

OTS: 60-41,036

JPRS: 5132

1 August 1960

IN THE PRESIDUM OF THE SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL COUNCIL
OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH RSFSR

by Ye. K. Ponomar'

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19990319 051

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205 EAST 42nd STREET, SUITE 300
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

JPRS: 5132

CSO: 3985-N

IN THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL COUNCIL
OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH RSFSR

Following is a translation of an article by Ye. K. Ponomar', Scientific Secretary of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR, in Sovetskaya Meditsina (Soviet Medicine), Vol. 24, No. 3, March 1960, pages 150-155.

The Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR heard and discussed the reports of Active Member of the Acad. Med. Sci. USSR, Prof. Yu. F. Dombrovskaya on her journey to the Ninth International Congress on Pediatrics (Montreal, Canada) and Prof. D. G. Rokhlin on his journey to the Tenth International Congress on Radiology (German Federated Republic, Munich). The Presidium noted that the participation of Soviet delegations in the work of the aforementioned international medical congresses expanded and strengthened the foreign contacts of Soviet scientists and enhanced still more the world prestige of Soviet medical science.

The members of Soviet delegations took an active part in the work of the congresses, presented scientific reports and participated in the discussions, familiarized themselves with the organization of the therapeutic and scientific-research work in foreign clinics, etc.

In approving the experience of annual journeys of Soviet delegations to international medical congresses, the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council at the same time considered it necessary to point out that there are still a number of serious defects in the preparation of Soviet delegations for their participation in international medical congresses.

The recommendations of scientific medical societies and the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR are not always taken into consideration in selecting delegates to the congresses. The compiling of papers and formation of delegations to the congresses were delayed while the preparation for departure was rushed. The members of delegations to the aforementioned congresses were not

informed in regard to the forthcoming exhibitions of scientific literature at the congresses and, as a result, the Soviet medical literature was not represented.

Another defect is the fact that many delegation members did not submit their reports at the congresses. Thus, for example, out of 25 members of the Soviet delegation at the 10th International Congress on Radiology only five members submitted reports (two reports were read).

In attaching great importance to the representation of Soviet scientists at international medical congresses, the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR resolved:

1. To ask the Department of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Health RSFSR: a) to improve the preparation of Soviet scientists for participation at international medical congresses; to carefully select members of delegations, taking into consideration, in the first place, the recommendations of scientific medical societies and the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR, as well as the availability of a report and the knowledge of foreign languages; to appoint a leader of a delegation not later than one month prior to departure, b) to increase the number of members participating in the delegations; in addition to eminent scientists, to enlist young people more extensively in the participation at international congresses; c) in sending delegations to international medical congresses, to arrange the organization at these congresses of exhibitions of Soviet scientific medical literature published in recent years.

2. To ask Medgiz to improve the information of foreign scientists in regard to the achievements of Soviet medical science by including brief summaries of published monographs in one or two foreign languages.

3. To suggest to the administration of All-Union scientific medical societies that they show more initiative in the recommendation of scientific articles to the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR for the purpose of sending them to foreign journals.

4. To instruct the Institute of Roentgenology and Radiology (Moscow), the Institute of Oncology in Gertsen and the First Leningrad Medical Institute to check on the experience of foreign scientists in the treatment of cancer affections by means of preoperative irradiation with the use of high-voltage therapy (300,000 V) and telecobalt irradiation, as well as verifying the increase of the interval between preoperative irradiation and surgical intervention as recommended by the Ninth International Congress on Radiology.

5. To instruct the chairs of neurology of the First Moscow Order of Lenin Medical Institute and the First

Leningrad Medical Institute to verify and report to the Scientific Medical Council the effectiveness of small X-ray doses (summary doses of 25 r) in vegetative impairments.

6. To instruct the Committee of the Scientific Medical Council on Oncology, in connection with the forthcoming International Scientific Medical Congress on Oncology in Moscow in 1962, to carry out a corresponding preparation for the demonstration of scientific oncological institutions of the Ministry of Health RSFSR, located in the capital, to foreign delegates.

The Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR heard and discussed the report of Prof. K. V. Bunin "On the Development of Scientific-Research Measures for Combatting Influenza."

The Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR noted that the complex of measures for the enhancement of scientific-research work on the problem of influenza, approved by the decision of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of 6 March 1959, has been brought to the notice of the directors of scientific-research institutes of epidemiology and microbiology, as well as to the heads of chairs of microbiology and infectious diseases of medical institutes.

The problem commissions on infectious diseases and epidemiology took under special advisement the development of scientific thematics devoted to the problems of influenza.

A problem-thematic plan of scientific works recommended for development in 1959-1965 was sent out to the local organizations, as well as a letter on the necessity of increasing scientific-research work in the medical and scientific-research institutes on the problems of influenza.

At the same time the Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council noted that there is a serious lag in the search for effective medicinal preparations for the treatment of influenza patients, preparation of immune gamma-globulin and the development of methods of quick diagnosis of influenza. The branch administrations of the Ministry of Health RSFSR (The Main Sanitary-Epidemiological Administration (GSEU), Administration (GSEU), Administration of the Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology and Hygiene (IEMG) and of the Institute of Vaccines and Sera, the Project-Finance Section) have not as yet submitted their concrete suggestions on the organization of virological laboratories on the study of problems of influenza in Leningrad, Rostov-on-Don and Vladivostok, as outlined by the decision of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council. Up to the present time there have not been organized virological laboratories in 37 administrative cities, mainly on account of a lack of

a lack of quarters.

In order to increase scientific-research measures for combatting influenza, the Scientific Medical Council resolved:

1. To instruct directors of medical and scientific-research institute to include in the plan of scientific work for 1960 concrete thematics on the problem of influenza in correspondence with the indicated thematic plan.

2. To consider it expedient to widen the thematics on influenza at the expense of less urgent problems in the Rostov, Leningrad, Kuybyshev and Gor'kiy IEMG plan of scientific works of the institutes for 1960.

3. The problem commissions of the Scientific Medical Council on epidemiology, embryology and infectious diseases are to take under special advisement the subjects related to the problem of influenza in their study of plans of scientific works for 1960.

4. To ask the regional administrations of the Ministry of Health RSFSR to ensure, starting in 1960, in the cities of RSFSR the work of virological laboratories and bases of the regional center on influenza.

5. Besides the organization and strengthening of virological bases, as outlined by the above-mentioned decree, it is essential to consider the reorganization of one of the IEMG of the RSFSR into an Institute of Virology, charging it also with the task of systematic guidance in the scientific-practical work on influenza.

Special attention must be given to the development of methods of rapid diagnosis of influenza affections and effective means of therapy, including chemotherapeutic preparations.

6. To ask the IEMG Administration to systematically supply the institutes of vaccines and sera, which manufacture anti-influenza vaccine, with highly immunogenic influenza virus strains and to exercise control on the timely renewal of manufacturing strains, in charging these institutes with ensuring the manufacture of an effect vaccine.

7. To ask the branch administrations of the Ministry of Health RSFSR to supply the institutes, which manufacture an anti-influenza vaccine, with corresponding technically perfect apparatus for the lyophilization of the vaccine and to charge the directors of these institutes with strict adherence to the established standards, in order to obtain a highly immunogenic vaccine.

8. To consider it essential to have systematic on-the-spot evaluations of the number of influenza affections, and, in addition, to carry out in the cities observations of the strains of influenza viruses circulating among the

population. All information must be directed in due time to the Ministry of Health USSR and RSFSR.

9. To instruct the Main Sanitary-Epidemiological Administration and the IEMG and IVS Administrations to develop a uniform, scientifically based method of checking on the epidemiological and immunological effectiveness of anti-influenza vaccines and sera.

10. To consider it essential, for a thorough study of the clinic of non-complicated influenza and the effectiveness of employed therapeutic means, to effect early hospitalization of non-complicated influenza patients in therapeutic clinics and in infectious diseases clinics of a number of medical institutes which are engaged in the development of scientific thematics on the problem of influenza, and to ask the Main Therapeutic-Propylactic Administration of the Ministry of Health RSFSR to ensure the apportionment of the necessary number of beds for the hospitalization of these patients.

11. To consider it essential to produce technically adequate appliances for the introduction of the anti-influenza vaccine to the vaccinated individuals.

12. It is necessary, for the purpose of rational therapeutic use of a dry anti-influenza vaccine, to develop the construction of special ampule-pulverizers for the introduction of the serum into the lower nasal passages, and to ask the Main Pharmaceutical Administration to solve the problem of mass production of these appliances.

13. To ask the Main Sanitary-Epidemiological Administration and the Main Administration of Therapeutic-Propylactic Aid of the Ministry of Health RSFSR to issue urgent instructions to local organs of public health regarding the increase of measures on the general prophylaxis of influenza and on the extensive development of sanitary-educational work including mass publication of brochures and posters, conducting discussions, etc.

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The Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR heard and discussed the report of the Director of Kransnoyarsk Medical Institute, P. G. Podzolkov, and the co-report of Prof. Z. T. Senchillo, Chairman of the team which had inspected the activity of the Institute, in regard to the scientific-research work of the Institute during 1958-1959, as well as the review of Corresponding Member of the Acad. Med. Sci. USSR, Prof. F. F.

Talyzin, on the works of Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute. The Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council noted that extensive scientific activity was carried out in 1958-1959 at Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute.

The works projected for 1958 have been completed; in 1959, 156 themes will be developed, including four dissertations for a doctor's degree, 22 -- for the candidate's degree, six monographs, and six scientific manuals.

In the 1958/1959 academic year there were defended 11 candidate's and one doctoral dissertation, and there were submitted for defense two doctoral and six candidate's dissertations. Two doctoral and five candidate's dissertations are nearing completion.

A number of works have been published, among them: the fifth collected issue of scientific works of Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute; a monograph by Prof. Ya. I. Rus "Cutaneo-Cephalic Forceps"; a monograph by Prof. M. D. Gutner "Intra-natal Asphyxia of the Fetus"; lectures and practical work in general surgery by Prof. V. I. Rozhanskiy, etc.

The Chair of Biochemistry of the Institute developed a number of new methods on the determination of labile globulin and fibrinogen in the blood. The Chair of Physics (Headed by A. I. Terskov) completed and is also carrying out valuable works jointly with other chairs.

The management and collective of the Medical Institute basically fulfilled the instructions of the Planning Commission of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR on the planning of scientific activity, dated 15 February 1956, by increasing the volume of thematics in regional pathology and creating conditions for carrying out scientific work on radioactive radiation.

The professorial-teaching personnel of the Institute participated actively in the organization and conduct of regional scientific conferences, as well as out-of-town conferences in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, and Minsk. The clinical hygienic chairs and the chair of organization of public health conducted a whole series of inter-district scientific-practical conferences.

The Institute is beginning more and more to develop complex themes (on the study of red blood by the photoelectric method, fibrinogen in the blood plasma in various diseases, and problems of higher nervous activity); teams have been organized to study occupational injurious substances at chemical industry plants and in the RTS and kolkhozes under patronage. A great deal of work is being carried out to help the organs of public health.

Parallel with these achievements in the scientific-research work of Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute, the following

defects were noted: the instruction of the Scientific Medical Council in regard to reducing the number of studied problems has not been carried out in full; up to the present, there is still a multiplicity of problems in the scientific-research work; the scientific work is not planned actively; the training of leading cadres -- doctors of sciences -- is insufficiently developed; there are not enough assistants with the scientific degree of candidate of medical sciences; the volume of works in regional pathology is insufficient.

The Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR resolved:

1. To consider the scientific-research work of Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute as satisfactory.

2. To suggest the following basic problems to the Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute for 1960-1965: problems of regional pathology (including: the regional pathology of the population in the Far North, endemic goiter, pneuconiosis, poliomyelitis, brucellosis, tick typhus fever, taiga encephalitis); traumatism and how to combat it; health resorts of the region; problems of higher nervous activity; diseases of the blood; malignant tumors; ulcers.

In view of the remoteness of Krasnoyarsk from the medical scientific centers of the USSR, to ask the Ministry of Health RSFSR to issue instructions on increasing the funds of Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute for scientific missions, for the acquisition of the latest medical scientific equipment and for the receipt of obligatory issues of published literature at the libraries of the Institute.

3. To consider it necessary to carry out in the Krasnodar region expeditionary complex scientific-research work on the study of regional pathology of tick typhus fever, encephalitis, endemic goiter, poliomyelitis, brucellosis, as well as the study of the characteristics of the health of the population of the Far North, particularly the national district.

4. To ask for accelerated implementation of the resolution of the Board of the Ministry of Health RSFSR on the organization of an Institute of Blood Transfusion with a hematological hospital, as well as solution of the problem of the creation of a Sanitary-Hygienic Institute in Krasnoyarsk in connection with the marked industrial expansion, the start of the Krasnoyarsk GES [hydroelectric power station], etc.

5. To consider it necessary to organize a laboratory for the study of the effect of low temperatures on the human and animal organism.

6. To consider it expedient to organize a central scientific-research laboratory at the Institute and in con-

nection with this, to request the Main Administration of Educational Institutions (GUUZ) to set aside special funds and a supplementary staff according to norms.

7. To suggest to the Director of Krasnoyarsk Medical Institute, Docent P. G. Podzolkov, that he outline a plan for the preparation of doctoral and candidate's dissertations, with the view of sending a number of dissertationists to corresponding chairs of central VUZ for a more thorough training in scientific-research work.

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The Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR heard and discussed the report of the Head of the Mycological Department of the Central Scientific-Research Dermato-Venerological Institute of the Ministry of Health RSFSR, Prof. A. M. Ariyevich, on the work progress in the study of the "Epiline" preparation. The Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council noted that, as a result of the joint work of the Central Dermato-Venerological Institute and the All-Union Scientific-Research Chemico-Pharmaceutical Institute imeni S. Ordzhonikidze, a new effective Soviet preparation -- Epiline -- has been obtained, and that a method has been developed for its use in the treatment of patients suffering from fungus affections of the scalp.

The Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council considered as especially fruitful the creation by the institutes of a complex study of epiline in 104 scientific-research and therapeutic-prophylactic establishments on more than 5,000 patients suffering from trichophytosis, microsporosis and favus, which permitted within a short period of time the establishment of the therapeutic effectiveness and good tolerance of this preparation in the form of a four percent epiline plaster.

In noting the initiative of the Institute in the manufacture of epiline and its testing, the Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council considers it essential to effect during 1960-1961 an extensive testing of this preparation in the treatment of mycoses of the scalp in regions with high dermatomycoses morbidity, as well as in regions which are not ensured with sufficient X-ray services under the control of specialized therapeutic establishments, paying special attention to side manifestations and complications.

The Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council thinks that the mechanism of the action of epiline

is not clear and requires further study.

The Bureau of the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR resolved:

1. To instruct the Central Dermato-Venerological Institute (TsKVI) to continue, jointly with the All-Union Scientific-Research Chemico-Pharmaceutical Institute imeni S. Ordzhonikidze (VNIKhFI), the scientific studies for further perfection and standardization of the technique of the epiline plaster preparation and the methods of its use, the elimination of side effects and complications, and the study of the mechanism of action of epiline; also, to provide clinical tests of the series of this preparation manufactured by the plant.

2. To take measures for the timely fulfillment of orders for the manufacture of epiline during the first half year of 1960 in the amount of 50 kg at the Moscow Salicylate Plant, as well as for the manufacture of 1.25 tons of epiline plaster at the Experimental VNIKhFI Plant and two tons of lead plaster at the Voronezh Chemico-Pharmaceutical Plant.

3. To address the Presidium of the Acad. Med. Sci. USSR with a request of ensuring, during a quarter of the year 1960, the free manufacturing of radioactive (labeled) epiline and supplying this preparation to TsKVI and VNIKhFI for the study of the mechanism of action of epiline.

4. To ask Medgiz to publish in 1960 a collection of works on the study of epiline with a detailed description of methods of its use, under the editorial direction of Prof. A. M. Ariyevich and Prof. G. N. Pershin.

5. To suggest to the Main Administration of Therapeutic-Prophylactic Establishments of the Ministry of Health RSFSR the organization of three-month seminars in 1960 in the republic, regional, district and city dermatovenerological dispensaries, as well as the mycological hospitals, for physicians-dermatologists, as well as physicians of rural districts, on mastering the use of four percent epiline plaster for the treatment of patients afflicted with mycoses of the scalp.

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The Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR heard and discussed the report of the Chairman of the Commission of the Scientific Medical Council in Biochemistry, Prof. A. E. Sharpenak, "On the State and Perspectives of Development of Scientific-Research Work of the Chairs of Chemistry of Medical VUZ of the RSFSR." The Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council noted that

perspective directions of scientific research have been outlined at the present time in the scientific work of many chairs of chemistry. A number of chairs work persistently and purposefully on the study of various aspects of some definite urgent medical problem, which creates a premise for the rapid progress of research and the inculcation of the results of these works into medical practice. The chairs of chemistry of corresponding types of VUZ (pharmaceutical and stomatological) are engaged in the solution of specific problems.

The chairs of chemistry projected 379 themes for 1959, of these: seven are monographic, 49 -- dissertations (31 for candidate's and 18 for doctoral degrees), and 10 are devoted to the preparation of textbooks and school manuals.

The Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council particularly noted that chemical and, especially, biological sciences will play a tremendous part in the development of medical science. The development of speedy methods which are commencing to play an increasingly important role in the early diagnosis and successful treatment of diseases, the study of problems of the etiology, pathogenesis and treatment of cancer, leucoses, cardiovascular and many other diseases, solution of the problem of disease prophylaxis and other important hygienic problems, problems of old age -- all these research trends are in need of complex solution with the active participation of chairs of biochemistry. Also, the chairs of forensic medicine and normal and pathological histology (histochemical methods of research), etc., are in great need of complex work with the chairs of biochemistry. The possibility of successful solution of above-mentioned important medical problems directly depends on the state and development of scientific work at the chairs of chemistry.

However, there are serious defects in the organization of scientific-research work of the chairs of chemistry. A whole series of most important problems, such as biosynthesis of protein and the metabolism of nucleic acids are not being developed. Some very important problems are not being treated on a modern level and their achievements, as shown in their studies, are therefore insignificant.

The analysis of reasons for this state of affairs shows that the tremendous overloading of scientific associates with their pedagogical work represents a serious obstacle in the development of scientific work.

The situation is particularly bad in regard to the organization of the supply of reagents to the chairs of chemistry. Preparations of pure aminoacids, vitamins, cry-

stalline enzymes, metabolites (pyruvic and phosphoglyceric acids, serotonin, etc.), special chemical reagents (rubeanic acid, iodic acid, 2-4-dinitrophenylhydrazine, etc.) are entirely unavailable to the majority of chairs of medical VUZ of the RSFSR.

A serious obstacle in the development of biochemical works is the absence of good vivaria and clinics for animals in the majority of medical VUZ of the RSFSR.

Among the basic and serious defects of the organization of scientific work at the chairs of chemistry are disconnectedness of thematics, multiplicity of themes, and multiplicity of problems which disperse the scientific forces and interfere with the formation of important scientific achievements.

In order to eliminate the above-mentioned shortcomings, the Presidium of the Scientific Medical Council resolved:

1. To call the attention of the directors of medical VUZ to the necessity of following the instructions of the 21st Party Congress and the June Plenum of the TsK of the CPSU on the approximation of science and practice, as well as the decisions of the Plenum of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR of 17 February 1959, and to suggest that they: a) terminate before 31 December 1959, at the chairs of chemistry of the institutes under their direction, the development of all themes not connected with the interests of medicine; b) plan in the future at the chairs of chemistry only works which are urgent to medicine (exceptions can be made only in regard to dissertations toward a candidate's degree or that of doctor of chemical sciences).

2. To advise the chairs of biological chemistry of the medical VUZ of the RSFSR, in outlining the plans for scientific work in 1960, to: a) concentrate their attention on the study of proteins, microelements and the mechanisms of their regulation; b) concentrate attention on a few nosological units such as cancer, leucoses, cardiovascular diseases, when engaged in the study of metabolism under pathological conditions; when studying the effect of environment on metabolism, to concentrate their efforts on the study of a few environmental factors such as the character of nutrition, ionization radiation, and the factors directly affecting the nervous system.

3. To advise the chairs of general, inorganic, and analytical chemistry to develop jointly the problem of microelements, this problem being within the range of their competence and representing great importance to medicine.

4. To advise the chairs of analytical chemistry to develop, in addition to the problem of microelements, new

methods of clinico-biochemical, pharmaceutical and forensic medicine analysis, based on the utilization of the latest physical and chemical methods of research (ionometabolic chromatography, complexonometry, polarography, spectrophotometry, etc.

5. To advise the chairs of chemistry of the profile types of medical VUZ a) to the chairs of pharmaceutical institutes and pharmaceutical faculties -- the separation and study of the chemical structure and properties, development of methods of synthesis of natural substances of interest to medicine, as well as the synthesis of new chemotherapeutic preparations; b) to the chairs of stomatological institutes and stomatological faculties -- the study of etiology and pathogenesis of dental caries and parodontosis.

To advise all scientific associates of every chair of chemistry to thoroughly study, master, and use extensively in their scientific research the latest physical and chemical methods of investigation.

6. To explain to medical VUZ that the above-stated recommendations only outline the most urgent problems in the solution of which the Ministry of Health RSFSR is interested. These recommendations are meant to concentrate attention during the next two to three years on the study of these problems and, thus, accelerate their solution and to ensure within the shortest possible time the introduction of the results of their work into practice.

These recommendations do not hinder the scientific initiative of the chairs and do not exclude the possibility of carrying out scientific investigations in other urgent medical problems, if this or that chair has been already successfully engaged for a number of years in the development of a certain problem and has a prospect of employing the results in practice.

7. To consider it expedient, for the purpose of elimination of duplication, to publish in the Information Bulletin of the Scientific Medical Council of the Ministry of Health RSFSR information data, in which the thematics of the scientific-research work of the chairs of chemistry of medical VUZ of the RSFSR and other union republics would be elucidated.

8. To ask the Minister of Health of the RSFSR, N. A. Vinogradov: a) to apply to the Ministry of Health USSR for the setting-side by the Foreign Currency Fund of Glavsnab of the Ministry the necessary means for the purchase of imported reagents and preparations needed for the scientific work of the chairs of chemistry of medical VUZ of the RSFSR (a guide-list of reagents is attached); b) to instruct the Main Pharmaceutical Administration (GAPU) of the Ministry

of Health RSFSR in regard to ordering from corresponding organizations the imported equipment needed for the scientific work of the chairs of chemistry of medical VUZ of the RSFSR; c) to instruct the Finance Planning Administration to set aside from the Centralized Fund of the Ministry of Health RSFSR the necessary means for the purchase of the above-mentioned imported equipment for the clinical chairs of medical VUZ of the RSFSR.

9. To ask GUUZ of the Ministry of Health RSFSR for an increase in 1960 of postgraduate vacancies at the chairs of chemistry of the medical VUZ of the RSFSR.

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