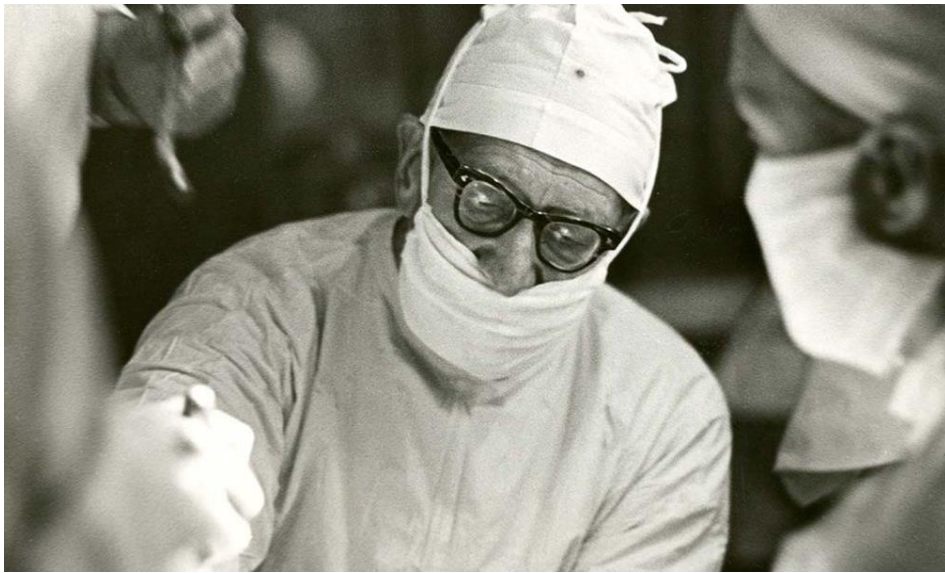


# Soviet physicians visit to the 9th International Pediatric congress in Montreal (1959)

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The study reveals the spheres and geography of medical international cooperation of the RMI until 1992, the leading influence and regulation by communist party and bureaucratic structures, as well as the role of personal contacts in international cooperation and scientific partnership with leading medical specialists in Soviet Union.



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To examine of the group report of a delegation of pediatricians from the Soviet Union to the USSR Minister of Health on a business trip to Canada to participate in the 9th International Pediatric Congress in Canada.

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General methodological approaches to historical and medical research with the use of the problem-chronological method

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The International Pediatric Association (IPA) was formed in Paris in 1910 by a group of European pediatricians who assembled for the First International Congress of Pediatrics in Paris in 1912. The 9th Congress of the IPA took place in July 19-25, 1959, in Montreal. A group of 15 Soviet pediatricians on leadership of the Professor Michael Maslov, president of the society of the children's physicians of Leningrad, have visited the 9th IPA Congress in Montreal.

The business trip included visits to other cities in Canada. The first stop was in Ottawa where the Soviet delegation visited pediatric clinic of the Medical Faculty of the University of Ottawa, and also arranged meetings in Parliament and the Senate.

In Toronto, special attention of the delegation was attracted by the fact that in the pediatric clinic of the Faculty of Medicine of the Toronto University there is no breastfeeding and nutrition of children, both infants and premature babies, is excluded.

The Montreal Congress brought together over 1,600 delegates from 70 countries and over 700 guests. The USA was especially richly represented. The attention to the Soviet delegation is evidenced by the fact that already on the first day of the delegation's stay in Montreal, a meeting with the press was organized and a large interview with prof. Maslov. In addition, a television program was organized in the form of an interview with professors M. Maslov, prof. Y. Dombrovskoy (Moscow) and prof. A. Biezins (Riga).

The program of the congress included 36 sections in which 528 scientific reports were presented. 14 reports were presented by the Soviet delegation and two of them were accompanied by a demonstration of medical films (A. Biezins, A. Tour). The program of the congress included visits of medical establishments in Montreal, including the largest mother and child center in Canada and one of the most important pediatric centers in North America, and the famous stress laboratory of prof. Hans Selye. An extensive social program allowed the delegation to establish professional contacts with colleagues from many countries, especially from the USA.

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The participation of the Soviet pediatricians in the 9th International Congress of Pediatricians in Montreal and visits to the pediatric clinics in Ottawa and Toronto were well organized and held at the highest professional and political levels. This is the merit of the professional recognition of the head of the delegation, prof. Maslov, personal supervision of the visit by the Minister of Health of the USSR and in the responsiveness and understanding of the Canadian colleagues. The conclusions of the delegation are critical in relation to the development of present Soviet pediatrics and propose specific actions to improve the situation in the country. The appearance of such a frank and non-ideological report to the minister can be explained by the international authority of prof. Maslov and it fits into the concept of the "Khrushchev thaw" in the field of humanitarian and professional foreign relations.