

# Welcome to Boston



## *Dear colleagues!*

It is a great pleasure for me to summarize the year that passed since our 5th National RAMA-RADA Conference in Chicago. This was exciting year for our Association and it appears that we are now witnessing - and actively participating in - a new era of our Association's history!

Our last conference was a complete success - we had a record attendance, an extensive scientific program, multiple educational sessions with CME credit, and plenty of social interaction. Along with members from all over the United States, we had guests representing Russia and Kazakhstan who shared their insights on avenues for future collaboration. We also had a speaker from the National Institutes of Health and a talk show host from Voice of America radio station in Washington.

Soon thereafter, we rolled out many projects that culminated in unprecedented medical mission to Kemerovo in July of 2008, led by the President of Ohio RAMA chapter, Dr. Yakov Elgudin. The extent of clinical work performed by this team is hard to cover in a short message. It would be enough to say, that all Russian mass media provided coverage for this extraordinary mission. Other contacts and collaboration projects were started in Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, just to name a few. The sister city program, for example, is one of the priority directions for our work in the future.

The Association is growing and so is our activity. Among the major accomplishments of the past year was a ground-breaking fundraising concert of virtuoso pianist Alexander Ghindin in Cleveland - perhaps becoming a first of many such events for RAMA in the future.

Our website ([www.russiandoctors.org](http://www.russiandoctors.org)) remains the most active segment of RAMA work - with thousands of visitors and hits every week, it is still the face of our Association and its soul. Drs. Shevchuk and Bahadyrov take most credit for the seamless work of our website and its widely popular forum. Another important development was the hiring of administrative assistant - Ms. Mandy Sutton is now in charge of many activities, such as membership information. I would like to welcome her on your behalf!

During the year, RAMA has become more and more recognized in both American and Russian circles - we were mentioned in numerous articles in magazines and newspapers that continuously emphasized our volunteer and non-profit nature.

Among many other issues that are worth mentioning are the rising activity of the local RAMA chapters; the plans on establishment of sister societies in nursing and science; and the 6th National Conference in Boston that is going to be the next step in our development as we expect to see multiple partners from Russia and other former Soviet republics. (The efforts of Drs. Khavkin, Maysky, Vinogradsky and Sumareva in putting this conference together are hard to overestimate!)

I look forward to see you all in Boston - and would want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this unique opportunity to serve you for the last few years!

*With best personal regards,*

**Konstantin Slavin, MD**  
RAMA President  
Chicago, Ill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Konstantin Slavin', written in a cursive style.