

U.S., USSR approve medical exchange

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop and Dr. Oleg Shchepin, deputy minister of health of the USSR, earlier this month announced approval for an unprecedented medical exchange program between the University of Alaska and the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

The UA-Siberia Medical Research Program is the first-ever private sector health agreement to be approved by the Soviet Union, according to Dr. Ted Mala, associate professor of Health Sciences at the University of Alaska-Anchorage and head of the Siberian Medical Exchange Program.

Mala, who serves as the secretary general of the International Union for Circumpolar Health, was in the nation's capital recently to finalize plans for the medical exchange between the University of Alaska and the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Medical Sciences in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

The cooperative agreement is a legacy of the November 1985 Reagan-Gorbachev Geneva Summit and was created under the auspices of the President's Office on U.S.-Soviet Initiatives in the United States Information Agency.

The one-year renewable accord will seek only non-military funding to carry out its various projects which include exchanges of scientists and medical information, joint research projects and joint conferences in Alaska and Siberia.

Reserachers will compare data on four main groups of Northern residents — Natives, long-time settlers, newcomers and transient workers.

Early next month, University of Alaska President Donald O'Dowd and Board of Regents Chairman Ann Parrish will travel with Mala to Novosibirsk to finalize the Universi-

ty of Alaska-Siberian Medical Research Program agreement.

Novosibirsk, a city of 1.1 million, is the seat of the Academic Centre of the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In early October three Siberian physicians will arrive in Alaska as the

first official delegation of the medical exchange program.

They will officially sign the historic medical agreement at a special event Oct. 10 in Anchorage. They also will hold seminars on Soviet methods of health care in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kotzebue and Barrow.