

# Soviets, Alaskans wind up medical visits

by Evelyne Tunley

Southcentral Foundation

The Soviet/American Medical Exchange Program has completed its second annual visit of exchange with Soviet and Alaska health professionals having an opportunity to see regional health first hand, according to Dr. Ted Mala, director of the University of Alaska's Institute for Circumpolar Health Studies.

The institute coordinated an Alaskan delegation visit to the Soviet Union, and a Soviet delegation visit to Alaska.

The Alaskan delegation was in the Soviet Union for a two-week overview of health services. They were there from July 20 through Aug. 3.

The 31-member crew made up of Alaskan health professionals focused on the need for related services to be provided in Alaska.

The crew included: Mala; Nancy Edtl, coordinator of ICHS; David Jones, dentist, Indian Health Service; Dennis Robbins, health consultant; Charles Hillinger, journalist; Brian Helmuth, computer technician, ICHS; Stephen Carr, corrections; Mark Johnson, Emergency Medical Services, state of Alaska; Robert Hall, director, Health and Human Services; Micheal Holloway, orthopedic surgeon, IHS; Roger Ranch, orthopedics, Bethel, IHS; Joseph Wilson, IHS; Carol Wilson, IHS; Robert Cangemi, dentist and director, Norton Sound IHS; Charles Craft, dental surgeon, Bethel, IHS; Brian Saylor, health planning, University of Alaska Anchorage; Wandal Winn, psychiatrist, IHS; William Richards, psychiatrist, IHS; Robert Morgan, psychologist, Southcentral Foundation; Marvin Grendahl, ophthalmology; Joseph Ryan, director, Bethel IHS; Robert Allen, dentist, Bethel IHS; Steven O'Connor, director, paramedics, Kenai; Marilyn "Erin" DeVine, registered nurse; Kathleen Starostka, social worker/administration; Doreen Kuodel, director, social service; Karen J. Scott, occupational

health; Julie Fuller, pharmacist; Linda Burgess, epidemiologist, state of Alaska; Royann Royer, assistant professor, dental hygiene, UAA; and Katherine Grosdidier, deputy director, Southcentral Foundation.

The Soviet delegation was recently in Alaska for a two-week review of Alaskan health services. They were here from Aug. 11-25. This group was made up of 14 Soviet health professionals.

They included: Alexander Leonidovich Belkin, chief doctor, Omsukchan Region; Zinaida Dmitrievna Beljaeva, chief doctor of Children's Hospital; Alexander Anatolyevich Goncharenko, deputy minister of Health Care Department; Valentina Vasiljevna Kapralova, chief doctor, Dental Clinic; Vitaly Petrovich Petrov, general director, Production Union, pharmacology; Vladimir Vichirovich Sergeev, head of Cardiology Department, Regional Hospital; Alexander Alexeevich Tambovtzev, chairman, Trade Union Medical Workers; Vera Michailovna Fiodorova, doctor-

tuberculosis, TB Hospitals, Pevek City; Yuri Chensonovich Hvan, chief doctor, Anadyr District; Svetlana Semenovna Kruchinina, deputy head, Department of Health Ministry of Russian Republic; Boris Ermacovich Riasantsev, correspondent, Soviet medical newspaper *Gazetta Medinsynskya*; and Valentin Alexandrovich Ladis, head of Health Care Service, Civil Aircraft Department.

The Soviet delegation attended an openhouse luncheon at Southcentral Foundation, an Alaska Native Health Agency in Anchorage Aug. 22.

Entertainment was provided by the Alaska Heritage Acapella Choir and the Greatland Traditional Dancers. Alaska Native issues such as mental health and youth alcohol counseling were discussed.

Rinna Merculieff, executive director, presented the Soviet delegation with health information packets which included cultural and medical material.

The Soviet delegation presented Merculieff with a certificate of appreciation written in both English and

Russian.

Special guests included Mala; John Monfor, president of Southcentral; Kathy Johnson, Southcentral board member; Larry Merculieff, commissioner of commerce; Adj. Gen. John Schaeffer, Alaska National Guard; Bud Mason, IHS; John Hess, Alaska Psychiatric Institute; Kathleen Croner, Charter North Hospital; Mike Granditi, Charter North; Wandal Winn, psychiatrist; Steve Burkshire, North Star Hospital; Dr. Dick Mandsager, Alaska Area Medical Center; Dr. Bill Richards, Alaska Area Native Medical Center; Sheila Clarson; Annie Bowen; Father Simeon Oskolkoff; Dr. Bill Castle, psychiatrist; Ann Walker, Alaska Native Health Board; and Karen Scott, registered nurse.

ICHS and the Alaska State Medical Association hosted a lecture discussion on "The state of public health in the Soviet Union," concluding the Soviet delegation tour of Alaska. Dr. Svetlana Kruchinina and Dr. Alexander Goncharenko were the Soviet speakers.