ISAPSNEWS

Official Newsletter of the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS FOR ISAPS EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

FIRST TIME COURSES/SYMPOSIA COMING SOON
TO THESE CITIES





Enrico Robotti, MD - Italy

ISAPS VISITING PROFESSOR PROGRAM RUSSIA

When Dr. Kirill Pshenisnov, ISAPS National Secretary for Russia, invited me for an ISAPS Visiting Professor Program (VPP) on the topic of difficult rhinoplasty in Moscow last September, I accepted without hesitation. My current life is overfull with work and meetings, but I had such good memories of my first ISAPS VPP with Dr. Lokesh Kumar in Delhi in 2015 that I simply could not miss repeating such a rewarding experience. I also have to say, without fearing to pay undue homage, that Kirill is an excellent plastic surgeon with a complete reconstructive background, as well as a prolific writer of papers with impressive qualifications. He is well known in our rhinoplasty meetings for his imposing stature, which well comes together with his scientific sharpness!

I arrived in Moscow on a smooth Aeroflot flight from Milan late at night on Jan 19th. Passing through customs with my visa was quick and easy, and I was transferred readily to my hotel, a cozy and perfectly run establishment in the center of Moscow, with few rooms and a lot of charm to it.

The following day, Kirill accompanied me to the European Medical Center (EMC), where a full day of lectures was planned, involving me as a guest, as well as local rhinoplasty experts. The EMC is a private multidisciplinary clinic in Moscow, one of the leading private hospitals in the city. It provides many specialties of outpatient and inpatient care, according to high international standards and involving an international, English-speaking team of doctors. I was very impressed at the state-of-the art medical

equipment, perfectly run facility and cutting-edge medical technology. This is where Kirill also sees his patients, as well as doing many of the operations he performs.



There were around fifty people in the lecture room and the day was a busy one for me, with quite a few talks and videos on the topic of complex rhinoplasty such as revision rhinoplasties as well as crooked noses and truly reconstructive cases. This is indeed one of my favorite interests today, especially regarding

the use of rib. Kirill and other local colleagues (from Plastics and ENT) presented talks as well. An efficient bilingual translation was available. I was positively surprised at the interest and attentiveness of the audience. Practically nobody left the room and questions were appropriate and bountiful. You can quickly see at meetings when an audience is genuinely interested or not, and there was no doubt this one was.



During the lunch break, I was driven to the nearby facility (still part of the same EMC) where surgery would take place the following day to see the two patients on whom I would operate together with Kirill. Both cases were interesting and challenging, the first one being a complex post-traumatic saddle nose in a former boxer, and the second a complex secondary in a young girl.

When lectures ended around 6:30 PM, the time came for a riverboat cruise. Together with Kirill and five lecturers, we were driven to the Moscow River Embarcadero close to the magnificent Radisson hotel. We had time to visit the famous Hotel Hall and the incredible miniature Moscow diorama display model, created by 300 workers (!) for the 60th anniversary of the Bolshevik revolution before we boarded our boat. This 2½ hour long night cruise included a superb dinner and gave me a wonderful

unobstructed view of many of Moscow's sites from our privileged closed deck.



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VPP - Robotti continued

The following day was devoted to surgery, and everything went very smoothly. The operating facilities were superb and the personnel excellent, including OR nurses, anesthesia and my assistant. It is not always easy to operate abroad without the usual setting and the usual people to help, but I felt at ease after the first ten minutes. Connection to the lecture hall worked very well with bright and challenging moderation and a lot of questions. My case took about six hours. I guess it I would have taken five hours at home, but there was more teaching and discussion involved and I had to use rib for reconstruction. In the meanwhile, Kirill had made good progress on the second case (also taking rib) in the neighboring room, and I joined him, after finishing mine, so as to end together. We then were driven for the short ride to the lecture hall, where there was a "round up" discussion and more final questions. I was again impressed at the attentiveness of the audience and the number of people still remaining late in the evening.

At this point, the day came to an end in the best possible way: dinner with Kirill, his enchanting wife Julia and his younger daughter Angelina at the Pushkin restaurant – one of the most famous in Moscow. It is housed in a 19th century mansion that seems to come right out of the pages of a Tolstoy novel and its fame is deserved, as that dinner was indeed memorable.

On the following day, Sunday January 21, I was picked up at the hotel and went with Kirill to check on our patients who both did well. I was then privileged to take a short tour with Kirill and his wife of the Red Square, full of holiday decorations



and where a skating rink full of skaters was set up surrounded by a Christmas market, and of St. Basil's Cathedral, with its unique architecture and bountiful treasures of ancient icons. This is something I promised

myself I should come back to visit again at some point.

After a superb coffee and dessert at the famous neighboring GUM department store, and after receiving a dedicated copy of Kirill's two-volume tome on plastic surgery (in Russian, but at least I can look at the photos!) I said a final farewell to my hosts and was driven to Sheremetyevo airport.

My comments on this second VPP that I had the privilege of doing for ISAPS could not be more positive: I had a wonderful host, a wonderfully challenging time and the organization worked like a Swiss clock. The days were educational for me as well as for the audience, and the modern and vibrant city, wonderfully adorned with Christmas lights, was a discovery I would have never imagined! Thank you, Kirill. [SAPS NEW]

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