

## From the President



*Dear colleagues!*

It is a great pleasure for me to report that the Russian American Medical Association is alive and well. As the matter of fact, it is getting stronger and our projects and members are more active than ever!

This year, our Association celebrated its 5th anniversary. The growth that we experienced over the last five years is tremendous. The members of RAMA now represent Russian-speaking medical community of most of the United States. They work and study in every medical specialty, and we are proud of immense accomplishments that our members achieved in their clinical and scientific careers!

Local chapters of our Association unite physicians in their states and communities. The Ohio chapter sets an example of successful local involvement with outstanding membership activity and amazing enthusiasm. Others, like Minnesota, Indiana and Massachusetts, continue to grow, while new ones, like Virginia-Maryland-DC, are ready to formally join the national society.

Over the last year, the Association concentrated its efforts in several important directions. First of all, we continue to be a voice of Russian medical community in America. Our members have provided consultations and other types of professional help to American medical organizations, hospitals and individual patients; they shared their knowledge and expertise with viewers of medical TV shows, listeners of local and international radio programs and readers of medical press. As the only nationwide organization of Russian physicians, we are now in process of formalization of our participation in the American Medical Association.

The collaboration projects are gaining major momentum - the Faces of Hope is laying a ground work in Ohio and nationally, RAMA Cancer Project is working on establishment of partnerships in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union, multiple member-driven education, exchange and collaboration projects are flourishing in many states.

Our professional and social partnership programs have reached a new height - the collaboration with our sister dental association RADA resulted in joining forces in many directions, including the annual conference, fundraising efforts, continuing education projects, and publication of this very journal. In addition to this, we have now a network of supporters and partners that help us in every possible way in the areas of outreach, public relations, and education.

Our website at [www.russiandoctors.org](http://www.russiandoctors.org) remains the public face of the Association. With many

thousands of hits and page visits every week, the website and its forum have become the source of all kinds of information and a unique opportunity to exchange views and help each other in multiple directions. The discussions, sometimes quite heated, reflect the needs and views of our members and supporters.

Finally, our 5th Annual Conference is going to become the largest gathering of the Russian American medical and dental professionals ever! The unprecedented interest among participants and sponsors is probably related to the growing recognition and prestige of our Association, our emphasis on scientific and clinical issues with resultant provision of CME credit for the meeting attendants, and ample room for social interactions in the beautiful setting of Chicago and its famous Illinois Medical District. The outstanding meeting agenda, diligently put together by the RAMA and RADA board members and the Scientific Program Chairman Dr. Yevgeniy Khavkin, will surely be remembered by the conference attendees, as expert faculty and invited guests, including representatives of the National Institutes of Health, the Russian office of the Voice of America, leading research and clinical institutions share their insight on complex medical and social issues. A special symposium will be dedicated to the topic of culturally-sensitive medicine led by Drs. Polukhin and Gordina, true pioneers in this important field. Continuing our tradition of international cooperation, we expect guests from Russia and Kazakhstan to share their views on our future collaboration. The proceeds from the Gala Dinner - another highlight of the conference - will go directly to support our charitable projects.

We are witnessing an exciting time of rapid growth of interest to the Association and its activities. Please join me in continuing efforts to fairly represent every side of life of the Russian medical professionals, keeping in mind our ever-lasting motto of the American organized medicine: We Are Stronger Together!

*Wishing you best of luck in all your endeavors,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Konstantin Slavin', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

**Konstantin Slavin, MD**

*President, Russian American Medical Association*