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# INFORMATION

From The UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA-ANCHORAGE

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November 18, 1986

Announcement was made today of the history-making proposed medical exchange agreement between the University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA) and the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR (SBAMS). It is the first of its kind between medical research institutions in Siberia and any institution or country outside of the Soviet Bloc countries. This agreement is one of two in medicine that was approved by the President's Office on U.S.-Soviet Exchanges as a result of the Reagan-Gorbachev Summit Meetings in Geneva earlier this year.

Dr. Ted Mala, Associate Professor of Health Sciences and Coordinator for the agreement, returned this month from working six weeks in Siberia, visiting and photographing the major medical research institutes there as part of a U.S.-USSR Health Scientist Exchange Program Award under the U.S. Public Health Service.

The five-year agreement signed between UAA and the SBAMS includes initially six areas of involvement; 1) Physiological Aspects of Adaptation to the North; 2) Nutrition and Human Health in the North; 3) Effects of Chronic Stress in Natives and Newcomers to Northern Regions, Utilizing Laboratory Conditions; 4) Mechanisms of Adaptive Reactions of the Immune System in Northern Conditions and Specific Features of Immune Deficiency and the Development of Autoimmune Diseases; 5) Biochemical and Genetic Peculiarities of the Effects of Alcohol on the Metabolic Processes in both Alaskan and Siberian Populations; and 6) Medical Training for Natives and Specialists Working in the North.

The agreement will be reviewed and approved in April 1987, when the U.S.-Soviet Joint Commission on Health meets in Washington, D.C. In the interim, Dr. Mala is currently lecturing at various institutions in the U.S. and Canada on opportunities for involvement in this project as well as explaining the Siberian interests in developing joint research projects with the West. He can be reached at (907) 786-4746 for further information.

President's United States - Soviet  
Exchange Initiative



Office of the Coordinator

September 26, 1986

Dear Dr. Mala:

On behalf of the President's U.S.-Soviet Exchange Initiative, I would like to thank you and the University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA), for your participation in the meetings held here in Washington, D.C. with Mr. Ivan Nikitin of the Ministry of Health.

I am pleased that a successful agreement was reached between the UAA and the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Siberia Branch, for a joint health agreement. Your agreement represents the first time that the United States and the Soviet Union will study health problems of the polar region. Hopefully, your program will contribute creative approaches to the health problems the two countries share in common.

Thank you for your efforts to increase contact between the people of the United States and the Soviet Union in the spirit of the President's U.S.-Soviet Exchange Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephen H. Rhinesmith".

Stephen H. Rhinesmith  
Coordinator

Dr. Theodore Mala  
University of Alaska  
3211 Providence Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508



СИБИРСКОЕ ОТДЕЛЕНИЕ  
АКАДЕМИИ МЕДИЦИНСКИХ НАУК СССР

630099, Новосибирск,  
ул. Советская, 18

SIBERIAN BRANCH  
OF THE USSR  
ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

18, SOWETSKAJA STREET,  
630099 Novosibirsk, USSR

### ПАМЯТНАЯ ЗАПИСКА

С 8 октября по 7 ноября 1986 года в Сибирском отделении АМН СССР был принят американский специалист профессор Теодор А. Мана. Цель его визита – обсудить перспективы научного сотрудничества по фундаментальным проблемам адаптации к Северу между Университетом Аляски (Анкоридж) и Сибирским отделением АМН СССР.

Обе стороны отметили, что сотрудничество между Университетом Аляски (Анкоридж) и Сибирским отделением АМН СССР представляет большой интерес для ученых обеих стран и направлено на укрепление дружбы и взаимопонимания между нашими народами.

В случае одобрения данного проекта совместной комиссией по советско-американскому сотрудничеству в рамках соглашения между Правительством СССР и Правительством США о сотрудничестве в области медицинской науки и здравоохранения от 23 мая 1972 года, стороны предлагают следующие темы для сотрудничества:

1. Изучить некоторые физиологические аспекты адаптации к условиям Севера в эксперименте.

Координаторы:

от СССР	Институт физиологии СО АМН СССР
от США	Университет Аляски, Анкоридж

2. Питание и здоровье человека на Севере.

Координаторы:

от СССР	Институт терапии СО АМН СССР
от США	Университет Аляски, Анкоридж

3. Изучить особенности хронического стресса у коренных и пришлых жителей северных регионов и в эксперименте.

Координаторы:

от СССР

Институт клинической и  
экспериментальной медицины  
СО АМН СССР

от США

Университет Аляски, Анкоридж

4. Изучить механизмы адаптивных реакций иммунной системы в условиях севера и особенности развития иммуно-дефицитных и аутоиммунных заболеваний.

Координаторы:

от СССР

Институт клинической  
иммунологии СО АМН СССР

от США

Университет Аляски, Анкоридж

5. Некоторые биохимические и генетические особенности влияния алкоголя на обменные процессы в эксперименте и у жителей Аляски и Сибири.

Координаторы:

от СССР

Институт терапии СО АМН СССР

от США

Университет Аляски, Анкоридж

6. Подготовка врачебных кадров из коренных народностей севера.

Координаторы:

от СССР

Медицинский институт, Хабаровск

от США

Университет Аляски, Анкоридж

Указанный выше перечень тем не исключает возможность его дальнейшего изменения и исправления.

По указанным выше проблемам предполагается:

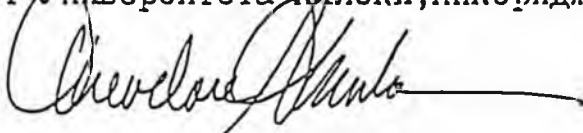
- а). Производить регулярно обмен научной информацией, для чего Университет Аляски, Анкоридж и Сибирское отделение АМН СССР выделяют место для хранения материалов и назначают ответственное лицо.
- б). Составить конкретный план исследований по каждой теме.
- в). Периодически ( не реже одного раза в год) проводить рабочие совещания, коллоквиумы, научные конференции, семинары с целью согласовывания программ и методик планируемых исследований, а также для обсуждения их результатов.

- г). Производить ежегодный обмен специалистами в объеме 100 человеко-дней на эквивалентной безвалютной основе.
- д). Для обсуждения конкретных планов работы с непосредственными исполнителями предусмотреть поездку представителей Сибирского отделения АМН СССР в Университет Аляски, Анкоридж в первом полугодии 1987 года ( 3 человека на 15 дней).

Памятная записка подписана в двух экземплярах на русском и английском языках, оба текста идентичны и имеют одинаковую силу.

Данная договоренность вступит в силу после заседания совместной комиссии по советско-американскому сотрудничеству в области медицинской науки и здравоохранения в 1987 году в случае одобрения ею данного проекта сотрудничества между Сибирским отделением АМН СССР и Университетом Аляски, Анкоридж.

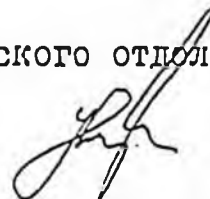
От Университета Аляски, Анкоридж:



профессор Теодор А. Мала

дата: *November 6, 1986*

От Сибирского отделения АМН СССР:



академик АМН СССР Ю.П. Никитин

дата: *04. 11. 86*



СИБИРСКОЕ ОТДЕЛЕНИЕ  
АКАДЕМИИ МЕДИЦИНСКИХ НАУК СССР

630099, Новосибирск,  
ул. Советская, 18

SIBERIAN BRANCH  
OF THE USSR  
ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

18. SOWETSKAJA STREET.  
630099 Novosibirsk, USSR

#### MEMORANDUM

The Siberian Branch of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR (Novosibirsk) received the american specialist, Associate Professor of Health Sciences, Theodore A. Mala from October 8, 1986 to November 7, 1986.

The purpose of his visit was to discuss the perspectives for scientific co-operation on the fundamental problems of adaptation to the North between the University of Alaska (Anchorage) and the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR (Novosibirsk).

Both sides have agreed that the cooperation between the University of Alaska (Anchorage) and the Siberian Branch of the Medical Academy of the USSR is of great interest for scientists of both countries and should be aimed to strengthening friendship and mutual understanding between soviet and american peoples.

In case if this Memorandum being approved by the joint US - Soviet commission within the framework of the agreement between the governments of the USSR and the USA on the cooperation in medical sciences and public health of May 23, 1972, both sides propose the following general themes for co-operation:

1. To study some physiological aspects of adaptation to the North in experiment.

Co-ordinators:

from the USSR

Institute of Physiology,  
Siberian Branch of the USSR  
Academy of Medical Sciences

from the USA

University of Alaska, Anchorage

2. Nutrition and human health in the North.

Co-ordinators:

from the USSR	Institute of Internal Medicine, Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences
from the USA	University of Alaska, Anchorage

3. To study the effects of chronic stress in Natives and newcomers to northern regions utilizing laboratory conditions.

Co-ordinators:

from the USSR	Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences
from the USA	University of Alaska, Anchorage

4. To study mechanisms of adaptive reactions of the immune system in northern conditions and specific features of the immune deficiency and autoimmune diseases development.

Co-ordinators:

from the USSR	Institute of Clinical Immunology, Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences
from the USA	University of Alaska, Anchorage

5. To examine experimentally the biochemical and genetic peculiarities of the effects of alcohol on metabolic processes in Alaskan and Siberian populations.

Co-ordinators:

from the USSR	Institute of Internal Medicine, Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences
from the USA	University of Alaska, Anchorage

6. Training and preparation of Natives and medical specialists for the North. (To be considered by the Ministry of Health of the USSR)

from the USSR

University of Alaska,  
Anchorage

from the USA University of Alaska,  
Anchorage.

The above mentioned list of themes does not excludes the possibility of its further changing and correcting.

It is proposed in the framework of the above mentioned problems:

- a). To exchange scientific materials on a regular basis.  
Both University of Alaska, Anchorage and Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences will designate a specific location for those materials and appoint a responsible member of the staff.
- b). To draw up a detailed plan of investigations on each theme.
- c). Periodically ( not less than once a year) to conduct working meetings, colloquia, scientific conferences, seminars with the purpose to co-ordinate programmes and methods of the planned investigations and to discuss the results of the work.
- d). Annually to exchange specialists in the form of scientific visits sponsored both by the University of Alaska, Anchorage and Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences ( 100 person/days).
- e). To discuss the concrete working plans with the direct performers to forsee the visit of siberian scientists to the University of Alaska during the first half-year of 1987 ( 3 persons for 15 days).

This Memorandum is signed in duplicate in Russian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. This agreement will come into force after its approval at the meeting of the joint US - Soviet commission on the co-operation in medical sciences and public health in 1987.

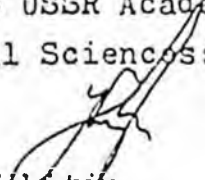
For the University of Alaska,  
Anchorage:



T.A. Mala, MD, Associate Professor  
of Health Sciences

Date: *November 6, 1986*

For the Siberian Branch  
of the USSR Academy of  
Medical Sciences:



Yu.P. Nikitin,  
Deputy Chairman, Member  
of the USSR AMS

Date: *04. 11. 86*

114-11

MOSCOW NEWS weekly No. 52, 1986

## Siberia-Alaska— a model of cooperation

Theodore A. MALA, Professor of University of Alaska, Secretary-General of the International Union of Circumpolar Health, is of the opinion that the USSR and the USA have many problems in common, and thinks that the fact that the two countries are not dealing with them jointly defies elementary logic.

He spent one and a half months visiting all of the research institutions of the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Novosibirsk and Khabarovsk in order to get acquainted with the R and D work done by local scientists involved in the research into problems of human adaptation in conditions of the North. This was the third time the US physician has visited our country. He says:

There are special conditions of the North that bring Alaska and Siberia together and really demand that we work together. Physically Alaska is closer to Siberia than to the rest of the USA. You can see the Soviet Union from our territory. We have much history together and we have many people who are directly related by blood to people in Chukotka.

"People of the North always had a special love for each other. But today people in Alaska have no idea of what people of Siberia are like, there are no contacts between us. So we physicians of Siberia and Alaska decided that we would try to rebuild the bridge over the Bering Strait, using medical science as the means to do it. Illnesses have no political boundaries, and so we physicians

have a unique opportunity to bring people together.

"I've been offered the remarkable opportunity to come to the USSR and outline prospects for joint research together with the physicians of Siberia."

It is planned to sign such an agreement, which is a result of the Geneva summit, next April at the session of the Soviet-US Intergovernmental Commission on Health Protection. If it is signed, then, beginning with 1987, the University of Alaska and the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences will conduct joint research and conferences on fundamental problems of human adaptation to the conditions of the North.

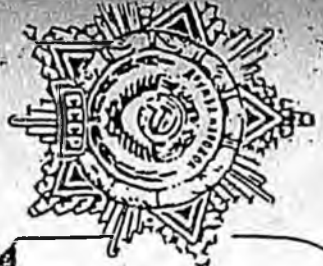
"The USSR is the leader, of course, in North medical studies," says Dr. Mala. "There are many things to learn from our Soviet colleagues."

"Both our countries need more areas where we can work together. And we, physicians of Alaska and Siberia, hope that we can be a model for cooperation between the USSR and the USA in other fields."

Recorded by  
Sergei YAKUSHIN

Novosibirsk

the newspaper of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and Novosti Press Agency First published October 5, 1930



# MOSCOW NEWS

No. 52 (3248), January 4-11, 1987  
Price 1 dollar

OFFICE OF THE  
CHANCELLOR  
JAN 5 1987

## U.S. and Soviet Plan Exchanges In Many Fields

### Students in High Schools Are to Change Places

By IRVIN MOLOTSKY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 5—The United States and the Soviet Union announced agreement today on 13 educational, scientific and cultural exchanges.

The accords were the latest to result from the meeting last November in Geneva between President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev. The accords bring cultural exchanges to a higher level than in late 1979, when President Carter cut them off to protest the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Previous exchanges this year saw the Kirov Ballet of Leningrad and French Impressionist paintings from Moscow and Leningrad come to the United States, while painting collections from Washington and Los Angeles were sent to the Soviet Union.

#### Announcement at U.S.I.A.

The latest agreements were announced at the United States Information Agency, with Ambassador Yuri V. Dubinin of the Soviet Union and American officials participating.

Negotiations are continuing, and future exchanges, according to officials, may include the Metropolitan Opera and the Bolshoi Opera.

One of the accords signed today provides for the first exchange of high school students, in which 10 students from the Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., are to change places next year with 10 Soviet youngsters from a special mathematics and physics school for gifted students in Novosibirsk.

In another program, American teachers of Russian and Soviet teachers of English will switch places for up to 10 months. The American participants are to be selected by the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

Another program calls for lecturers in history, economics and culture to exchange places. The American coordinating agency is the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars.

In medicine, the University of Alaska at Anchorage and the Soviet Ministry of Health will study the health problems of adaptation common to Alaska and Siberia, while the Neurological Institute of New York and the Columbia

Continued on Page 4 Column 1

## U.S. and Soviet Plan New Culture Exchanges

Continued From Page 1

Presbyterian Medical Center, and the Burdenko Institute of Neurosurgery in Moscow will also collaborate.

It is in cultural exchange, however, that ordinary people are likely to see most immediately the results of the summit agreement last November.

The Soviet Union has now agreed to send 62 Russian prerevolutionary paintings from the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow and the Russian Museum in Leningrad. They are to be shown at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution here, at the Smart Gallery of the University of Chicago, and at Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University.

The exhibition will include work by Nikolai Ge, Sergei Ivanov, Ivan Kravskoi, Vladimir Makovsky, Vasily Perov, Valentin Serov, Ilya Repin, Vasily Surikov, Ivan Shishkin and Vasily Vereshchagin.

Repin and Vereshchagin were among the most celebrated Russian historical painters; Serov was an outstanding portraitist, and Shishkin is noted for his almost photographic rendition of forests and trees.

Many of the Russian artists belonged to the Wanderers' school, so called for the traveling exhibitions of their works, which stressed themes of social consciousness. Perov is known for his "Village Procession," a depiction of drunken priests and peasants setting out to celebrate Easter; Ivanov concentrated on the squalor and misery of peasant life, and Makovsky focused on the tribulations of the urban poor and the mores of the upper classes.

In return, the United States will send 63 American paintings from the Smithsonian and other collections, to be ex-

hibited at the Hermitage in Leningrad and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow.

The American artists include Mary Cassatt, who spent most of her life in France; Frederick Church, Thomas Eakins, Childs Hassam, Winslow Homer, George Inness, William Sidney Mount and John Singer Sargent.

Vladimir Grenkov, the Soviet Culture Ministry's chief of foreign relations, who attended today's announcement, sounded hopeful when asked about the likelihood of a Met-Bolshoi opera company exchange. He said he met Monday with Jane Herman, director of presentations at the Met.

"Such an exchange is of great interest," Mr. Grenkov said, "but you understand there are 500 people involved. This requires financial efforts on both sides. I am sure we will be able to resolve this on our side. Whether Miss Herman can resolve this remains to be seen."

Miss Herman later said by telephone that she favored an exchange.

"The two great opera houses would love to find avenues of cooperation," she said. "It was nice to see that someone in the Soviet Government would make such a gesture."

Regarding the financing problem, she said, "Financially, we have not even considered the mode of operation and how much it might cost."

In Andover, Joseph C. Mesias, secretary of the Phillips Academy, said the students to be sent to the Soviet Union had not been selected, but were expected to be chosen from the school's Russian studies program.

"Russian language has been part of our curriculum since 1955," he said.

Other Soviet-American projects announced today were:

• The development of joint textbooks for the study of English and Russian as foreign languages.

• An exchange of delegations to examine computer applications to elementary and secondary education, an area that the Soviet Union is only now beginning to enter.

• The restoration of an exchange of six teachers in high schools and colleges, with the number increasing to 10 annually starting next year.

• An increase from 15 to 25 in an annual exchange of teachers for ad-

vanced language training. • The assignment of a Soviet specialist to the United States to advise on the teaching of Russian.

• Increased consultations in health care and medical science.

Some projects were expressed in general terms. Part of today's announcement was also concerned with goals instead of agreements, such as the Soviet Union's proposing an exchange of 50 athletic delegations in 1987 and 1988, compared with 21 in 1985 and 45 scheduled for this year.

UAA-Siberian medical exchange**Mala to discuss 6-week Soviet tour**

Dr. Theodore Mala, an associate professor in health science at the University of Alaska-Anchorage, will present a report to the community on the new UAA-Siberian Medical Exchange Program from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the UAA Arts Building, Room 150.

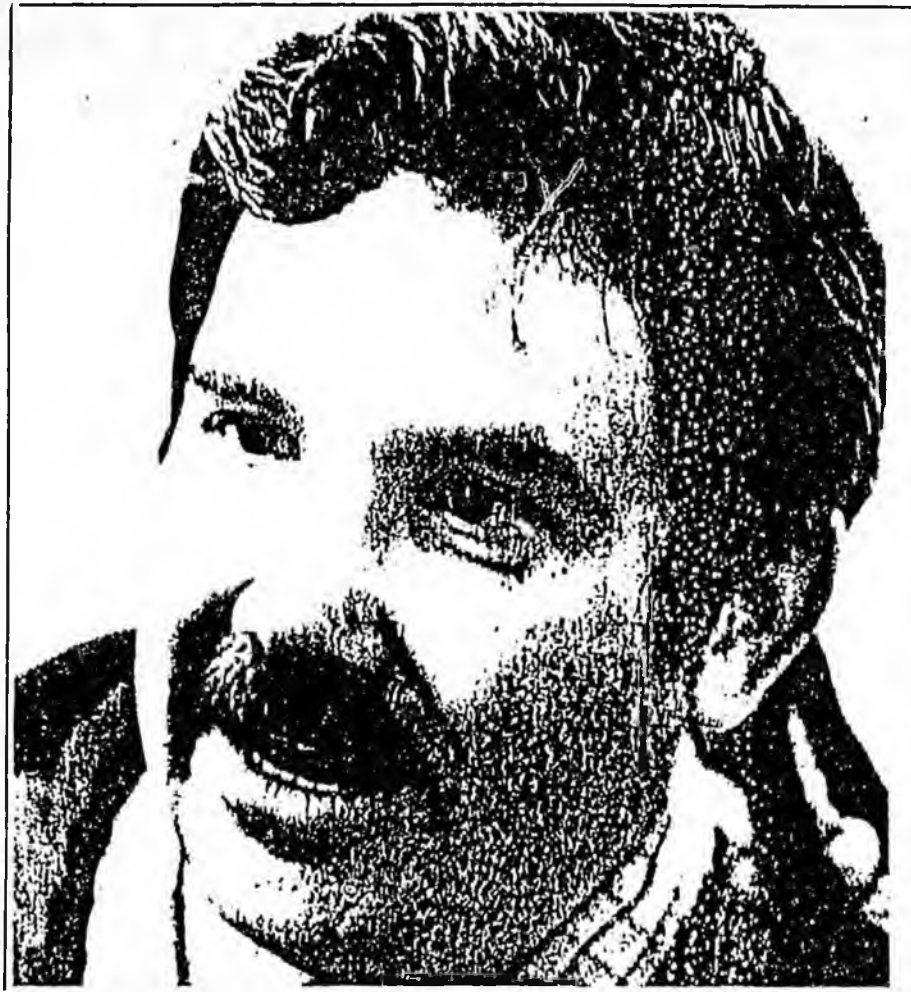
In November, Mala traveled to Siberia for a six-week tour of Soviet research institutes. As a result of U.S.-USSR agreements made at the Geneva Summit last fall and as a result of Mala's research into the medical concerns of the world's Arctic regions, Mala's Siberian trip helped to open an exchange program in the area of Soviet cold-weather medical research.

Mala said he hopes other Western scientists involved in Arctic research will participate in the five-year exchange agreement between UAA and the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences. The agreement calls for regular exchange of scientific papers, joint research projects and scientific meetings at least once a year.

The university community and the public are invited to attend Mala's slide presentation and lecture on Saturday and to become involved in the Alaska-Siberian exchange program.

Sign-up sheets for those wishing to become involved in the project are available. Those who want more information may call Mala at 786-4746.

The collaborative research agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States will be devoted to specific problems of the far North, with the researchers studying four groups of people: the Native popula-



tion, long-term settlers, new settlers and transients on short-term contracts for oil and gas projects or maintenance work on the second tri-Siberian railway.

Mala's father was Eskimo and his mother was Russian. He has tried for the past five years to get Alaska and Siberia to cooperate.

"Alaska and Siberia are very close to each other, separated by only two miles across the Bering Strait, and we

are 1,000 miles away from Seattle, the closest American city," he said. "Furthermore, Alaska used to belong to Russia."

Mala said that the breakthrough for the project came after he wrote to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov. The Russians selected the project for inclusion in a large Soviet-American exchange program involving health, culture, higher education and sport.

**PCE to continue for residents**

by Pamela Cravez  
for the Tundra Times

Residential consumers will be the last to feel budget cuts to the Power Cost Equalization Program for the Bush, according to Susan White, special assistant to the director of the Alaska Power Authority, which administers the program.

"They're (legislators) not going to turn off the lights and let people freeze in the dark," White said after talking with members of the House Finance Committee recently.

White appeared before the committee to explain the Power Cost Equalization Program, which subsidizes the cost of electricity for the Bush.

She said legislators have a tough task this year in cutting the state's budget.

Gov. Steve Cowper submitted a budget figure for the power program that is nearly \$6 million less than last year's budget figure of \$17 million. It will be up to the Legislature to decide on the final amount.

White said legislators asked her to prepare information for them on the actual residential need in the Bush.

"I feel that they really want to take a fair look at PCE," she said after meeting with legislators. "They didn't tear into the program."

White said the governor is proposing a task force to assess the Bush energy needs.

## UAA prof wants to match Soviet work in far north

### Public health cooperation set, but Siberian research far ahead of ours

By RICHARD MAUER  
Daily News reporter

With the hard work of establishing U.S.-Soviet public health cooperation in the far north behind him, Ted Mala is finding that the really hard work is yet to come: organizing the projects, talent and money to match the ambitious research program long under way in Siberia.

Since the surprise announcement last summer that the University of Alaska-Anchorage and Columbia University in New York would be the only two American universities participating in joint medical research with Soviet institutions, Mala has dedicated his life to the success of the agreement.

On Saturday, Mala, an associate professor of health sciences at UAA, delivered a special lecture on campus on the unprecedented agreement, his recent visits to Siberia and Russia and what he hopes for the future. He also issued a call for volunteers to help in everything from typing and cookie baking to actual research.

Mala, who is also a physician, had spent four years getting nowhere in his attempt to establish some kind of cooperative relationship with public health experts in Siberia. Then came the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Geneva in 1986, an East-West thaw, and talk of scientific and cultural exchanges.

Mala's groundwork, including trips he had taken to Moscow and Leningrad at his own expense, paid off. The Russians put two joint medical programs on the agenda: one, dealing with neurosurgery, involved Columbia and an institute in Moscow. The other



Daily News photo by Lawrence

Dr. Ted Mala: Much work to do.

dealt with a range of public health issues to be coordinated through Mala's office at the University of Alaska and the Siberian branch of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences.

"The State Department and the President's office on governmental affairs were shocked that the Soviets put Alaska on the table," Mala said. "You'd expect San Francisco, or New York. But Alaska? That's the funny part. The problem now, or the goal, is

See Page B-3, NORTHERN

# NORTHERN HEALTH: Work with Soviets

Continued from Page B-1

to prove we can handle something like that, the challenge of major research."

Mala spent six weeks in the Soviet Union last year. He came away sobered by the size of his task. By comparison with the billions of rubles in cold climate research poured into Siberia since World War II, Alaska is an intellectual backwater. The U.S. government's main arctic research center, a naval facility in Barrow, was closed some years ago.

"When I first started out, I was looking for some mechanism to work with the Soviet people on medical research. It turned out to be not a very simple agreement," he said. "The Soviets are really specialists in the North, with thousands and thousands of scientists, when we have only a handful of non-coordinated projects. The fact is, there is not that much hard research being done in Alaska."

Some 35 million to 40 million people live in Siberia, compared to a half million in Alaska. The Siberian capital, Novosibirsk, on the edge of the West Siberian Lowland at the latitude of Ketchikan, is a major industrial city of 1½ million, compared to some

225,000 in Anchorage. Its 20-year-old physiology institute alone could contain a large portion of the UAA campus.

And until the doors opened last year, Siberian medical research had been off-limits to westerners, Mala said.

"The United States has ignored the North, because only a little part of the U.S. is in the North. All the Soviet Union is in the North, all of Canada is in the North. How are we going to understand the Soviet Union if we don't understand the North?"

For starters, Mala and his American and Soviet colleagues have targeted six areas for research:

- Physiological adaptation to the North. Scientists wish to learn what happens to the human body when people from southern climates move north. Why do some people lose their ability to resist illnesses, while others thrive? Will scientists in Alaska confirm Soviet research that it takes an average of seven years to fully adapt, and will our findings duplicate Siberian studies that show newly arrived women suffered high rates of complications during pregnancy? And what are the human effects of the aurora borealis and the electro-magnetic storms that play out

overhead? Mala said the Siberians have found that on certain days, accidents rates soar in their region, and he wants to compare statistics for Anchorage to see if the dates coincide.

- Nutrition and human health. How does diet effect life in the North, and how should food intake be changed to improve the health of the newly arrived? And what is happening to Natives as their diet is westernized? Can anything be learned about the link of diet to cancer?

- Effects of chronic stress. How do newcomers and Natives cope with chronic stress, cabin fever, and the changing cultural fabric of the North? Can some of these conditions be tested in laboratory animals?

- Immunology and autoimmune diseases, like arthritis and rheumatism. How does the body's immune system change with adaption to a cold climate?

- Genetics and alcoholism. Is there genetic reason for the prevalence of alcoholism? Scientists are fascinated by the discovery that some people of Asian origin, presumably including Eskimos and Indians, lack an enzyme that is be-

lieved to metabolize alcohol

- Northern medical training. How can physicians and other medical specialists encouraged to reside for long periods of time in rural areas of the North? How can more Natives be educated in health specialties, and will they return to their villages when they are?

To set up these joint research programs, Mala said, he plans to reject advice that only Alaskans be invited to participate.

"We're going to have to talk about how to attract big names in research up here," he said. The millions of dollars he expects the National Institutes of Health to invest in studies through the joint research program will require participation by major American universities, he said.

"We've got to get rid of the idea that we don't care how they do it Outside," he said. While there are many Alaskans conducting original research, many are not involved in what will become national priorities. "And we don't have all the genetic specialists we need."

The result, however, could be the creation of a much stronger scientific base in Alaska, he said.

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date referred: 5/13/87

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 5-16-87

The State Affairs Committee has considered SJR 26  
Relating to Siberian medical research.

**RECOMMENDS:**

- replace with \_\_\_\_\_  the same title
- attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**ADOPTS:**  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

**ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

- fiscal impact  same as previous fiscal note published \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note  same as previous zero fiscal note published 3-31-87
- zero with analysis

**SIGNING TO PASS:**

*Ed. C. Bond*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Carl M. ...*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Jim ...*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*David ...*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Terry ...*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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*[Signature]*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman's signature

# Soviet medical exchange...

Continued from preceding page about the project and solicit assistance and funding from individuals, institutions, and foundations.

DR. MALA'S medical exchange project is one of a few private medical research projects that will be on the discussion table during the meeting of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Health Committee, said Jack Schmidt, PhD, acting director of the John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences, part of the National Institutes of Health.

At least three other private medical research projects — involving the Neurological Institute of New York at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, the Henry Winston Foundation of New York and the Burdenko Neurosurgical Institute in Moscow; the U. of Alabama at Birmingham and the Institute of Pharmacology in Moscow; and Baylor U. and the Institute of Rheumatology in Moscow — will be considered, Dr. Schmidt said.

WHEN THE Joint Health Committee meets on April 13-18, a list of "broad biomedical" programs will be discussed, including research in cardiovascular diseases, biomedical communications, cancer, infectious diseases, arthritis, and environmental health. In an official governmental exchange program, Dr. Schmidt added.

"New areas also will be discussed, such as primatology for biomedical research, sports medicine, and eye diseases," he said.

The reinvigoration of the joint health committee meetings is a result of President Reagan's and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev's Geneva summit meeting in November, 1985, at which the two superpower leaders agreed to embark once again on new cultural and medical exchange programs.

In preparation for the April meeting, delegations of U.S. health officials have visited Moscow, and Soviet health officials have visited Washington, D.C., for preliminary talks.

Formal government approval by the United States for all projects, including private ones, is necessary to meet Soviet requirements, Dr. Mala said.

"There is no private-sector counterpart in the Soviet Union," he said.

WHILE THESE high-level preparations are under way, Dr. Mala explained the origin of his ground-breaking agreement, which happened rather serendipitously.

On a 1982 trip to Leningrad, his mother's birthplace, he was able to tour an alcoholism treatment center and to meet with members of the Soviet Medical Workers Union, a group 8 million strong that works with the Soviet government to set health policy. Dr. Mala's affiliation with the American Public Health Assn., his work as secretary-general of the International Union for Circumpolar Health, which includes the Soviet, and his Russian heritage helped open some Soviet doors for him, he said.

"I share their heritage," Dr. Mala said. "Alaskans are very, very interested in Siberia, and have been for years. We are closer to Siberia than Seattle."

For example, Kotzebue, where Dr. Mala grew up, is situated above the Arctic Circle only three miles across the Bering Strait from Siberia.

FOLLOWING HIS initial visit, Dr. Mala was able to arrange further visits for himself and other Alaskan officials to Siberia, which is virtually closed to foreigners.

The Soviets acknowledged and acted on a letter from Dr. Mala to Gorbachev after the '85 summit, he said.

"I was the first Westerner allowed to visit Siberian medical facilities since the creation of the Iron Curtain," he said of his recent six-week sweep of Siberian medical facilities.

"Actually, American and other Western

medical communities stand to learn a lot from the Siberian research, since they use Western research standards and World Health Organization standards.

"The payoff [of the agreement] for the Soviets is that they have literally been cut off from the rest of the world, and this exposure will give them an opportunity to connect with colleagues and to have their work duplicated and verified for the credit that they deserve," Dr. Mala said.

Although Dr. Mala locally has received a tremendous amount of credit and attention for the program, he shyly accepts the limelight.

"I'm looking at this as a rebuilding of the Siberia-Alaska land bridge. Through health, a greater understanding into peace will hopefully follow," he said.

—Linda Bosy



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## In this issue:



- Soviet medical students
- MD pulls together Soviet medical exchange.—page 49
- Med student sets human-powered flight record.—page 3

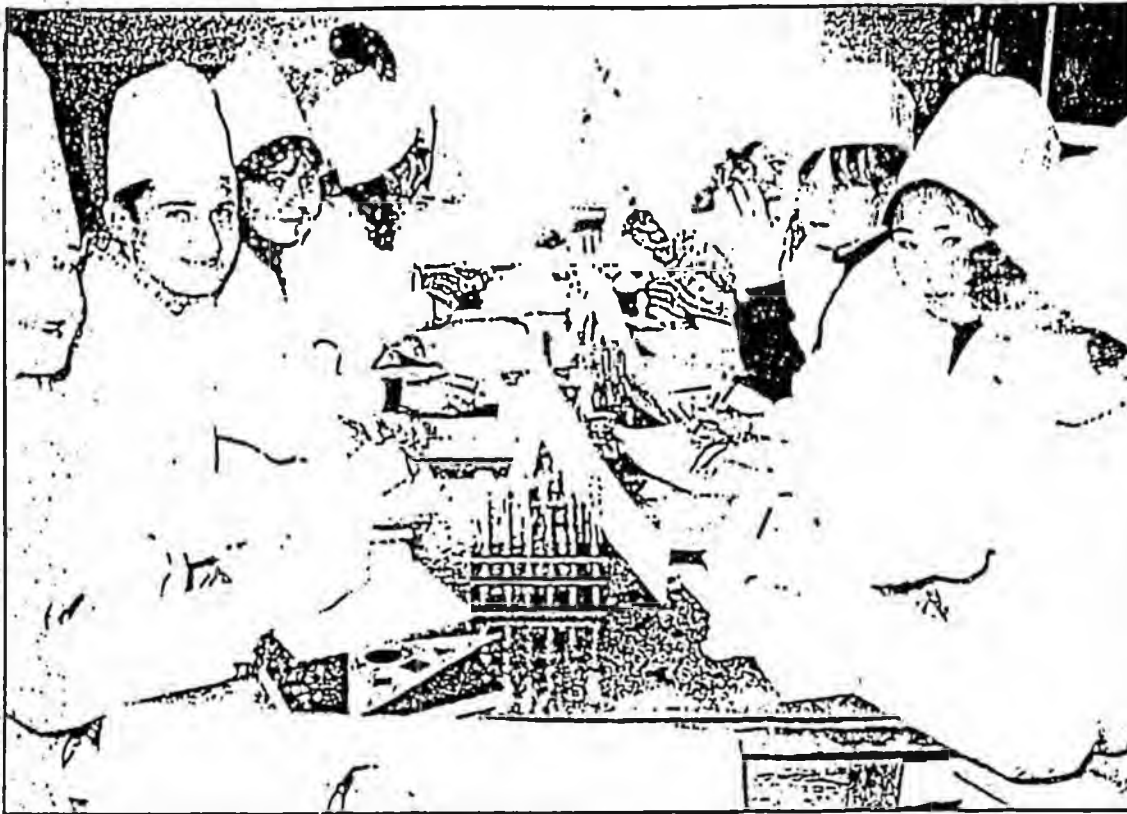
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Siberian medical students participate in a biochemistry lab experiment. Ted Mala, MD, U.S. coordinator of the Soviet medical exchange, says: "I'm looking at this as a rebuilding of the Siberia-Alaska land bridge. Through health, a greater understanding into peace will hopefully follow."

SUBMITTED BY SENATE FINANCE

## Plucky MD pulls together Soviet medical exchange

Ted Mala, MD, Alaskan public health physician, is not sitting around waiting for mid-April, when a delegation of Soviet dignitaries will meet with U.S. officials in Washington, D.C., to discuss and act on cultural and medical exchange programs.

The April meeting is significant for the two nations because President Carter in 1978 severed such exchanges with the Soviets to protest their human rights policies. But it means much more than history to the 40-year-old Alaskan native. It means his U.S.-Siberian medical exchange project, a first for the two nations, will become a reality.

Dr. Mala, born to Eskimo and Russian parents, is already laying the foundation for the first medical exchange between Siberian and Alaskan and other U.S. health officials in the areas of:

- Psychological aspects of adaptation to the north.
- Nutrition and human health in the north.
- Effects of chronic stress in natives and newcomers to northern regions.
- Mechanisms of adaptive reactions of the immune system in northern conditions, and specific features of the immune deficiency and autoimmune diseases development.
- Biochemical and genetic peculiarities of the effects of alcohol in metabolic

### Dr. Mala recruits participants for exchange project

To carry out the intent and design of the five-year exchange agreement between the U. of Alaska and Soviet Academy of Sciences, Siberia Branch, lots of help—in a variety of areas—is needed, said Ted Mala, MD, coordinator of the privately funded project.

This month, Dr. Mala, associate professor of health sciences at the U. of Alaska at Anchorage, will leave his teaching duties to traverse Canada and the lower 48 states to find "signers-up."

"This project is so new that no formula on how to arrange it has been developed," Dr. Mala said. "First I need to identify qualified scientists in one of the six defined research areas in name section chairpersons to help coordinate the work."

THOSE AREAS are in physiological adaptation to the north, nutrition, chronic stress, immune system functions in northern climates, biochemical and genetic as-

pects to alcohol metabolism in natives, and training natives to provide health care. Studies will involve natives, long-time settlers, new settlers, and transient workers.

He is seeking institutional or individual help on various projects that will require either on-site work, or research to be conducted at universities across the country.

"We'll need people to put up the Siberians in their homes when they come to Anchorage, and we'll also need Americans with expertise in laboratory technology, or standardizing data, or even translating," said Dr. Mala, who spearheaded the historic agreement. "We'll even take people willing to bake chocolate chip cookies for us," he joked.

Already several Canadian universities, including the U. of Alberta at Edmonton, have expressed interest in the medical research project, as have the U. of Minnesota and Harvard U.

Since the private agreement means raising funds, Dr. Mala said he was looking for people to approach foundations for grant money as well.

"I'm providing a base for this project. I have no specific numbers of people or institutions in mind at this time. Eventually, I would like to form a national advisory board with top experts to help guide us in international relations with representatives from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Arctic Commission, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine."

FOR NOW, however, Dr. Mala is asking that interested people, or institutions, write to him describing their interest and background, and what phase of the program they would like to work on.

His address is U. of Alaska, 3211 Providence Drive, ADM 289, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508, (907) 786-4746.

processes in Alaskan and Siberian populations.

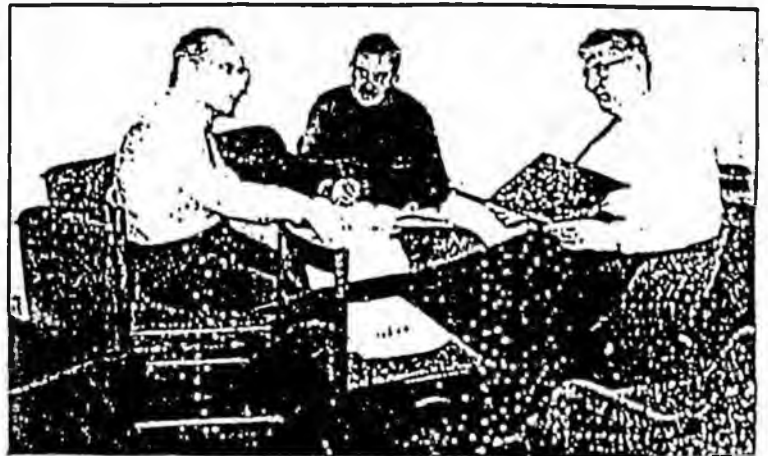
- Training and preparation of natives

and medical specialists for the north.

To prepare for the ambitious five-year, non-government-funded project, Dr.

Mala will travel extensively throughout Canada and the "Lower 48" to speak

Continued on next page



Ted Mala, MD (in gray coat), with the medical directors' staff (left) of Kharbarovsk Specialty Hospital in the U.S.S.R. In the photo above, Dr. Mala works out details of the exchange agreement with two Soviet medical officials.

**STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE**



REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Bill Version : SJR 26  
 Publish Date : 3/25/87-3-31

Revision Date: SJR 26  
 Title : Siberian Medical Research

Agency Affected: University of Alaska  
 BRU: none

Sponsor: S Finance  
 Requestor: S State Affairs

Components : \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0				

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND		0				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary) No fiscal impact

Prepared by: Brian Rogers, Director of Budget Development Phone: 474-6490  
 Division: University of Alaska Date: March 25, 1987

Approved by Director Brian Rogers Date: March 25, 1987  
 Agency: University of Alaska

- Distribution (by preparer):
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  - Senate Secretary