

JANUARY 12, 1987

MEMORANDUM TO JANET BICKEL

FROM: Kat Turner *kat*

SUBJECT: Kregar Letter on OSR Agenda

You should be aware that RGP has already tentatively agreed that AAMC will broker such an exchange program, pending our ability to get official permission and funding to support it. I have been working on this for him, and may have more definite information by next week's meeting. In any event, you should not feel that this won't go anyplace unless OSR pushes it. Bob is quite interested in it.

60 Chris Kiefer  
Bob at least sounded interested over the phone. He  
will review with his  
staff and  
get back to us  
9/64

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY



ALEXANDER LEAF, M.D., CHAIRMAN  
Ridley Watts Professor of Preventive Medicine  
and Professor of Medicine

Reply to: MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL  
Fruit Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114  
(617) 726-5908 Alexander Leaf, M.D.  
(617) 726-5910 Department

October 8, 1986

Dr. Robert Petersdorf  
President  
Association of American Medical Colleges (202) 828-0400 call back at 4pm  
One Dupont Circle NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Bob:

It was good to talk with you by phone today and I hope that the AAMC may be able to be helpful with medical student exchange with the USSR. We have had a number of requests from medical students who speak Russian and who are interested in spending part of an elective period in their third or fourth year of clinical training in an appropriate educational environment at some medical facility within the USSR. We understand that there may be Russian medical students who would be interested in having part of their clinical or research training here in the United States.

I had approached the Institute of Medicine, as I mentioned. They recently approved a number of exchange items with physicians in the Soviet Union but all at the post medical school graduate level and they did not feel that dealing with student exchanges was appropriate for them.

There is a need for an official body to serve as the focus in the US student exchange program which will communicate with its Russian counterpart which I understand to be their Academy of Medicine or Ministry of Health. The AAMC might be appropriate for this official need.

The AAMC would consult with the USSR Academy of Medicine or Ministry of Health to develop the program. Items to be settled might include:

1. What educational opportunities our students would expect to have available in the USSR and what their faculties and students would seek here.
2. What duration of residence in the exchange would be appropriate and acceptable.

Dr. Robert Petersdorf  
October 8, 1986  
page two

3. Language requirements of students.
4. Tuition arrangements, travel and living expenses.

With this information jointly established with the appropriate USSR body, the AAMC would want to:

1. Inform US medical schools of the exchange opportunities.
2. Solicit from US schools educational opportunities they would be willing to offer Russian students.
3. Solicit nominations from the medical schools of students who would wish to participate in the exchange.
4. Obtain from the USSR Ministry of Health or Academy of Medicine a list of offerings from the USSR medical schools and provide them with ours.
5. Match the US students' interests with the Soviet offerings and communicate the match to the Russians.
6. Serve as a clearing station for reports of the performance of our students in the USSR schools and their students in our programs and pass this information on to the respective medical schools.

How could the AAMC manage this program?

1. I have learned from one of our Harvard Medical students who has been actively working to establish an exchange, that IREX - International Research and Exchange Board, 655 Third Avenue, N.Y. 10017 (212-490-2002) conducts academic exchanges of faculty with the USSR. Daniel C. Matuszewiski is Director of Soviet Programs and Carolyn J. Rogers is Program Officer who expressed interest in administering the student exchange for us.
2. I have ideas about foundation funding for such a program and think this should all be done through the AAMC as it will keep the support of the students uniform. I would be happy to discuss and pursue this matter so that there should be little or no expense to the AAMC.

Dr. Robert Petersdorf  
October 8, 1986  
page three

It seems that this would be a worthwhile activity which would contribute to medical education and to better understanding between two disparate cultures which have much to teach each other.

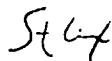
I enclose a copy of the preliminary draft that Drs. Kiefer at UCSF and Norman Robins at Case Western Reserve Medical School have prepared. Please appreciate that the suggestions in my letter and the attached proposal are all preliminary thoughts and subject to modification and change.

Although I mentioned that we had approached the Institute of Medicine as the sponsor, the more we thought about it the more appropriate the AAMC would be which actually deals with medical education and medical students.

If we, Norman Robins, Chris Kiefer, and I can be of any assistance or respond to any questions that you or your staff may have, we would be happy to do so.

With very best wishes.

Sincerely,



Alexander Leaf, M.D.

U.S. - SOVIET MEDICAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROJECT:  
BRIEF HISTORY AND STATUS

Goals

The U.S. - Soviet Medical Student Exchange Project seeks to establish formal relationships between American and Soviet medical schools, so that students from each country can study medicine under expert supervision in the other country. There are two equally important reasons for this. First, medicine is a rapidly developing international science, and it is in the interest of all sciences that information and techniques be shared among scholars of all nations. The understanding of unique viewpoints developed in each nation, and the founding of collegueships accross national borders are equally important aspects of this effort.

Second, physicians are trusted members of their societies, and potential leaders in public education on matters related to health and safety. At present, relations between our countries are based on a lack of information about each other's attitudes and values, and consequently a lack of mutual understanding and confidence. Because of the danger of this situation to the well being of the human race, and the potential influence of physicians in correcting it, an exchange of this kind has wide, nonpolitical humanitarian possibilities.

History

The Project began independently at Harvard University and the University of California at San Francisco, in the fall of

1984. Students at Harvard arranged a tour of the Soviet Union for a group of twenty U.S. medical students, in conjunction with the IPPNW meetings in Budapest in June 1985. The Harvard students sought to establish personal relationships that would lead to more regular exchanges of this kind.

The California effort began with a proposal to the University's Education Abroad Program for sponsorship of a formal exchange of faculty and students, involving California, Harvard, and as yet unselected Soviet medical schools.

In April, 1985, Dr. Norman Robbins of Case Western Reserve University Medical School, Cleveland, joined the planning group.

In May, 1985, the Chairman of the Curriculum Committee at the University of California Medical School, San Francisco, agreed to the plan to bring Soviet students, provided funds could be found to pay their expenses.

In June, 1985, the University of California Education Abroad Program endorsed the proposal. Education Abroad agreed to provide access to their language training facility at the University of Leningrad, and also a new facility they plan to open in Moscow.

In June the Harvard medical students met with a number of Soviet physicians, who expressed support for the proposal. In addition, Dr. Jerome Liebman of Case Western Medical School met with Dr. Churiukinov of the First Moscow Medical Institute, who was supportive of the project. In September, Dr. Kiefer of the University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, met with Acad. Simon Khechinashvili, Dean of the Tbilissi Institute

of Medical Post-graduate Education, and Prof. Galina Savelyeva, Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Second Medical Institute of Moscow to speak about the Project. Both expressed support for the idea.

In October, U.S. President Ronald Reagan met with General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva to discuss the possibilities of nuclear disarmament. A major outcome of these talks was their joint decision to increase cultural and scientific exchanges between the two countries.

In January 1986, Dr. Alexander Leaf, Chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology at Harvard, offered to discuss this project with appropriate Soviet medical educators at a WHO conference in Geneva the following month.

Letters of support for the medical student exchange project have been received from several eminent American physicians, and are appended to this report.

#### Current Status

U.S. planners of the project are seeking detailed information for further planning. First, information is needed on the exact settings and training opportunities that will be available to the U.S. students in the Soviet Union; and the names of Soviet faculty who will be able to participate in the Project. Second, the planners need to know in detail the kind of training that would be most beneficial to Soviet students, and what other arrangements should be made for their visit to the United States. As initial guidelines, the following conditions of the exchange are suggested:

1. The official American sponsors of the project shall be an organization entitled "The American - Soviet Medical Exchange Program," consisting of a consortium of the individual medical schools (currently Harvard, Case Western, and University of California - San Francisco) whose faculties and students wish to participate in the exchange. The American Medical Students' Association (AMSA) will also participate.

2. Students should be American third- and fourth-year post-baccalaureates, and Soviet students at an equivalent level of training.

3. The American students should spend two to three months at the Soviet institutions; but in no more than two to three settings, depending on the duration of their stay. For example, their training should include a clinical clerkship in a large city, and another in a rural area. The emphasis should be on active participation in regular teaching programs rather than passive touring of various facilities.

4. The duration and curriculum of the Soviet students' American training should be decided as far as possible by the Soviet faculty, and need not be similar to that of the American students.

5. For the first exchange at least, the American students must demonstrate reasonable fluency in Russian before they begin their exchange training. A paired system is suggested in which a host-country student, ideally fluent in the visitor's language, shares his or her clerkship with the visiting student.

6. Visiting students shall have free access to all parts of the health care system and relevant technology as needed to

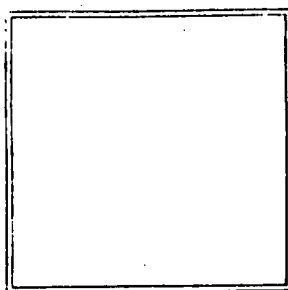


follow their patients.

7. Educational expenses (tuition, insurance, etc.) shall be covered on a "fee exchange" basis: The host country shall pay these expenses of the visiting students.

8. International travel of both the American and Soviet students will be defrayed by the student's home country, as will internal travel for cultural purposes. Essential domestic travel and living accommodations will be paid by the host country.

8. The exchange should begin as soon as possible, and should be limited at first to small numbers of students (six to twelve from each country). After an initial period of two years, with appropriate adjustments after the first year, the project should be evaluated and its details re-negotiated.



October 6, 1986

Yevgeny Velikhov  
Vice President, Soviet Academy of Sciences  
Leninsky Prospect 14  
Moscow, USSR

Dear Academician Velikhov:

For the past two years, members of the Medical faculties of Harvard University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of California/San Francisco have been developing a plan for an exchange of students with Soviet medical schools. The purpose of the proposed exchange is twofold: (1) to improve knowledge in both countries through scholarly exchange; and (2) to increase mutual understanding between our people.

This plan is well supported by the three outstanding American universities, as well as by Dr. Lown of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. It has also been discussed with several leading Soviet physicians, including Dr. S. P. Burenkov, Head of the Soviet Ministry of Public Health. There have been general expressions of support from Dr. Burenkov and other Soviet physicians.

Under the sponsorship of the three U. S. medical schools, approximately six advanced American medical students would study medicine in the Soviet Union for a period of two months or more. These students, trained in medical Russian language, would be placed in settings unique to the Soviet Union. Two types of settings are suggested: (1) Special types of health care delivery organizations such as (a) the Moscow emergency ambulance service, (b) an environmental health organization, or (c) a large poly-clinic; and (2) Projects at major research institutes, such as those for cardiovascular and cancer research. A third possibility is to have students work on ongoing or future projects involving cooperation between senior U. S. and Soviet physicians.

In return, a similar number of advanced Soviet students or postgraduate physicians would participate in American medical settings offering techniques and technologies of interest to the Soviet Union -- for example, new computer-assisted diagnostic technologies or special surgical techniques -- under the supervision of American medical faculty.

Office of the Dean  
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2119 Abington Road  
Area Code: 216 Telephone 368-2820

Yevgeny Velikhov  
Vice President, Soviet Academy of Sciences  
October 6, 1986  
Page 2

The costs of training, housing, internal transportation, and living expenses of all students would be borne by appropriate agencies in the host country. Students would be selected by medical faculty in their home country, and their academic backgrounds would then be subject to review and approval by the host institutions in the other country.

We request your cooperation in securing the approval of the appropriate Soviet authorities, so that planning for this exchange program can proceed. Please reply to Dr. Alexander Leaf designating the Soviet official with whom we can discuss the details of a mutually acceptable agreement. Dr. Leaf's address is:

Dr. Alexander Leaf  
Chairman, Department of Preventive Medicine  
and Clinical Epidemiology  
Harvard University School of Medicine  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Fruit Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02113, USA

Sincerely yours,



Richard E. Behrman, M.D.  
Dean