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100 years of Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary

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ABSTRACT. In 2025 Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary (ACSVDD) will celebrate its 100th anniversary. It is one of the oldest dermatovenereologic dispensaries in Russia. The goal is to study the history of the development of Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary and the biographies of those who organized its activities in different years. In the course of the work, archival materials, scientific articles and publications in the media on the history of ACSVDD, memoirs, as well as information from the official website of the dispensary were analyzed. In addition, interviews were conducted with employees and veterans of ACSVDD, from which the latest organizational innovations in the institution became known. Over the years of the dispensary's existence, it was headed by: A.P. Khvilinsky, I.A. Lipsky, V.A. Vedernikov, M.P. Tovieva, A.I. Padun, V.I. Kottsova, I.E. Menshutkina, T.V. Ababkova, I.D. Prib, K.V. Baryshkoy, each of whom made a significant contribution to the establishment of the institution, improving the provision of dermatovenereological care to the population of Arkhangelsk Region. Thus, the activities of the entire dermatological service of Arkhangelsk Region are coordinated and directed by the head institution — Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary, the history of which dates back to the beginning of the XX century. Over the 100 years of its existence, many talented and hardworking doctors have provided medical and consultative assistance to northerners, thanks to whom this institution has become one of the most effective in the country in the dermatovenereological profile. Without a doubt, the existence of such institutions as ACSVDD will not lose its relevance, and ACSVDD itself will celebrate more than one centenary.

KEYWORDS: 100 years, Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary, ACSVDD, Arkhangelsk, Arkhangelsk State Medical Institute, ASMI, Northern State Medical University, NSMU

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100 лет Архангельскому клиническому кожно-венерологическому диспансеру

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РЕЗЮМЕ. В 2025 году Государственное автономное учреждение здравоохранения Архангельской области «Архангельский клинический кожно-венерологический диспансер» (АККВД) отмечает свой 100-летний юбилей. Он является одним из старейших кожно-венерологических диспансеров на территории России. Цель исследования — изучение истории развития Архангельского клинического кожно-венерологического диспансера и биографий тех, кто в разные годы осуществлял организацию его деятельности. В ходе работы были проанализированы архивные материалы, научные статьи и публикации в средствах массовой информации по истории АККВД, воспоминания, а также данные с официального сайта диспансера. Помимо этого проводились интервью с сотрудниками и ветеранами АККВД, благодаря чему стали известны организационные нововведения в учреждении. За годы существования диспансера его возглавляли: А.П. Хвилинский, И.А. Липский, В.А. Ведерников, М.П. Товиева, А.И. Падун, В.И. Котцова, И.Е. Меньшуткина, Т.В. Абабкова, И.Д. Приб, К.В. Барышков, каждый из которых внес значительный вклад в становление учреждения, совершенствование оказания дерматовенерологической помощи населению Архангельской области. Таким образом, деятельность всей дерматологической службы Архангельской области координирует и направляет головное учреждение — Архангельский клинический кожно-венерологический диспансер, история развития которого идет с начала XX века. За 100 лет его существования лечебную и консультативную помощь северянам оказывали многие талантливые и трудолюбивые врачи, благодаря которым данное учреждение в настоящее время стало одним из самых эффективных в стране по дерматовенерологическому профилю. Вне сомнения, существование таких учреждений, как АККВД, не потеряет своей актуальности, а сам диспансер отметит еще не один вековой юбилей.

КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: 100 лет, Архангельский клинический кожно-венерологический диспансер, АККВД, Архангельск, Архангельский государственный медицинский институт, АГМИ, Северный государственный медицинский университет, СГМУ

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INTRODUCTION

In 2025, Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary (ACSVDD), a State Autonomous Healthcare Institution of the Arkhangelsk Region, marks its 100th anniversary. Officially classified as a dermatovenerological dispensary in Russian medical terminology, it stands as one of Russia's oldest specialized centers for dermatology and venereology. Historically, the most effective outcomes in both clinical practice and healthcare management have been achieved through close collaboration between specialized medical institutions (such as dermatovenerological dispensaries) and educational organizations training future dermatologists. Notably, the ACSVDD's development has been deeply intertwined with the history of Arkhangelsk State Medical Institute (AGMI), now known as the Northern State Medical University (NSMU). Today, amid the rising prevalence of sexually transmitted infections and the increasing impact of various external factors (climatic, cosmetic, occupational, etc.) adversely affecting the skin and contributing to its diseases, dermatovenerological dispensaries play an ever more critical role in public health. Understanding the historical evolution of these institutions is crucial — not only to share their effective organizational models but also to pay tribute to healthcare professionals who dedicated their careers to this specialized field of patient care.

AIM

The aim of this study was to analyze development of Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary and the careers of its administrative leaders across historical periods.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study utilized archival materials, reports, scientific articles, media publications on the ACSVDD's history, photographic materials, data from the dispensary's official website, and interviews with current staff and veterans. This comprehensive dataset enabled systematization and expansion of the institution's historical records. Partial findings were previously reported at scientific-practical conferences.

RESULTS

The dispensary's official inception date is March 3, 1925, when venereology clinics of the V.I. Lenin Central Outpatient Facility were merged by decree of Arkhangelsk Provincial Health Department to form Arkhangelsk Venereological Dispensary. Prior to this, from 1905 onward, the only dermatology clinic in the entire Arkhangelsk Governorate operated with a single physician. In rural areas, skin diseases were treated by folk healers and paramedics. The severe shortage of specialists and the exclusively feebased (often costly) medical services contributed to high rates of advanced disease stages and complications. Members of the Society of Arkhangelsk Physicians (SAP) played an active role in treating dermatovenereal diseases, providing both paid services and free care at their clinic. SAP archival records from the late 19th to early 20th century document vivid examples of pre-revolutionary medical practice. The society's work was discontinued following the nationalization of healthcare institutions during the Soviet era [1].

Beginning in 1920, a venereology clinic commenced operations at Arkhangelsk's Central Outpatient Facility, while a dermatology department with capacity for 30 patients was established at the Governorate Soviet Hospital [2, 3].

The dispensary's first director and organizational leader was A.P. Khvilinsky, overseeing a staff of four physicians (including the chief physician and three residents), approximately 10 paramedical personnel, and auxiliary workers [2, 3]. Although historical records from this period remain incomplete, ongoing archival research continues to uncover new details. The institution initially functioned across two locations: outpatient services were provided at P. Vinogradov Avenue (present-day Troitsky Prospect, now housing City Polyclinic No. 1), while inpatient care for 40 patients was delivered in a two-story wooden building at 10 Gaidara Street [3, 4].

In 1930, Arkhangelsk Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary (ASVDD) was headed by Israel Abramovich Lipsky (1895–1976) (Fig. 1), a PhD in Medicine (Russian Candidate of Medical Sciences degree) and Associate Professor who led the institution for 20 years. A graduate of the Medical Faculty of Tomsk University, Lipsky was assigned to Arkhangelsk through the state distribution system, where in 1947 he defended his PhD dissertation. During his tenure,



Fig. 1. Israel Abramovich Lipsky, chief physician of the ACSVDD from 1930 to 1950

Рис. 1. Израиль Абрамович Липский, главный врач АКВД с 1930 по 1950 гг.



Fig. 2. Building of Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary, used in 1936–1970, Arkhangelsk

Рис. 2. Здание Архангельского кожно-венерологического диспансера, использовавшееся в 1936–1970 гг., г. Архангельск



Fig. 3. V.A. Vedernikov — PhD in Medicine, Professor, Doctor of Medical Sciences, chief physician of the dispensary in 1950–1961. Head of the Department of Skin and Venereal Diseases of ASMI during 1944–1961

Рис. З. В.А. Ведерников — д.м.н., профессор, главный врач диспансера в 1950–1961 гг. Заведующий кафедрой кожных и венерических болезней АГМИ 1944–1961 гг.

he progressed through academic ranks from Assistant to Associate Professor and ultimately became Head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at AGMI. This department was established at the dispensary in October 1935. That same year, Lipsky organized the Arkhangelsk Regional Branch of the All-Russian Scientific Society of Dermatovenerologists [5].

In 1936, the dispensary (Fig. 2) established a mycological laboratory, enabling advanced study of fungal flora and dermatosis epidemiology. The high prevalence of dermatoses among northern populations was attributed to lifestyle factors, traditional livelihoods (reindeer herding, fishing, etc.), and harsh climatic conditions. During 1937–1938, mobile medical teams from the dispensary conducted field operations to identify and eliminate syphilis and favus outbreaks in high-risk epidemiological areas. In 1950, the dispensary merged with the AGMI Department of Dermatology. Dr. I.A. Lipsky retired in 1964 after distinguished service, having been awarded the Order of the Red Star and the "Excellence in Healthcare" medal [6].

From 1950 to 1961, the dispensary was headed by Vasily Alexeevich Vedernikov (1901–1972) (Fig. 3), a graduate of Saratov University and professor at AGMI. Having joined AGMI in 1936, he

earned his PhD in Medicine with a dissertation titled "Onychomycoses and Their Treatment". From 1944 onward, Vasily Alexeevich served as head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Arkhangelsk State Medical Institute.

During the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945), V.A. Vedernikov pioneered collaborative work with algologists, successfully implementing seaweed-based ointments into clinical practice, particularly in military hospitals. For these contributions, he was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor, the Order of the Red Star, the Order of the Badge of Honor, the Medal "For the Defense of the Soviet Arctic", and received commendations from the Karelian Front and Northern Fleet command. His wartime and post-war publications gained significant traction among practicing physicians, as they provided practical solutions to pressing medical challenges of that era. In 1946, Vasily Alexeevich was elected Chairman of the Arkhangelsk Regional Scientific Society of Dermatologists. By 1949, he had completed his higher doctorate (Doctor of Medical Sciences, equivalent to a post-PhD qualification in the Soviet system), subsequently mentoring PhD candidates (including department assistants Lipsky and Tumarkin). From 1955 to 1960, Vasily Alexeevich served as AGMI's Deputy Director (Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs), fostering interdisciplinary collaboration between departments. His engaging teaching style made specialized courses particularly popular among students (Fig. 4). A prolific scholar, he authored 55 publications in dermatovenereology and edited 10 AGMI research collections. He chaired the department until 1961, retiring with emeritus status while continuing patient consultations [5, 7].

From 1961, the dispensary was managed by Marina Petrovna Tovieva. While her biography remains unknown, researchers continue examining historical sources, particularly archival documents. In 1963, leadership transferred to Alexandra Iosifovna Padun, who significantly advanced the institution's development. Through her persistent advocacy, a new four-story building for the ACSVDD was inaugurated in 1969 — the facility remains operational today (Fig. 5). The dispensary established three 50-bed departments providing specialized care for both pediatric and adult patients [8].

In 1977, Valentina Ivanovna Kottsova (Fig. 6) assumed leadership of the dispensary, serving until 1996. Her tenure spanned distinct historical periods: from the "Brezhnev-era stability" (marked by relative economic, political, and epidemiological equilibrium) through the USSR's collapse to the "Yeltsin-era instability." This latter period saw the collapse of currency systems, rise of barter economies, shortages of consumer goods, and infiltration of Western cultural influences. These societal transformations manifested in public health consequences, including elevated sexual risk behaviors and substance abuse disorders — well-documented epidemiological drivers of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and dermatological morbidity. During the 1990s, Russia experienced a dramatic surge in STI incidence,



Fig. 4. Chief physician of ACSVDD, Professor V.A. Vedernikov diring practical classes on Venereology, 1950 Puc. 4. Главный врач АККВД, профессор В.А. Ведерников на практических занятиях по венерологии, 1950 г.



Fig. 5. Modern building of ACSVDD (since 1970), Arkhangelsk

Рис. 5. Современное здание АККВД (с 1970 г.), г. Архангельск



Fig. 6. V.I. Kottsova — chief physician of the dispensary during in 1977–1996

Рис. 6. В.И. Котцова — главный врач диспансера в 1977-1996 гг.

with dermatovenereological dispensaries, including the Arkhangelsk facility, serving as primary treatment centers. The workload for dispensary staff grew substantially, as their responsibilities expanded beyond treating infected patients to include comprehensive prevention measures and public health education initiatives. Valentina Ivanovna successfully navigated this challenging period by implementing comprehensive therapeutic and preventive measures, as evidenced by her remarkable 20-year tenure as the ACSVDD's chief physician. In 1996, Irina Evgenievna Menshutkina succeeded her, initiating the dispensary's international collaboration with Norwegian healthcare institutions. This collaboration resul-

ted in the establishment of a PCR diagnostics laboratory for sexually transmitted infections. Concurrently, the dispensary underwent a reduction in inpatient bed capacity [2].

In December 1999, Tatiana Vasilievna Ababkova assumed leadership of the dispensary, implementing significant improvements to the institution's operations during her tenure. She synthesized her experience in managing the ACSVDD in her 2006 PhD dissertation. Her key accomplishments included establishing a fee-for-service medical department, creating a day treatment facility, launching the "Juventus-P" diagnostic and counseling center for children and adolescents, and modernizing the clinical diagnostic laboratory.

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The dawn of the new century brought promising developments for Arkhangelsk Region's dermatological services through state funding and international partnerships, yet these advances were tempered by an emerging shortage of qualified specialists. University graduates, having qualified as dermatovenereologists, were reluctant to join public healthcare institutions, preferring private clinics instead, while experienced specialists retired with honorary status.

From 2007 to 2009, the dispensary was led by Irina Dmitrievna Prib (currently serving as Deputy Chief Physician for Clinical and Expert Work), whose leadership culminated in the successful renovation of the clinical diagnostic laboratory. The upgraded facility became the premier STI diagnostic center in the Arkhangelsk Region. Dr. Prib maintained active collaboration with the AGMI Department throughout her tenure [2].

The dispensary's historical development remains inextricably linked not only to successive chairs of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at AGMI — AGMA — NSMU. Numerous faculty members, including professors, assistants, and associate professors of the department, balanced clinical practice with academic teaching at the medical university while conducting scientific research. Their scholarly output encompassed peer-reviewed articles, instructional manuals, monographs, and patent applications. Nearly all practicing dermatovenereologists received training under distinguished educators including Vladimir Alexeevich Khilkov, Yuri Semyonovich Degtyar, Zinaida Nikolaevna Borshcheva, Valentina Afanasievna Mylyueva, Rashid Anvarovich Fayzulin, and others whose legacies remain enshrined in the department's history [5].

Among these distinguished scholars and physicians trained dermatovenereologist Konstantin Vitalievich Baryshkov (b. 1957), recipient of the "Excellence in Healthcare" award (2020) and honored as Merited Healthcare Worker of the Russian Federation (2022). A 1980 graduate of AGMI, he distinguished himself during medical studies as an engaged student, actively participating in the dermatovenereology scientific society, delivering conference presentations, and serving as cultural organizer and political informant for his student group. His regular blood donations earned formal commendation from the rector, permanently recorded in his academic file. From 1980 to 2002, Konstantin Vitalievich served as a dermatovenereologist at Koryazhma City Hospital. Between

2002 and 2008, he held the position of Chief Physician at the Municipal Healthcare Institution "Koryazhma City Hospital." In 2008, he was appointed Deputy Chief Physician for Organizational and Methodological Work at Arkhangelsk Clinical Oncology Dispensary. Since October 2009, K.V. Baryshkov has served as Chief Physician of ACSVDD. In a remarkably short timeframe, Dr. Baryshkov implemented comprehensive reforms to outpatient services and achieved full computerization of the institution, laving the foundation for advanced IT development. In 2013, he spearheaded the implementation of a specialized dermatological medical information system (MIS) at his facility, enabling electronic patient record-keeping. This MIS was donated and installed at no cost by the Federal State Budgetary Institution "State Research Center of Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology" under the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation [8].

In August 2010, the Arkhangelsk Regional Society of Dermatovenerologists and Cosmetologists was established at ACSVDD. The society convenes periodically to discuss current issues in the field. The next meeting will take place on June 6, 2025, in Arkhangelsk, where "Conference of Dermatovenerologists and Cosmetologists of the Arkhangelsk Region" will be held [2, 3].

ACSVDD serves as a teaching base for medical residents, with significant emphasis placed on their training. The institution provides education for both clinical residents (dermatovenerologists), facilitated by its inpatient department, and diagnostic residents (clinical laboratory physicians), owing to its operational on-site laboratory. Only through the collaborative work of diagnostic and clinical specialists can infections or dermatological conditions be promptly identified and appropriately managed [2, 3].

In 2011, ACSVDD joined the compulsory health insurance system. This transition was accompanied by the equipping of departments with necessary medical devices and implementation of new therapeutic approaches, along with the launch of the dispensary's official website (www.aokkvd.ru). Since 2013, patient meal services have been provided through an outsourcing mechanism [2, 4].

The State Research Center of Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology (a federal institution under the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation) recognized the dispensary's high professional standards by including it in a select group of medical institutions implementing the

Federal Target Program (FTP) "Research and Development in Priority Areas of Russia's Scientific-Technological Complex for 2014–2021". The dispensary was specifically involved in the program section titled "Organization of Molecular-Epidemiological Studies of Antimicrobial Resistance in Sexually Transmitted Infection Pathogens Across the Russian Federation". In 2014, the dispensary attained the status of a state autonomous healthcare institution (previously budget-funded). Concurrently, it was licensed to provide high-technology medical care [9].

In 2015, K.V. Baryshkov, Chief Physician of ACSVDD, was awarded his PhD. In 2016, he was elected Chairman of the regional public organization "Association of Healthcare Administrators of the Arkhangelsk Region".

Since 2016, according to Professor Anna Alexeevna Kubanova¹ (Fig. 7), Chief External Specialist in Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology for the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, the dispensary has been ranked among Russia's top ten dermatovenereology medical institutions. This recognition has been documented in authoritative online medical sources [4].

In 2017, the State Autonomous Healthcare Institution of the Arkhangelsk Region "Arkhangelsk Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary" successfully underwent reorganization through merger with the State Budgetary Healthcare Institution of the Arkhangelsk Region "Arkhangelsk Clinical Center for HIV/AIDS and Infectious Diseases." This administrative restructuring was implemented pursuant to Decree No. 271-rp issued by the Arkhangelsk Regional Government on July 18, 2017 [4].

During the COVID-19 pandemic in the Arkhangelsk Region, the dispensary actively participated in organizing medical care for patients with novel coronavirus infection. It ensured uninterrupted supply of test systems and consumables for COVID-19 diagnosis to all state healthcare facilities in the region. The region's highest-capacity PCR laboratory for COVID-19 diagnosis operated at the Arkhangelsk Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary. At the request of the Arkhangelsk Region

Ministry of Health in February 2022, the dispensary actively participated in organizing the Arkhangelsk COVID-19 Diagnostic Center, significantly reducing the burden on primary healthcare facilities in the city. In 2021, Arkhangelsk Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary became one of Russia's leading institutions in implementing digital dermoscopy, providing this vital medical service to a broad patient population. For modern and accurate diagnosis of malignant skin neoplasms, new equipment was acquired: a FotoFinder bodystudio ATBM videodermatoscope and six Handyscope portable digital dermoscopy devices [3].

New effective treatment methods are being implemented: the dispensary's inpatient department has introduced gene-engineered biological therapy, significantly improving treatment outcomes and quality of life for patients with severe chronic skin conditions.

The collaboration between NSMU and the ACSVDD has expanded beyond the Department of Dermatology to include the Department of Public Health, Healthcare, and Social Work at NSMU, where K.V. Baryshkov serves as an associate professor. He coordinates clinical residency rotations and leads lectures and practical sessions for advanced training programs (including professional retraining and continuing medical education).

The achievements of the dermatovenereology service would not have been possible without the dedicated professionals who have served in this field, many of whom worked, and some continue to work, at the institution for extended periods.

Significant contributions to the service's development were made by: A.T. Aksenova, L.V. Dudoladova, T.I. Varfolomeeva, V.M. Protasova, L.A. Kopytova, E.M. Semenova, V.I. Kottsova, E.V. Smolnikova, V.V. Piskunova, T.M. Grigorieva, I.V. Lisitsa, L.M. Mikhaskiv, G.V. Fedotova, B.A. Gaevsky, A.A. Sevastyanov, N.N. Sek, N.M. Privalova, Z.N. Burlakova, K.L. Adolshina, L.S. Bushueva, T.I. Dorofeeva, T.A. Zharavina, A.V. Kameneva, S.V. Kudryashova, L.I. Molokova, L.V. Koptyaeva, E.V. Klepachevskaya, I.V. Shishmakova, T.M. Kukina, S.V. Rozina, I.N. Sysoeva, E.N. Sokolova, E.E. Ushakova, N.P. Zakharova, S.A. Maklakova, E.G. Karelskaya, T.V. Gorshenina, S.P. Nemirova, T.V. Shatkuvene, and other staff members [4].

Several specialists have distinguished themselves in public service. For instance, Svetlana Evgenievna Parnyakova, Head Nurse of the

Anna Alexeevna Kubanova (September 21, 1948 — May 16, 2019) — Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, Full Member of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences (RAMS) and Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Director of the Central Research Institute of Skin and Venereal Diseases under the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation.



Fig. 7. A.A. Kubanova, Doctor of Medical Sciences, PhD in Medicine, Professor, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Director of "State Scientific Center for Dermatovenereology and Cosmetology" of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation 1999–2019s and K.V. Baryshkov, PhD in Medicine, chief physician of Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary, from 2009 to the present. Conference of dermatovenerologists of the Northwestern Federal District, Arkhangelsk, 2010, 85th anniversary of the dispensary

Рис. 7. А.А. Кубанова, д.м.н., профессор, академик РАН, директор ФГБУ «Государственный научный центр дерматовенерологии и косметологии» МЗ РФ в 1999–2019 гг., и К. В. Барышков, к.м.н., главный врач ГАУЗ АО «Архангельский клинический кожно-венерологический диспансер», с 2009 г. по настоящее время. Конференция дерматовенерологов Северо-Западного федерального округа, г. Архангельск, 2010 г., 85-летие диспансера

ACSVDD, has been recognized as an Outstanding Healthcare Worker (2020) and Merited Healthcare Professional of the Russian Federation (2024). A graduate of the Higher Nursing Education Faculty at NSMU, she has dedicated her career to the Association of Medical Workers of the Arkhangelsk Region (formerly the Arkhangelsk Region Nurses Association). Currently serving as Vice President of ARO "AMWAR" (Arkhangelsk Regional Public Organization "Association of Medical Workers of the Arkhangelsk Region"), she actively collaborates with the Department of Medical History at NSMU, contributing to artifact collection for the Medical History Museum [10].

Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary maintains active collaboration with medical institutions across Arkhangelsk Region and neighboring territories.

CONCLUSION

Thus, Arkhangelsk Clinical Skin and Venereal Diseases Dispensary serves as the governing institution coordinating all dermatological services across the Arkhangelsk Region, with its foundational history extending back to the early 20th century. For 100 years of its existence, many talented and hardworking physicians have provided therapeutic and consultative care to northern residents, through whose efforts this facility has become one of Russia's most effective in the dermatovenereological specialty. Without doubt, centers like ACSVDD will never lose their relevance, and this distinguished dispensary itself will celebrate many more centennial anniversaries.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Author contribution. Thereby, all authors made a substantial contribution to the conception of the study, acquisition, analysis, interpretation of data for the work, drafting and revising the article, final approval of the version to be published was agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the study.

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