At Issue

The At Issue section of the Schizophrenia Bulletin contains viewpoints and arguments on controversial issues. Articles published in this section may not meet the strict editorial and scientific standards that are applied to major articles in the Bulletin. In addition, the viewpoints expressed in the following articles do not necessarily represent those of the staff or the Editorial Advisory Board of the Bulletin.—The Editors.

Abstract

On September 22, 1990, a Soviet Delegation arrived in Washington, DC, for a 2-week professional visit designed to provide the Delegation with an overview of U.S. mental health research, forensic practice, and service delivery systems. The agenda for the visit included both scientific presentations and site visits to a wide range of mental health and forensic programs in the Washington metropolitan area, as well as smaller group visits to programs in California, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Wisconsin.

On September 22, 1990, a Soviet Delegation composed of 18 psychiatrists, forensic experts and Foreign Ministry dignitaries, two interpreters, and one representative from the Novosti Press Agency, arrived in Washington, DC, for a 2-week professional visit (see listing of Delegation members and an abbreviated meeting agenda in Appendix A). This visit, sponsored by the Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of State, and organized and conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), was designed to provide the Delegation with a comprehensive overview of U.S. mental health research, forensic practice, and service delivery systems. This visit was a direct outgrowth of the largely positive Soviet response to the U.S. Delegation's visit and report of the visit to the Soviet Union in 1989 to assess recent changes in Soviet psychiatry—particularly those affecting human rights and the forensic psychiatry system. (The reader is referred to Schizophrenia Bulletin, Vol. 15, No. 4, 1989, that contains a complete report prepared by the U.S. Delegation and the Soviet psychiatric commentary.)

During the first week of the visit, the Delegation participated in both scientific seminars and site visits to a variety of mental health and forensic facilities in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Presentations were made on a wide range of non-Federal psychiatric programs, including county, State, and private facilities. In addition, they learned about the integral role of private associations and organizations in providing a comprehensive set of services to the mentally ill, including presentations by the American Psychiatric Association, the National Association of Protection and Advocacy Societies, and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). The Delegation also heard presentations on the research programs at NIMH including a visit to facilities of the Intramural Research Program.

During the second week, the Delegation divided into two groups, with one group participating in a visit to the Midwest (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Illinois; and Madison, Wisconsin), the other traveling to...
California (San Diego and Los Angeles). During these visits, the Delegation visited many mental health and forensic facilities and had the opportunity to engage directly with program staff to discuss issues regarding ongoing research, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and patient rights.

At the conclusion of week 2, a final wrap-up session was held in Rockville, Maryland, wherein each Soviet Delegation member briefly related his/her impressions of the visit. A recurrent theme throughout discussions during the visit was a new awareness on the part of our Soviet colleagues as to the important role of family and community organizations, such as NAMI, in supporting ongoing research as well as participating in the treatment and rehabilitation of patients. It was our impression that the Delegation was very positive regarding the overall visit; felt that the intense nature of the visit allowed them the opportunity to directly observe and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of a variety of mental health and forensic programs; was impressed with the volume and range of resources available to the mentally ill; had the opportunity to establish important contacts with their U.S. colleagues; and looked forward to future continuation and expansion of the scientific dialog.

The report that follows by Dr. Vladimir Yegorov, a member of the Soviet Delegation and Head of the Department of Psychiatry and Narcology, U.S.S.R. Ministry of Health, is a slightly condensed reprint of a series of three articles published in the Soviet medical newspaper Meditsinskaya Gazeta on February 15, 1991, March 15, 1991, and June 7, 1991. Although not a part of the final Soviet Delegation’s report on their visit to this country, we believe it provides some interesting observations and impressions of the Soviets’ visit and affords some insight into the potential restructuring of several aspects of Soviet psychiatry.

The Authors

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An Invitation to Readers

Providing a forum for a lively exchange of ideas ranks high among the Schizophrenia Bulletin’s objectives. In the section At Issue, readers are asked to comment on specific controversial subjects that merit wide discussion. But remarks need not be confined to the issues we have identified. At Issue is open to any schizophrenia-related topic that needs airing. It is a place for readers to discuss articles that appear in the Bulletin or elsewhere in the professional literature, to report informally on experiences in the clinic, laboratory, or community, and to share ideas—including those that might seem to be radical notions. We welcome all comments.—The Editors.

Send your remarks to:

At Issue
Research Publications and Operations Center
National Institute of Mental Health
Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Rm. 10C-16
Rockville, MD 20857
Appendix A: Members of the Soviet Delegation and Meeting Agenda

Soviet Delegation

Yuriy A. Reshetov, Ph.D. (Head of the Delegation)
Head, Administration for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S.S.R.
Moscow

Vladimir F. Yegorov, M.D.
Head, Department of Psychiatry and Narcology
Ministry of Health, U.S.S.R.
Moscow

Revaz V. Uturgaury
Second Secretary
Assistant to the Head of the Department for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.S.S.R.
Moscow

Modest M. Kabanov, M.D.
Director
Leningrad Research Psychoneurological Institute
Leningrad

Boris A. Lebedev, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Psychiatry
First Leningrad Medical Institute
Leningrad

Yuriy V. Popov, M.D.
Deputy Director
Leningrad Research Psychoneurological Institute
Leningrad

Yuriy A. Aleksandrovskiy, M.D.
Deputy Director
V.P. Serbskiy's Institute of General and Forensic Psychiatry
Head, Methodological Research Center of Borderline Psychiatry
Moscow

Gennadiy N. Milyekhin, M.D.
Head of the Department
V.P. Serbskiy's Institute of General and Forensic Psychiatry
Moscow

Aleksandr S. Tiganov, M.D.
Director
Clinical Psychiatric Research Institute of the All-Union Research Center for Mental Health
Moscow

Pyetr V. Morozov, M.D.
Head of the Department
All-Union Research Center for Mental Health
Moscow

Anatoliy B. Smulevich, M.D.
Head of the Department
Institute of Clinical Psychiatry
All-Union Research Center for Mental Health
Moscow

Svetlana V. Polubinskaya, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist
Institute of State and Law
Moscow

Vladimir A. Tikhonenko, M.D.
Moscow Chief Psychiatrist
Moscow

Yuriy B. Yudin, M.D.
Chief Psychiatrist
Ministry of Public Health of Ukraine
Kiev

Berkmurza I. Ismailov, M.D.
Minister of Health of Kirgizstan
Frunze

Lidiya S. Kunikovskaya, M.D.
Deputy Chief Physician
Republic Psychiatric Hospital
Kishinev

Valentinas A. Machyulis, M.D.
Chief Physician
Vilnius Psychiatric Hospital
Vilnius

Moldova

Lithuania
Meeting Agenda

U.S. and U.S.S.R. Scientific Seminars and Site Visits, September 24-October 5, 1990

Monday, September 24

Orientation and Introduction From NIMH
Darrel A. Regier, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Division of Clinical Research, NIMH

Non-Federal Psychiatric Programs
Dennis Jones, M.S.W., Commissioner of Mental Health, Texas (State Mental Health Programs)
Peter Holt, Director/Loren Mosher, M.D., Deputy Director, Department of Addiction, Victim and Mental Health Services, Montgomery County, Maryland (Community Mental Health Programs)
Melvin Sabshin, M.D., Medical Director, American Psychiatric Association (U.S. office practice psychiatry)
Steven Sharfstein, M.D., Medical Director, Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Hospital (private hospital psychiatry)
Loren H. Roth, M.D., M.P.H., Vice Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh (forensic psychiatric programs)
Curtis Decker, National Association of Protection & Advocacy Societies (patient protection and advocacy programs)
Laurie M. Flynn, Executive Director, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (family and patient advocacy groups)

Official Opening Ceremonies—
Lewis L. Judd, M.D., Chair

Introduction to the Public Health Service
James O. Mason, M.D., Dr.P.H., Assistant Secretary for Health

Welcome from the Department of State
Richard Schifter (or designee), Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs

Response from U.S.S.R.
Yuriy Reshetov, Ph.D., Head of the Administration for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Introduction to the Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration
Frederick K. Goodwin, M.D., Administrator

Introduction to the National Institute of Mental Health
Lewis L. Judd, M.D., Director

Response
Vladimir Yegorov, M.D., Head of the Department of Psychiatry and Narcology, Ministry of Health

Tuesday, September 25

Visit to Montgomery County Community Mental Health Program
Visit to Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland
Wednesday, September 26

Office of International Health, OASH
Peter Henry, Ph.D.
Office of International Programs, NIMH
Edward Kelty, Ph.D.

NIMH Extramural Research Programs
Division of Clinical Research
Darrel A. Regier, M.D., M.P.H., Director
Division of Applied and Services Research
Grayson S. Norquist, M.D., Deputy Director
Division of Basic Brain and Behavioral Sciences
Ronald I. Schoenfeld, Ph.D., Acting Deputy Director

Services, Information, and Special Programs at NIMH
Office of Scientific Information
Marsha Corbett, Director
Depression Awareness, Recognition and Treatment (D/ART) Program
Joyce Lazar, M.A., Chief, Prevention Research Branch, DCR
Office of AIDS Programs
Ellen Stover, Ph.D., Director
Office of Programs for the Homeless Mentally Ill
Fred C. Osher, M.D., Psychiatric Consultant

Introduction and Visit to the NIMH Intramural Research Programs—
Steven M. Paul, M.D., Director

Thursday, September 27

Visit to St. Elizabeths Hospital, Research and Forensic Facilities
Visit to Clifton T. Perkins Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland

Friday, September 28

Recent Developments on Diagnosis and Classification of Mental Disorders
DSM-IV—Allen J. Frances, M.D.
ICD-10—Darrel A. Regier, M.D., M.P.H.

Specific Disorders
Schizophrenia—Samuel J. Keith, M.D., Deputy Director, DCR, and Associate Director for Schizophrenia Programs, DCR
Mood Disorders—Hagop Akiskal, M.D., Mood, Anxiety and Personality Disorders Research Branch, DCR
Personality Disorders—Allen J. Frances, M.D., Cornell University Medical Center

Forensic Psychiatry Issues in the United States
Loren H. Roth, M.D., M.P.H., Chairman
Richard Bonnie, LL.B.
Jonas R. Rappeport, M.D.
Joel Klein, J.D.
Saleem Shah, Ph.D.
Ann Keary, J.D.
Harvey Kalin, M.D., J.D.
David Powell, Ph.D.

Team Site Visits—September 30 Through October 4

Team One—Pittsburgh/Illinois/Wisconsin
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:
University of Pittsburgh, Western Psychiatric Institute and VA
David Kupfer, M.D.
Forensic Services, University and State Hospital
Loren Roth, M.D.
Advocacy—Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI)

Chicago, Illinois:
Public—Illinois State Psychiatric Institute, John Davis, M.D.
Private—Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Harold Visotsky, M.D.

Madison, Wisconsin:
State/Community—Dane County Department of Mental Health, Leonard Stein, M.D.
Advocacy—Dane County AMI

Team Two—California
University of California, San Diego:
Federal—San Diego, VAMC, Igor Grant, M.D.
Private—University Hospital, UCSD
Advocacy—California AMI

University of California, Los Angeles
State—Camarillo State Hospital, Robert Liberman, M.D.
Local—California AMI Meeting, Donald Richardson

Friday, October 5

Soviet response and questions