

DEMMA Foundation



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Drenthe **E**xchange **M**ytischi **M**edical **A**gency

The Netherlands

www.demma.nl

since 1991



INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS of the CHAIRMAN

We proudly present the annual report 2016 of DEMMA, the foundation which for more than 25 years organises medical exchanges between Mytischy in Russia and the province of Drenthe. The past year was very special, because of the celebration of our 25th Anniversary in November. The activities for this event you can find in this report. 2016 was also the year of another successful exchange of medical specialists and our participation in regional projects such as ‘the Hospital of the Future’ initiated by the Province of Drenthe and valuable contacts with local industries which are active in the medical field. The past year has strengthened our conviction that in spite of political differences, there is a future for continuation of ‘people-to-people contacts’ with Russia, not only in the medical field but also in the cultural en management field. I hope you enjoy reading this report and we appreciate any feedback on it.



Jan Burggraaff, Chairman DEMMA

FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS as per 31-12-2016

J.M. Burggraaff MD, Jan Gynaecologist, Emmen – Chairman (1)
P.S.J.Z. Mulkens MD PhD, Paul retired ENT Specialist, Assen – interim Secretary (2)
R.J. Hissink MD, Rutger Vascular Surgeon, Emmen – Treasurer (3)
J.A. Kattenwinkel MD, Hans retired GP, Assen – dep. Secretary (4)
E.J. Lutgert LLM, Ernst business consultant, Assen – Representative CoR (5)
A. Schuiling-Morgatcheva, Alyona Teacher/musician – culture & communication officer (6)

Honorary members:

C.P. Tuinman MD, Kees retired Occupational Health Advisor, Voorschoten
G. de Groot, Guus correspondent interpreter, Assen



*from L-R standing: 3, 4, 5 ,
 from L-R sitting: 6 , 1, 2*

DEMMA–M (Mytischy) BOARD MEMBERS RU-side as per 31-12-2016

V. Mirzonov MD PhD, Vladislav Head of Health Care dept. of Mytischy Region -chairman
V. Yanin MD PhD, Valery Head of Mytischy Hospitals -secretary
N. Kaira MD PhD, Natalia Ophthalmologist Mytischy Hospital -deputy secretary
E. Sarancha MD, Elena ENT doctor Mytischy Hospital -member
A. Azarov MD , Alexei Cat Lab Vascular surgeon Mytischy Hospital – member
Prof. L. Saarkoppel MD PhD, Ludmilla chief doctor neurologist Erismani Institute Mytischy - member
A. Lebedev MD, Alexander Cardiologist Mytischy Hospital - member
K. Veresov MD, Konstantin, Anaesthesiologist Mytischy Hospital - member
A. Melentev MD, Andrey Cardiologist Erismani Institute Mytischy -memb

In memoriam: Dr. Ludmilla Sarancha, ENT surgeon .

12 мая 2016 года на 80 году ушла из жизни
САРАНЧА
Людмила Аркадьевна
 Людмила Аркадьевна проработала в больнице более 45 лет, полностью посвящая себя работе, создавая районную отоларингологическую службу.
 Труд Людмилы Аркадьевны был высоко оценен Правительством Российской Федерации – она была награждена орденом «Почета», являлась «Отличником здравоохранения», Заслуженным врачом Российской Федерации, ветераном труда.
 Превосходный специалист, замечательный человек, которого помнят и любят все, кто с ней общался, кто у нее лечился. Никогда не отказывала в консультации и помощи обратившимся к ней людям.
 Коллектив МГКБ глубоко скорбит по поводу кончины Людмилы Аркадьевны.
 Администрация и сотрудники выражают искренние соболезнования семье.
 Гражданская панихида состоится 16 мая 2016 года в 10.20 час. в ритуальном зале морга МГКБ.

On May 12th 2016 Ludmilla, a respected member of DEMMA-M and a pioneer in the cooperation embodied in DEMMA, unfortunately passed away, at the age of 80.

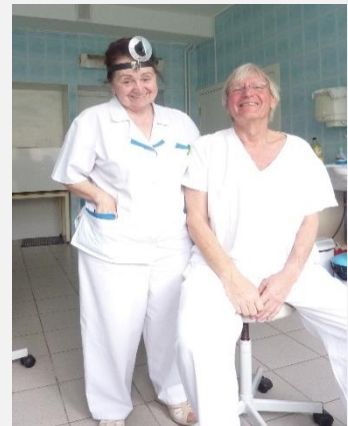
As she practiced for many years in the hospital she was a solid anchor for the ENT department of the Mytischy hospital. Her death was not only professionally a big loss, in the personal way as well because her daughter Elena, also an ENT surgeon, developed as a bright team mate in the same professional group. We will remember Ludmilla as a very cordial person who was infinitively eager to absorb new knowledge. We will



never forget how she, with great hospitality, organized a Russian Banja dinner in her datcha next to the lake. It was an honor having had the opportunity to collaborate with her and we will remember Ludmilla as a great colleague to work with. Especially in the time of the collaborative DEMMA Ear Ventilation Tubes project which took more than two years. We certainly will never forget her.

“Grommets are for ever.....!”

Paul Mulkens



COMMITTEE OF RECOMMENDATION (alphabetic order) as per 31-12-2016

Mr. Victor S. **Azarov**, mayor Mytishchy Region (RU)

Mr. Jelle **Brandt Corstius**, Dutch publisher and Russia correspondent

Mr. Cees **Bijl**, Counsellor in the Administration of the Province of Drenthe

Mrs. Renée **Jones - Bos**, His Majesty's Ambassador in Moscow

Mr. Karel **Loohuis**, Mayor of Hoogeveen

Mr. Marcel **Kuin**, CEO “Treant Zorggroep” hospitals (Emmen-Scheper, Hoogeveen-Bethesda and Stadskanaal-Refaja).

Mr. Ernst **Lutgert** LL.M., business developer and entrepreneur in S.E. Asia Pacific regions (**Drenthe**)

Mr. Marco **Out** Msc, mayor of Assen, capital city of Drenthe

Mr. Jan J.L **Pastoor**, Former Senator in the Residence the Hague and former Counsellor in the Province of Drenthe

Mr. Derk **Sauer**, CEO Independent Media - The Moscow Times

BRIEF OVERVIEW 2016

January 27-31	Working visit DEMMA delegation to Mytischy (RU)
February 10-12	Working Visit Tour (“Hospital of the Future”) to Rostock (D),
May 11	Attendance Provincial Symposium on Health Care Organization (NL)
June 23-24	Provincial network working visits to Groningen and Roden (NL)
November 1-12	DEMMA 25 Jubilee celebration program (NL/RU)



MEETINGS, PROGRAMMES and ACTIVITIES 2016

BOARD MEETINGS

The DEMMA board met nine times in 2016 on February 8th, March 28th, June 28th, August 4th and 29th, September 14th, October 24th, and December 14th. For the various visits and exchanges, dedicated Working Groups were established. These meetings were ad hoc and their respective minutes are not included in this report.

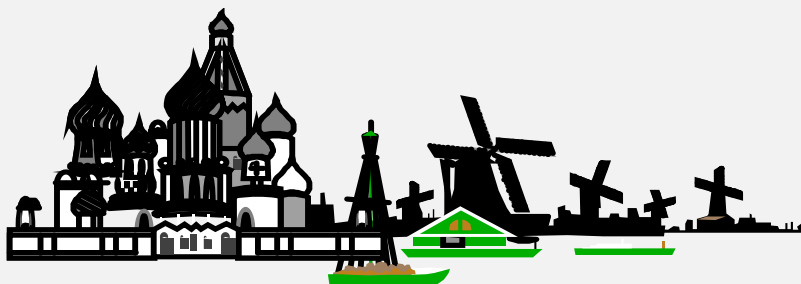
DEMMA meeting February 8. Some major portfolio changes.



Already in 2015 the transfers of the portfolios were outlined of president and treasurer. Jur Niewold preferred to step back completely after serving DEMMA for many, many years. Paul Mulkens offered to support the board as a founding member. However later on in the year, due to the sudden resignation of Edwin Poorts he took over as (ad interim) secretary.

Transfer of chairman. Paul Mulkens officially handed over the chairmanship of DEMMA to Jan Burggraaff. To mark this moment Paul Mulkens presented Jan Burggraaff with a brand new ceremonial chairmanship-hammer.

Transfer of treasurer. Jur Niewold resigned as treasurer from the 1st of January 2016. Jur Niewold was thanked by Paul Mulkens for his work for DEMMA. Rutger Hissink took over and was inaugurated as the new treasurer.



VISIT DEMMA DELEGATION to MYTISCHY, JANUARI 27-31

The program for this DEMMA delegation (members: Paul Mulkens and Ernst Lutgert)



working visit was shaped in an excellent way and was organized by the colleagues from Mytischy, especially by Dr. Valery Yanin. Scheduling all the elements and performing the logistics, everything was completed in a perfect way. This visit had the main objective to test and



prove the mutual motivation. In addition, fine tuning of all the options was necessary. Despite the cold political surroundings, it turned out the mutual understanding was warm and with vitality. On this solid basis of trust both foundations were able to raise nicely designed building plans and projects for 2016. In particular the first fine tuning was done in order to make an outline of the DEMMA-25



jubilee celebration, projected in the month of November. The main topic would be neonatology. So the intention was to host two neonatologists from Mytischy (paediatricians Dr. Victoria Pertseva and Dr. Galina Fokanova). They



were to be offered a professional program in intensive care neonatology. During the same period a general management program was organized for Prof. Dr. Ludmilla Saarkoppel, neurologist (from the Erismani Institute) and Dr. Valery Yanin, head of the Mytischy hospital, whom were invited to NL. Here they will present guest lectures for a Dutch audience. In return Mytischy Dr. Ben Knipscheer, urologist from Emmen was to be invited to set up a urological (prostate pathology) project in collaboration with Dr. Vladimir Chvorov, urologist. Also, amongst others an interesting visit was paid to the *poliklinika* no. 5. The in NL

unknown method of shows an medical care in (GP) and the level of care. seems a to explore profound study



poliklinika organization option to provide between the first second (hospital) This '1.5'-level worthy subject deeper for a reported by

DEMMA. For further details on this and more items covered in this visit one has to be referred to the working visit report, published in the website.

Working visit: Delegation of the Province of Drenthe, FEBRUARY 10-12

“Hospital of the Future”, Greifswald / Rostock (Germany)

Representatives of the province, municipalities, hospitals, CEO's of companies, builders and architects together formed a 30-headed delegation, who paid a three-day working visit to the province of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in north of Germany. In this delegation DEMMA was represented by DEMMA board member Rutger Hissink. The focus of the visit was ‘How do hospitals deal with the challenges of the demographic process in respect to organization and facilities’. We were shown around the brand-new University Medical Clinic in Greifswald and the Südstadtlinikum, Rostock and its modern Rehabilitation Centre. Besides many interesting presentations by our hosts, many connections and cross-bridging between the traveling partners were made. This in turn lead to many new and sound relationships with representatives of the province and companies in Drenthe. As you can read on further in this report, this in turn lead to more close collaboration in the province of Drenthe on several levels.



Collaboration with the Province of Drenthe, HANN and VDL-Wientjes Roden



As part of the preparation of the 25 anniversary jubilee celebration DEMMA had close contact with the administration of the Province of Drenthe. As a result the College of Deputies decided officially to explore whether the Province could possibly facilitate the DEMMA jubilee activities. Based on this, a very positive and intense contact has been established with the provincial department health care / foreign affairs concerned. Starting in the month of May, various meetings have taken place, in which we have deepened our contacts and agreed that we will jointly seek innovative issues that may be useful and desirable for both the province of Drenthe and DEMMA. These close contacts led to the invitation to attend the working conference "Zorglandschap Drenthe" on May 11th. in the House of Province. This gave DEMMA the opportunity to enter in a professional and administrative network. In addition, On 23 June DEMMA came into contact with Healthy





Ageing Network Northern Netherlands (HANNN), the portal for activities in the North of the Netherlands that contributes to healthy and active ageing. HANNN connects companies, knowledge institutions, care organisations and governments. From MedTech, Life Sciences, and Food, to Care & Cure, Healthy Lifestyle and Serious Gaming. Also DEMMA got in touch with VDL-Wientjes in Roden (June 24th). VDL Wientjes Roden develops products for the medical sector. During the November jubilee activities, the province of Drenthe made the visit of our Russian guests unforgettable by giving us the opportunity to bring a company visit to, among others, this VDL Wientjes company and HANNN (see below)



DEMMA-25 JUBILEE PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 1 – 12. WEEK 1

The special year 2016 meant a 25th anniversary, and in January, in consultation with the Mytisch partners (DEMMA-M), it was decided to celebrate this in November. It was determined that it would be a double exchange this month. So a simultaneous program in Drenthe and in Mytisch was organised. In Drenthe four guests were welcomed: the pediatricians (neonatologists) Victoria Pertseva and Sergei Shchepin (in place of Galina Fokanova, who was replaced at short notice due to personal circumstances), Ludmilla Saarkoppel Professor of Neurology at the Erismani Institute and Valery Yanin, the head of the Regional Mytisch Hospital. In Mytisch, the internationally renowned Emmen urologist Ben Knipscheer was invited to participate in a special prostate project hosted by urologist Vladimir Chvorov, head of urology laparoscopic project in Mytisch. The jubilee program in



Drenthe consisted of two main components. The first week, for all four guests, the center of gravity was the three-day Drenthe provincial program. A special evening was held on November 3rd with a presentation program titled "Meet the Russians. A dialogue in friendship ". After the leave of Yanin and Saarkoppel week two was reserved for the two remaining guests only, with a purely professional program covering the theme of "intensive care neonatology" in Zwolle and Groningen. This week was closed on November 11th with a festive Russian cultural afternoon followed by the traditional "farewell dinner".



The four Russian doctors during their visit paid to the University Medical Centre Groningen (UMCG). From left-right: Saarkoppel, Pertseva, Yanin and Shchepin

Provincial program: ‘Hospital of the Future’ study tour November 2 – 4.

In the context of the 25th anniversary of the DEMMA jubilee by the Province of Drenthe a three days “Hospital of the Future study tour” was organized.

On the first day we started with a visit to the **Health Hub Roden**. This is a learning



organization in the North of the Netherlands that brings together different parties, such as the knowledge institutes, businesses and government bodies, to cooperate, share knowledge, develop and seek innovative solutions in the area of medical technology and healthy ageing. Health Hub is open for a range of organizations and not limited by national borders, for parties that wish to work together on progress and embedding knowledge. Next the **VDL Wientjes Roden** company demonstrated its

expertise in developing, producing and assembling thermoplastics products for a wide range of markets, including the medical market and in close cooperation with its customers. The participants were given a presentation on neonatology products, such as a highly advanced

prototype of an incubator and the bambi belt system. Especially for the two Russian neonatologists this was a very interesting item. At last a visit was paid to **IMDS**, an interventional catheter manufacturer. This IMDS company is a certified key R&D and OEM supplier of several of the world's leading medical device companies.

On the second day the program took place in Tolbert with a visit to **STT**, a company which designs and develops smart technological solutions



designs, even tailor-made solutions.

On the third and last day of the study tour, the group of participants split up. The Russian



doctors visited the **Neonatology department** of at the **UMCG** (Prof. Dr. Arie Bos, left on picture).

The others paid a visit to **Lifelines-Lifestore** in Groningen. Lifelines is one of the most valuable multidimensional cohort studies and biobanks in the world and offers a unique data resource for scientific use to study a broad scope of (epi)genetic, biomedical, environmental and psychosocial factors in



to simplify and speed up business operations and production processes. STT is a specialist in the construction of machines for the production of medical devices, with a great deal of specialized expertise. Following the group was the guest at the place of **Score**, a leading manufacturer of industrial chairs for medical workplaces, such as monitor raisers and adjustable footrests and is constantly developing new improved

relation to healthy ageing. The study tour was completed by a visit to the University Medical Center of Groningen (UMCG) and a closing joint lunch at the Bastille restaurant in Groningen.

DEMMA is very much grateful to José Schuten and Jolanda Warners, employees of the Province of Drenthe, for the excellent way they organized this study tour.

Evening November 3, “*Meet the Russians. A dialogue in friendship*”. A public event with mixed Russian and Dutch presentations.

It was a wonderful combination of circumstances that the DEMMA 25th anniversary coincided with the month of November which in Assen was to be in the theme of Russia. To begin with, an exhibition of the famous group of Russian painters *Peredvizniki* was organized since September at the provincial Drents Museum. These painters who chose "normal life" as a model for their artistic productions were active in the late



nineteenth century. At the same time, the collective *MetaforumAssen*, an organization in which various groups who prefer to explore meaningful themes, where during the month of November the subject "Europe and Russia" was chosen as the main theme. One of the participants in *MetaforumAssen*, the *Stroomdallogie* as part of the Odd Fellows society in Assen, was willing to give the DEMMA guests a stage for their public presentation evening to be organized. The title selected for the evening was "*Meet the Russians. A dialogue in friendship*" of which the program is shown below. The Russian guests were in full agreement with this intention, and especially with the open public character of the evening. Even the mayor of Assen, Mr. Marco Out, also a member of the DEMMA Committee of Recommendation, was a guest. It became a fascinating evening as it happened in the Odd Fellow house in Assen. The audience that consisted of 60

people were respectful and friendly and the mood of the evening was one of tolerance. The Russian guests felt very welcome. However, it was agreed in advance that political subjects would not be discussed. This was deliberately done to prevent the Russians from having to



take political positions. The remarkable entourage of the Odd Fellowship room (*temple*) made the whole evening extra attractive. Nevertheless, the conversation remained a casual happening in which everyone was welcome to participate in. The presentations were experienced as pleasant. Not too long and well understandable. The English language gave no problems. That both the questions (Dutch) and the answers (Russian) could be perfectly translated by one of the speakers (Alyona Schuiling, DEMMA board member) facilitated an extra spontaneous dialogue. Notably many questions were of a technical nature.



Especially directed at the neonatologist Victoria Pertseva. People were particularly interested in the way in which newborns are treated in Russia. More attention was expected to be paid to questions of social or environmental nature. Afterwards, many of the attendees resided in the general meeting room, especially at the tables. This proved to be a very animated conclusion of the evening, perhaps given that all drinks were offered

by the DEMMA foundation seemed to promote it. The presence of the most accessible Mayor of Assen, Marco Out had a considerable added value, as evidenced by his sympathetic Facebook aftermath (see inset above) he made the same evening. In this he boasted with the statement: "Dr. Valery Yanin: The Greatest Ambassador of Assen in Moscow and Wide Environment". This could clearly be 'minder' (=less) as we like to say in Drenthe.



Program: Language: English

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 19:30 | Registration and reception with coffee and tea |
| 20:00 (NL) | Opening and welcome by Mr. Douwe Faber as the "Stroomdallogie" Assen host |
| 20:10 (NL) | Presentation DEMMA chairman Jan Burggraaff MD: "About 25 years DEMMA" |
| 20:25 (NL/RU) | Mss. Alyona Schuiling-Morgetcheva: presentation "Connecting factors between RU and NL" |
| 20:40 (RU) | Neonatologists Victoria Pertseva & Sergei Shchepin MD presentation: "Russian health care imbedded in daily life today" |
| 20:55 (RU) | Prof. Ludmilla Saarkoppel MD PhD presentation: "Ecological matters in Russia" |
| 21:10 (RU) | Valery Yanin MD PhD presentation: "What does DEMMA mean for Mytischki?" |
| 21:25 | Plenary discussion. Moderators: Paul Mulkens (DEMMA) and Henk Kaput (Stroomdallogie) |
| 21:45 | Informal get-together with drinks and snacks |
| 22:45 | Closure |

DEMMA-25 JUBILEE PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 1 – 12. WEEK 2 (NL)

Professional program neonatologists Emmen / Zwolle

Week two entirely was reserved for the two guests Pertseva and Shchepin with a purely professional program covering the issue of "intensive care neonatology". It was displayed mainly in Zwolle. During three days the Russian colleagues stayed in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) of the Isala Hospital under supervision of neonatologist Dr. Esther d'Haens. The aim of this visit was to learn and exchange views about new developments in the medical care of serious ill newborn babies and the medical organization around these extreme small sized patients. Thanks to the goodwill and enthusiasm of the Zwolle colleagues a lively and meaningful exchange could take place. Presentations were held and protocols exchanged. The other professional topics already has been mentioned in "week 1". To name it again: the NICU (UMCG) visit in Groningen, the Roden visit with explanation and demonstration about innovation products as incubatorparts and (bambi-belts) monitoring equipment. A highlight was a sprankling lecture by Dr. Victoria Pertseva dealing with the present situation and condition of paediatrics and neonatology in Russia. After the presentation a lively discussion was raised with the audience.



Neonatologists Dr. Shchepin and Dr. Pertseva showing their DEMMA certificates.

Friday November 11. A cultural Russian Matinée at the Drents Museum concluded by the official fare well dinner.



The announcement sounded as follows: "on occasion of the conclusion of the jubilee celebration of 25 years DEMMA and within the framework of the annual exchange program in Drenthe with Russian doctors as guests, a cultural event will be organised". This afternoon event was called *a Russian Cultural Matinée*. Invitations were sent to selected DEMMA



guests and people who are interested in the DEMMA activities. The location was the provincial Drents museum and the program started at 1 p.m.. Presented were music by two concert pianists, a lecture about the impact of the Russian Peredvizhniki painters by the conservator of the Drents Museum Annemiek Rens, a Russian High Tea party and afterwards individual free access to the Peredvizhniki exhibition ". After the closing of the museum this event was concluded by a traditional fare well dinner with a lot of speeches from both sides.

The program was as follows:

13.00 hrs registration and reception in the previous Statenzaal with coffee and tea.

13.30 hrs opening by the DEMMA chairman Dr. Jan Burggraaff.

13.40 hrs the first pianorecital by Alyona Schuiling-Morgatcheva, concert pianist.

14.05 hrs lecture about the museum exhibition „Peredvizhniki, Russisch realisme” by Annemiek Rens conservator van het Drents Museum.



14.35 hrs second pianorecital by Michail Markov, concertpianist.

15.00 hrs informal get together with our Russian guests during a Russian Tea Party.

16.00 uur individual visit to the exhibition Peredvizhniki, Russian paintings from the period 1870-1900.

Info: www.drentsmuseum.nl

17.00 hrs Closing museum program



19.00 hrs
restaurant
invited



Fare well dinner in
“de Corhoen” for
guests.

DEMMA-25 JUBILEE PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 1 – 12. WEEK 2 (RU)

Urological project in Mytishchi, 5 – 8 November.

Along the Dutch DEMMA-25 week 2 program this exchange project was arranged in Mytishchi. On November 5-8, 2016, a previously planned urological project took place in



Mytishchi within the bounds of DEMMA. Preceding to this project was the “Dwoyka” visit of the Russian urologist Vladimir Khvorov from Mytishchi Hospital to Emmen in 2015. He was very much impressed by the smart organization and high level of the urological service in Drenthe Province especially by the approach of radical treatment of localized prostate cancer. This was showed by three prostatectomies operations performed by the Dutch urologist Ben Knipscheer. With the objective to improve the technique of laparoscopic radical prostatectomy in Mytishchi,

Ben Knipscheer was invited to the Mytishchi hospital. It was decided by DEMMA to integrate this mini project in the 2016 jubilee program. Within 2 week days, 3 laparoscopic radical prostatectomies were done jointly by the two urologists. All urologists' team of Mytishchi hospital took a direct part in the preparation and conduct of every procedure. Particular attention was paid in upgrading the technique for the nerve-sparing to preserve the patient's sexual potency. Dozens of tips and tricks were taught in order to accelerate the operation time, to reduce blood loss and to improve overall results. Events in the operating room during one of the operations were filmed by the local TV company and this video generated a big positive public response. Additionally in a cultural “ladies” program colleague Ben Knipscheer and his wife Arita visited the main touristic sites of Moscow with Tatiana Chvorov as the guide. The snowy weather did not stop them from enjoying the beauties of the Russian capital. Long heart-to-heart evening talks over dinner enriched greatly the horizons of both families in their mutual perception of professional and domestic life in both countries.



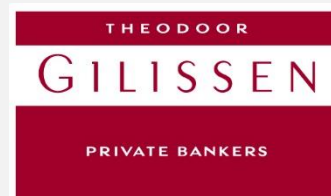
As reported by Mytishchi urologist Dr. Vladimir Chvorov. (at the action picture left side; Dutch urologist Knipscheer right side)

FUNDING MATTERS

The traditional main incoming fund still is the loyal support we receive from the Treant Zorggroep (hospital group Emmen, Hoogeveen and Stadskanaal) during the regular Dwoyka visits by providing the hotel accommodation and meals served to the guests at the hotel and hospital restaurants. The DEMMA foundation is very grateful for this support and it signifies the level of importance of these exchange visits to the hospital organisation.



In addition this year DEMMA received substantial support from the Province of Drenthe. Not only financially but also organizationally. In this way it opened a new dimension within the existing medical network structure of the Province of Drenthe. Also the foundation was honoured to receive a donation from the Theodoor Gilissen Private Bankers group in Groningen, providing DEMMA with some additional support.



DUTCH MEDICAL STUDENT POSTING

Unfortunately 2016 was not productive due to three reasons. DEMMA did not make any inquiry in this jubilee year among Groningen students. Also from DEMMA-M side the feeling exists the period of 8 weeks as required by the Groningen University might be too long in to be able to organize a valid program. However, during the working visit in January some expectations for support from the MONIKI hospital in Moscow were raised after meeting with the head of the hospital Prof. Dr.



Philip Paleev. So in the exploration of this project DEMMA will take this option into consideration.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial records have been audited by a DEMMA Committee, and proved to be in good order. For further details please refer to the DEMMA Treasurer.

References:

- ☐ Minutes DEMMA board meetings 2016
 - ☐ Working Visit report Mytischki January 27-31, 2016
 - ☐ DEMMA-25 report November 1-12, 2016
 - ☐ Financial report 2016
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LOCAL PRESS ABOUT DEMMA

Gezinsblad

November 23th, 2016

25 Years Anniversary DEMMA Foundation

This year the DEMMA Foundation (Drenthe Exchange Mytisch Medical Agency) celebrates her 25 years of exchange programs between Medical Professionals in the Province of Drenthe and Mytisch, a suburb of Moscow in the Russian Federation ,with 200.000 inhabitants.



ASSEN- We have started in 1991 via the Red Cross of the Province of Drenthe, explains Dr. Paul Mulken. The collapse of the Iron Curtain resulted in many uncertainties in Russia. In The Netherlands, a Solidarity TV Program “Help the Russians through their winter”, was supported and adopted by the Red Cross. In May 1991, a delegation of a variety of professionals from Drenthe left for Russia. Paul was the medical representative.

How could the support last over such a long period?

Until 1994 Health Managers from both ends had to find an appropriate and satisfactory mode of exchange. I vividly remember for instance the astonishment of our Russian colleagues watching an ATM in Assen producing money! In 1994 the exchanges became more structured, four Junior Doctors came over to Assen for two full months. One of them remained active in the organization of the Russian Branch of DEMMA and is now CEO of a group of hospitals in the area of Mytisch. Between 1991 and 1994 a number of large scale Exchange Programs and Symposia took place with the financial support of the pharmaceutical industry. Examples are symposia for Dutch Psychiatrists, Pediatricians, Pulmonary Specialists and General Practitioners. Long term programs on Healthy Life Style and the promotion of an ENT operation technique in children were made possible. After 2001- because of quickly drying financial recourses- a smaller scale approach was chosen on an annual basis. Two Doctors from Mytisch and reciprocal from Drenthe join an intensive working program in a host hospital. In between regular meetings on joint policies and procedures took and still take place.

Frequently asked questions are on the difference in levels of quality of Health Care between the two countries and: what are our learning points? Initially there was a large difference in level of care indeed, but we have seen the gap closing over the years. Interesting for us is their system of “Poliklinika”, dated from the Soviet Period. It provides high level of care (at the level between General Practitioner and Medical Specialist) Such centers have approx.70 doctors and 90 support staff, offering polyclinical and day care services. We would like to do more research on this system: an intensive inventory, interviews and reporting.

In the recent past we have highlighted DEMMA’s 25th anniversary with a two weeks’ program with four Russian guests. The emphasis was put in the first week during which a three-day working program offered by the Province of Drenthe and visits to Medical Technology Companies, UMCG teaching hospital and Lifelines in Groningen. A social and cultural element was put in a joint evening with Odd Fellows Stroomdal Loge Assen. A successful evening with presentations and open discussions and in a cultural afternoon in Drenthe Museum Assen.

DEMMA is run by volunteers. Six with different back grounds in the Administration: a General Practitioner, three medical specialists, and a teacher. The sixth officer is the permanent representative of the DEMMA Committee of Recommendation. Paul’s involvement was a coincidence. For the 1991 delegation to Russia a medical person was looked for, and he was chairing the Medical Specialists Organization in Drenthe. “So, I was approached and regarded it as a great opportunity to have a look in “someone else’s kitchen”. Colleagues who were for so long hidden behind that iron curtain. It is good to learn and live the experiences of others and enjoy the Russian Society”.

Text & photo: Cindy Houwen

Translation: Kees Tuinman MD