and program content – with the proviso that both the trainee and mentor would have an ongoing commitment to monitor progress, provide consultation (as needed) etc – continuity has remained essential throughout**
- **Curriculum development – spearheaded by Dr. Rastegar with contributions, initially from team and Russian counterparts and then worked on and reviewed by ISN members, general meeting of COMGAN IN 2001 –**
- **Education recognized as the core mission
ISN-funded team members and others to participate in educational meetings; Visiting Scholar program –
Meetings are case based, evidence based and interactive**
- **Curriculum implemented in 2001 – 2002; special fellows accepted by September 2004 ; 6 in training in St.Petersburg currently**
- **3 ISN Fellows have had 4-month training : 1 at U Toronto with Halperin; 1 at Yale with Finkelstein and Rastegar; 1 at Cedars Sinai (UCLA) with Cohen**
- **Andrey Gurevich completed 3 year ISN-funded fellowship with Schrier and obtained pH + 1 year training at York, England as a Senior Registrar – now opening new unit (Russians term it “department”) on campus of the Medical Academy for Postgraduate Studies in St.Petersburg**

Major continuing needs: 1) ongoing interactions and participation by team and others 2) request from Russians to have 1 week-specially designed in depth on site educational experience with Western experts 3) pathology 4) Evaluation of training program and assistance in continuing improvement and 5) assistance with selecting Fellows and sites for 4 month educational experiences for Selected Fellows now in Training Program