

RUSSIA

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The chiropractic delegation was happy to see first-hand that the medical doctors were genuinely interested and anxious to hear more about chiropractic. Some even inquired about their own health concerns and asked to be adjusted. "It was clear that the Russian healthcare system is predicated on the prevention of disease...the medical doctors in attendance both respect and appreciate the drugless approach that chiropractic has to offer and would like to be able to share that benefit with



Translators Elena Krutovskja (St. Petersburg) and Elena Bethel (Illinois) were busy throughout making sure the lines of communication were open between the US DCs and the Russian medical doctors and all material was correctly translated.

their patients," said Dr. Whynot.

One question posed several times during the symposium was, "We have manual therapists, so why would we need chiropractors?" The Russian term "manual therapists" is roughly equivalent to physical therapists in the states. Dr. Clifton Bethel said he eagerly answered their question by illustrating a standard ROM diagram and how manual therapists use the passive ROM of a joint up to the elastic barrier; however, chiropractic adjustments go briefly beyond that elastic barrier into the parapsychological space. Dr. Bethel remarked, "At this point you could see the 'light bulbs' going on in their heads.

"I thought to myself, 'this is how it should be!'...to have all aspects of healthcare working together, each offering their respective special skills for the patient, and easily allowing for the other disciplines to be equally involved, or to perform the skills of their profession if it was in the best interests of the patient," said Dr. Bethel.

The work to establish chiropractic in Russia is ongoing. At the request of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Health and Social Development, the US delegation is currently working to recruit doctors to work in the clinic at St. Elizabeth Hospital in St. Petersburg and use this as a nucleus around which a chiropractic school can be established. There is also more government approval processes to go through, but Dr. Bethel says they want to "strike while the iron



St. Elizabeth Hospital where the symposium was held.

is hot," as the doctors at St. Elizabeth are anxious for the program to start.

It is expected that the school will start off with English-speaking DCs from the U.S. and Canada with the hope that after the first few graduating classes Russian DCs will become part of the faculty. The courses and teaching methods would be on par with the philosophy, art and science of chiropractic that is provided by the chiropractic colleges in the United States.

"We need to find chiropractors here [US, Canada] who are willing to make a commitment to practicing in this clinic and teaching at this school. We need to start, and most importantly, to finish this great project," said Dr. Bethel.

For more information regarding how you can make a donation to the Russia Project or submit a resumé for positions within the clinic or chiropractic college,

contact Dr. Clifton Bethel at chiro973@sbcbglobal.net; Dr. Dwight Whynot at drdwrightwhynot@aol.com; or Dr. Sherry Durrett at drdurrett@msn.com or via toll free fax at 866-831-6755.

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