

The Netherlandswww.demma.nl

1991-2016

DEMMA-25 JUBILEE PROGRAM, 2016, 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



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

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

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 *Metaforum Assen*, 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 *Metaforum Assen*, the *Stroomdalloge* 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



<http://assen.oddfellows.nl>



www.metaforumassen.nl

Odd Fellowhuis Assen

Donderdag 3 november 2016 om 20.00 uur

“Meet the Russians. A dialogue in friendship”

Onder auspiciën van “MetaForum Assen” houdt de Odd Fellows *Stroomdalloge Assen* een bijeenkomst met onder meer Russische gast sprekers. Dit gebeurt in samenwerking met de stichting DEMMA, in het kader van “november de maand van Europa en Rusland”.

- Kosten: € 5,- (incl. koffie) per persoon
- Reservering via stroomdalloge@oddfellows.nl, wordt pas definitief na betaling op NL92ABN04093688667 t.n.v. Stroomdalloge no 80 o.v.s. “Meet the Russians” NB het aantal plaatsen is beperkt (www.oddfellows.nl)
- Locatie: het “Odd Fellowhuis”, Hendrik de Ruijterstraat 2, t.o. het NS station te Assen NB vanwege tunnelwerkzaamheden uitsluitend te bereiken via de Oranjestraat



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 "Stroomdalloger" 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 (Stroomdalloger)
- 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)

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 Mulkens. 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 policlinical 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

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