

**Cooperation Between North - Western State Medical University  
Named After I.I. Mechnikov and Koch-Mechnikov Forum (2003)  
2011 – 2021**

Presentation Given by Professor Helmut Hahn at the Occasion of the  
10 Year Founding Anniversary Oct.12th, 2021

Dear President Professor Khurtsilava

Dear Rector Professor Saiganov,

Dear Messrs Vice Rectors,

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

In the name of the German delegation consisting of Koch-Mechnikov Forum members: Profs Barbara Lachhein and Richter as well as Visiting Professor Marlies Hoeck, and myself, I thank the most respected Northwest Medical University Named after Mechnikov, foremost Rector Professor Khurtsilava, and President Professor Saiganov, as well as Vice Rector Professor Meltzer, Dean of the Faculty of Preventive Medicine, for having invited us to this gala affair

and for giving me the opportunity to summarize the results of our scientific and academic cooperation.

**Please accept our heartfelt congratulations!**

To speak at your university which bears the name of Mechnikov, gives me enormous pride since all along my scientific life, Mechnikov's visions, his ideas, and achievements have been guiding me and have made me to become a student of Mechnikov's in the true sense.

### **1. The beginnings of cooperation**

First contacts were established in 2003 between the undersigned and the president of the predecessor institution, the Mechnikov Medical Academy, when Saint Petersburg celebrated her 300 year jubilee, and a fair in Berlin was organized under the title „Russia open to the World“(Rossia otkritaya mirou). Shortly thereafter, cooperation started.

### **2. Koch-Mechnikov International Center of Research and Education in Public Health**

As cooperation was progressing, the so named **Koch-Mechnikov International Center of Research and Education in Public Health** within the Faculty of Preventive Medicine was initiated in 2012 by Professors Chashchin from your University, myself, and Professor Ulrichs, Vice-President of Koch-Mechnikov Forum and Head of Studies on International Disaster relief at the Akkon University for Human Sciences, Berlin to serve as a roof under which cooperation activities could be subsumed.

Under this roof, the following milestones have been reached:

### **3. Milestones**

#### **3.1. Teaching**

In teaching, a **master study track** inclusive curriculum „Public Health“ according to Bologna criteria was initiated in 2014. The teaching force is enhanced by contributions from German visiting professors.

Right now, we are attempting these master degrees to be recognized as double degrees.

### **3.2. Scientific Project „Work Place Health Promotion“**

This project is in the hands of Dean Professor Meltzer and Professor Barbara Lachhein. It aims at creating a close **network** of partners from industry and academy for the mutual transfer of knowledge. It will result in better work place conditions by systematic health management and will render participating firms better equipped to successfully compete for a qualified working force and thus gain a better market position. Siemens Gorelovo and Allianz Health Insurance Saint Petersburg, as well as Knauf OOO and Pröpster Blitzschutz (in Neumarkt/Oberpfalz, Germany) have been recruited into the network so far and very successfully cooperate with SZGMU.

A **textbook** has been written by Russian and German authors and has recently been published. It is expected to be licensed as official teaching tool at SZGMU - and beyond.

### **3.3 Seminars in Endocrinology/ Diabetology**

From 2011 onwards, Professor emeritus Hans-Jürgen Quabbe at Charité, Head of Section Endocrinology and Diabetology at Koch-Mechnikov Forum, and Professors Nataliya Vorokhobina Head of Institute of Endocrinology named after V.G. Baranov at SZGMU, and Dr. Nikita Ivanov, Chairman of the Association of Neuroimmunoendocrinology have been organizing a series of yearly German Russian conferences which became extremely successful.

In the pandemic of 2020 and 2021, online seminars were performed and were broadcast all over Russia and neighboring states.

In addition, 2 seminars were held in 2018 and in 2019 in **Kaliningrad**, also by the same organization committee as the SPB seminars.

Within this programme, several doctoral hospitations were mediated to Charité, and some case histories entered the German medical literature.

### **3.4 Project Environmental Microbiology**

In cooperation with the Veterinary Faculty of Free University of Berlin, the occurrence and distribution of pathogens and of heavy metals in migrant birds in the Far North was investigated.

The results of our cooperation have had an impact on the decisions at government level concerning international cooperation in health matters:

#### **4. Impact in the political sphere**

4.1 An agreement on cooperation in health matters between Russia and Germany was signed at 6th Petersburg Dialogue in Dresden Oct. 6, 2006, by Rector Shabrov of Mechnikov Academy and Professor Hahn in the presence of Russian President President Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. At this occasion, KMF was officially **mandated** to be „mediator between Russia and Germany in health matters“.

4.2 A bi-ministerial Russian-German **agreement** in health was ratified at 10th PD in Yekaterinburg in 2010. These achievements were directly based on the results of our cooperation and would not have been possible without that basis.

#### **5. Coda**

Tasks for the future include:

- Double master degree in Public Health
- Intensifying the mutual exchange of people, facts, and ideas
- Network of partners in work health promotion.

Let me finish with the Latin well-wishing expression: **Vivat, crescat, floreat !**

## Spasibo

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