

**Russian-Origin Health Care Providers and Patients in  
Miami-Dade and Broward Counties**

Anna García Gomozova

*IMTP-Magazine on Migration Issues*®  
(Spring 2013)

Suggested citation: Gomozova, Anna García. "Russian-Origin Health Care Providers and Patients in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties." *IMTP-Magazine on Migration Issues* (Spring 2013).

## **Abstract**

This paper presents the results of a preliminary study of private medical practices in Miami-Dade and Broward counties where Russian practitioners tend to work and Russian patients tend to receive medical care. It also discusses issues pertaining to medical tourism. The paper contributes to the understanding of immigration from Russia into South Florida and sheds light on ways Russian immigrants deliver and access health care in areas with a high concentration of the Russian-origin population in South Florida.

## **Introduction<sup>1</sup>**

The exodus of scientists, including health care professionals, has affected many post-socialist countries like Russia. It is estimated that by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, more than a half million of Russia's most talented people left Russia.<sup>2</sup> After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia's support for sciences decreased significantly, which urged many scientists to flee overseas in search for a better future. One of the most appealing destinations for Russian immigrants has been the United States. South Florida in particular has witnessed a substantial growth of the Russian-origin community whose members tend to settle in the Northeastern part of Miami-Dade and Broward counties. The City of Aventura has the largest Russian-origin population in South Florida followed by Sunny Isles, Hallandale Beach, North Miami Beach and Hollywood. Despite the fact that Russian immigrants represent a fast-growing community in the above-mentioned areas, Russians, and particularly their access to healthcare, have been neglected topics in specialized publications.

This paper identifies and presents an inventory of the key areas of Miami-Dade and Broward counties with private medical practices where Russian patients tend to receive medical care. The private medical practices were identified using Google search, advertisements in printed Russian magazines issued in South Florida such as "Florida Russian Magazine"<sup>3</sup> and "Spravochnik, Florida Russian Directory & Guide,"<sup>4</sup> and the database of the Russian-American

Chamber of Commerce. To further understand the approximate percentage of Russian patients seen by doctors in South Florida, issues concerning insurance coverage and international medical referrals were discussed in interviews with medical practitioners including Dr. Olga Kharevich, oral surgeon from Hollywood; Dr. Jack Berman, chiropractor from North Miami Beach; Michael Kenton, physical therapist from Hallandale Beach. Interviews were also conducted with these administrators from leading South Florida health care facilities: a representative from the International Programs at Baptist Health and Mr. Emilio Nunez, Executive Director of International Medicine Institute at the University of Miami.

It is important to be mindful of this study's limitations. For one, not all private medical practices advertise their work in ways that allowed identification for my study, and not all of them are members of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the interviews conducted do not allow for generalizable knowledge, hence there is a need for follow up research to have a more comprehensive perspective on the issues of interest. Nevertheless, this paper makes a preliminary contribution to the understanding of ways Russian immigrants and Russians living in Russia access health care in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

### **Why Russian Professionals Move**

Igor Georgievich and Irina Aleksandrovna (2001) argue that the exodus of scientists has affected Russia mainly due to the “political and socioeconomic transformations...along with the liberalization of rules governing exit and the elimination of the ‘closed character’ of scientific communities”<sup>5</sup> that took place after the fall of the Soviet Union. According to them, there are three main decisive factors in emigration of Russian scientific personnel including health care professionals: 1) The crisis of Russian science, 2) Low standard of living for professionals and

the desire to improve earnings — the interviews with two Russian health care professionals conducted particularly for this paper confirmed that economic reasons remain a decisive factor for migrating from Russia — and 3) Low social importance and prestige of intellectual activity in Russia. These factors, the authors explain, are related to the rise of a vulnerable climate for the professionals with a lack of protection and uncertain prospects for careers or job dissatisfaction. Russia's spending on research and development declined by 15 to 18 times during the 1990s, adding up to about 0.4 to 0.6 of the GDP.<sup>6</sup> Owing to the decrease in spending, the material base of science deteriorated as well. According to UNESCO's 1998 World Science Report, Russia "had about 900,000 scientists involved in research and development (R&D) when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Four years later there were only half a million."<sup>7</sup> It has been estimated that in the period between 1990 and 2000, Russia's field of science lost more than 2.2 million workers, which represents two-thirds of its total number.<sup>8</sup>

### **Demographic Profiles of Russian Immigrants**

According to the United States Census Bureau data, there are 224,364 Russian-origin individuals in the State of Florida.<sup>9</sup> In the State of New York there is a longstanding enclave of the Russian-born population. The size of the Russian-origin group is 476,895.<sup>10</sup> The largest percentage of Russian immigrants is distributed among the following cities in Miami-Dade and Broward counties: Sunny Isles Beach, the City of Aventura, Hallandale Beach, Hollywood and North Miami Beach. All of these cities are located in a similar geographical continuum that connects to the Atlantic beaches, which are highly desirable for Russian immigrants coming to Florida. The size of the Russian-born population in Miami-Dade<sup>11</sup> and Broward counties<sup>12</sup> is 23,195 and 46,330 people respectively.

Sunny Isles Beach, or “Little Moscow,” is a city located on a barrier island in Northeastern Miami-Dade County with a population of 20,832 people.<sup>13</sup> The largest ancestry group in Sunny Isles is comprised of Russians totaling 1,447 inhabitants. They are the single largest group in the city, accounting for 9.4% of the population.<sup>14</sup> In total, 7.36% of the Sunny Isles population claims Russian as its first language.<sup>15</sup> “Little Moscow” not only has a significant Russian-origin population but also Russian businesses such as restaurants, doctors’ offices, pharmacies, shops, etc. The City of Aventura has a population of 20,832 inhabitants (as of 2010).<sup>16</sup> Its demographics break down to: White: 75%, Hispanic: 21%, Black: 2%, Other: 2%. Retail and medical businesses constitute Aventura’s main economic activities. Like Sunny Isles, Aventura’s largest ancestry is comprised of about 3,000 Russians who constitute 12% of the total population.<sup>17</sup> In Aventura, 1.75% of the population claims Russian as its first language.<sup>18</sup> North Miami Beach (commonly referred to as NMB) has a population of 41,523 (2011).<sup>19</sup> The Russian-origin population there has reached over 700 people and represents the sixth largest ancestry group, constituting 1.8% of the total population.<sup>20</sup> Hallandale Beach, a city in Broward County, has a population of 37,113 (as of 2011).<sup>21</sup> In Hallandale Beach Russian-origin population comprises the fourth largest ancestry group or 1,750 individuals (5.1% of the total)<sup>22</sup> and 1.32% of those individuals claim Russian as their first language.<sup>23</sup> Hollywood, a city in Broward County, has a population of 140,768 inhabitants<sup>24</sup> and the lowest number of Russian-speaking population (0.24%).<sup>25</sup> The Russian-origin population there comprises the eighth largest ancestry group with 4,464 people or 3.2% of the total population.<sup>26</sup> Thus, the cities in Miami-Dade and Broward counties with the largest percentage of Russian-speaking population are Aventura, Sunny Isles, Hallandale Beach, North Miami Beach and Hollywood, respectively.

## **Inventory of Private Medical Practices**

This study found that Aventura, Sunny Isles, Hallandale Beach, Hollywood and North Miami Beach have a significant concentration of private medical practices with Russian-speaking doctors and/or staff. These centers were identified by using Google search, by analyzing the advertisement section of printed Russian magazines issued in South Florida such as “Florida Russian Magazine” and “Spravochnik, Florida Russian Directory & Guide,” and by accessing the online database of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce.

A total of 14 private medical practices were identified in Aventura, followed by Hollywood (12), North Miami Beach (10), Hallandale Beach (9) and Sunny Isles (8). The specialties found were: 10 dentists, 9 internal medicine/family medicine doctors, 3 ophthalmologists, 5 psychologists/psychiatrists, 3 dermatologists, 3 podiatrists, 2 cardiologists, 2 chiropractors, 2 pediatricians, 2 OBGYN doctors, 2 plastic surgeons, 2 pain management/rehabilitation medicine doctors, 1 anti-aging medicine doctor, 1 acupuncturist, 1 holistic pregnancy center, 1 massage therapist, 1 orthopedic surgeon and 1 urologist.

Two Russian pharmacies were also identified: Solutions Pharmacy in Sunny Isles and Hallandale Pharmacy in Hallandale Beach. Along with the wide variety of services and products a regular pharmacy in the United States offers, these pharmacies carry additional European cosmetics, Russian homeopathic remedies, herbs, creams and ointments. Advertisements about Solutions pharmacy in Sunny Isles can be found in printed Russian magazines distributed in South Florida, but no advertisements for Hallandale Pharmacy were identified in printed Russian magazines. The Hallandale Pharmacy website, however, does offer a section in Russian.

Chart 1 offers details on these two pharmacies plus 51 health private medical practices that were identified as part of this preliminary study. The information is delivered in an inventory

format that includes specialty, address and contact information when available. The chart indicates that the top three specialties are dentistry, internal medicine and ophthalmology. And as already discussed, the two Russian pharmacies identified are Solutions Pharmacy in Sunny Isles and Hallandale Pharmacy in Hallandale Beach.

Chart 1: Preliminary Inventory of Private Medical Practices Own and/or Operated by Russian-origin Professionals in Northeastern Miami-Dade and Broward Counties

Facility Location/Name	Phone Number	Specialty	Address	Website
<b>Pharmacies:</b>				
Solutions Pharmacy	305.945.8977		17036 Collins Ave., Sunny Isles, FL 33160	
Hallandale Pharmacy	954.455.3822		1109 East Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	
<b>Health Centers and Private Practices:</b>				
<b>Aventura</b>				
Stem Cell Regen Med	305.682.1004	Anti-aging Medicine	2627 NE 203 Str., Suite 207, Aventura, FL 33180	stemcellregenmed.com
The Center for Counseling	305.932.5500	Psychologist	21110 Biscayne Blvd., # 304, Aventura, FL 33180	healthybrain4you.com
Dr. Yulia Watters	786.228.6638	Psychologist	18851 NE 29 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Aventura, FL 33180	helpthroughloss.com
Dr. Frances Glicksman	305.674.1887	Cardiologist	2845 Aventura Blvd., Suite #247C, Aventura, FL 33180	

Aventura Dental Center	305.933.2501	Dentistry	1871 Biscayne Blvd., Aventura, FL 33160	cardiovascular longevity.com
Dr. Dmitry Byk	305.932.5500	Psychiatrist	21110 Biscayne Blvd., Suite #304, Aventura, FL 33180	
Dr. Andrew Sands	305.932.2202	Chiropractor	18205 Biscayne Blvd., Suite #100, Aventura, FL 33160	
Dr. Vladimir Turovskiy	305.466.1977	Acupuncture	18305 Biscayne Blvd, Suite #2214, Aventura, FL 33160	floridaintegrativemedicine.com
Dr. Marat Zeltsman	305.682.1602	Pediatrician	21097 NE 27 Court, Suite #205, Aventura, FL 33180	pediatricassociates.com
Dr. Leonard M. Hochstein	305.931.3338	Plastic Surgeon	19495 Biscayne Blvd., Suite #204, Aventura, FL 33180	lhochsteinmd.com
Dr. Sam Gershenbaum	305.933.1838	Plastic Surgeon	2954-B Aventura Blvd., Aventura, FL 33180	
Dr. Igor Chaplik, DO (Aventura Dermatology)	305.931.6661	Dermatologist	21097 NE 27th Ct., Suite #500, Aventura, FL 33180	
Dr. Barry I. Resnick, MD	305.692.8998	Dermatologist	2630 NE 203 <sup>rd</sup> St., Suite #105, Aventura, FL 33180	
Dr. Asya E. Mikulinsky, MD	561.433.2232	Pain Management	20885 NE 30 <sup>th</sup> Place, Aventura, FL 33180	

---

**Sunny Isles**

---

Dr. C. Satulovsky	305.974.0430	Psychiatrist	17395 N. Bay Rd., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Sunny Isles, FL 33160	
-------------------	--------------	--------------	--	--

Dr. Yevgeniya	305.945.9595	General Practitioner	17200 Collins Ave., Suite #216, Sunny Isles, FL 33160	
Sunny Isles Eye Center	305.917.1037	Ophthalmology	17100 Collins Ave., Suite #112, Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160	
Dr. Alexander Chaplik	305.935.4640	Cardiology	17395 N. Bay Rd., Suite #202, Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160	chaplikcardiology.com
Academia Dental PA	305.935.4640	Cardiology	17395 N. Bay Rd., Suite #201, Sunny Isles, FL 33160	
Dr. Boris Klopukh	305.534.4747	Urology	17070 Collins Ave., Suite #257, Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160	
Dr. Arkadiv Purygin	305.974.0430	Women's Health	17395 N. Bay Rd., Suite #200, Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160	

---

**Hallandale Beach**

---

Dr. Julia Dison, D.D.S.	305.600.5454	Dentist	2518 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	healthysmile.vpweb.com
Progressive Medical Center	954.903.4043	General and Urgent Care	1250 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd., Suite #1005, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	
Center for Dental Excellence	954.457.8308	Cosmetic Dentistry	2100 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale, FL 33009	floridasmilecreation.com

Well Care Rehabilitation	954.454.4280	Rehabilitation Medicine	304 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale Beach 33009	wellcarerehab.com
A Birth Center	786.343.7984	Holistic Pregnancy Care	3001 W. Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	abirthcenter.com
Dr. Adriana Strimbu	954.455.9404	Podiatry	404 N. Federal Highway, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	hallandalebeachfootdoctor.com
Dr. Nathan Kfir	954.456.2220	Podiatry	404 N. Federal Highway, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	
CLSC and Intermed Clinic	954.458.2572	Internal Medicine	1770 E. Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	intermedclinics.com
Affordable Foot and Leg	954.458.1248	Podiatry	2100 E Hallandale Beach Blvd., Suite #204, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009	

---

**Hollywood**

---

Center for Dental Excellence	954.342.8315	Cosmetic Dentistry	650 S. Federal Highway, Suite #2, Hollywood, FL 33020	floridasmilecreation.com
Dr. Dennis G. Phillips, D.M.D.	954.925.9967	General Dentistry	2632 Hollywood Blvd., Suite #200, Hollywood, FL 33020	
Dr. Georgiv Brusovnik	305.467.5678	Orthopedic Surgeon	3800 S. Ocean Dr., Suite #G3, Hollywood, FL 33019	
Hollywood Eyes	954.923.5367	Ophthalmology	2011 Harrison St., Hollywood, FL 33020	hollywoodeyesflorida.com

Dr. Mikhail Zelfman	954.922.1270	Family Medicine	1531 N. Federal Highway, Hollywood, FL 33020	
Dr. Irina Milman, DO	954.889.0211	Family Medicine	4050 Sheridan St., Suite #C, Hollywood, FL 33021	
Dr. Aaron Elkin, MD	1.800.836.5927	OBGYN	1309 N. Federal Highway, Hollywood, FL 33020	
Dr. Olga Kharevich, D.M.D.	954.826.0060	Reconstructive Dentistry	4350 Sheridan St., Suite 201E, Hollywood, FL 33021	cosmeticroconstructivedentistry.com
Dr. Milana M. Kaplan	954.983.5330	Psychiatry	4651 Sheridan St., Suite #450, Hollywood, FL 33021	
Dr. Tatyana Dubrovsky, MD, Memorial Hospital	954.961.2423	Pediatric Neurology	4440 Sheridan St., Hollywood, FL 33021	
Dr. Yelena Pakula	954.880.0090	Massage Therapist	6840 Dykes Rd., Hollywood, FL 33028	
Minars Dermatology	954.987.7512		4020 Sheridan Street, Hollywood, FL 33021	minarsdermatology.com

---

**North Miami Beach**

Dr. Polina Nosel	305.945.8111 Medicine	Internal	1380 NE Miami Gardens Dr., Suite # 275, N. Miami Beach, FL 33179
JCP Medical P.A.	305.420.5229	Rehabilitation Medicine	3749 NE 163rd St., N. Miami Beach, FL 33160

Dr. Martin Leon, D.D.S.	305.940.5157	General Dentistry	3363 NE 163rd St., Suite # 807, North Miami Beach, FL 33160	drleondentist.com
N.B. Health Center	786.245.7444	General Medicine	16400 N.E. 19th Ave., N. Miami Beach, FL 33162	
Ocean Ophthalmology Group	305.940.1500	Ophthalmology	1400 NE Miami Gardens Dr., Suite #203, N. Miami Beach, FL 33179	
Dr. Liakhovetski	305.949.4454	Dentistry	3363 NE 163rd St., Suite # 807, N. Miami Beach, FL 33160	liakhovetski.com
Berman Chiropractic Center	305.940.2225	Chiropractor	3733 NE 163rd Street, N. Miami Beach, FL 33160	
Dr. Alexander Rozenstein	1.800.836.5927	Internal Medicine	1380 NE Miami Gardens Dr., Suite #210, N. Miami Beach, FL 33179	
Zalman H. Bacheikov, D.D.S.	305.532.6795	General Dentistry	420 Lincoln Rd., Suite #215, Miami Beach, FL 33139	bright-smile-dentist.com
Dr. Roza Gurarye, MD	1.800.836.5927	Family Medicine	2020 NE 163rd St., Suite #105, N. Miami Beach, FL 33162	

---

Sources: Table prepared by the author based off of Internet Google searches, analysis of advertisements in Russian magazines issued in South Florida such as “Florida Russian Magazine” and “Spravochnik, Florida Russian Directory & Guide,” and navigation of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce online database.

## Interviews

In order to gain further understanding of the approximate percentage of Russian patients seen in the above-mentioned practices and whether those patients used insurance or self-paid for the services among other issues of interest, four phone interviews were conducted. Two

respondents were of Russian origin and two of American origin. In addition, I interviewed a number of top ranking administrators from different institutions in order to grasp related issues pertaining to Russians as providers and users of medical services. The main results of the interviews are summarized as follows:

*Dr. Olga Kharevich – Reconstructive Dentistry-Practice in Hollywood, Florida.*<sup>27</sup> Dr. Kharevich is a surgically trained prosthodontist practicing in Hollywood, Florida. She began her training in Northern State Medical University in Russia, where she was exposed to the treatment of patients with advanced restorative and surgical cases through the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. She completed her surgical training in the field of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Russia and went on to obtain her PhD degree in dental materials at Umea University in Sweden and the Medical Military Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia. After completing her OMFS training, Dr. Kharevich set out on a path for additional prosthodontic training, which was achieved by completing further training in prosthodontics at Nova South-Eastern University (FL).

Dr. Kharevich moved from Russia to the United States in 2005. The main reasons for her move were professional development and fulfillment, continuation of medical research and economical improvement. She is the founder of the “Cosmetic and Reconstructive Dentistry” Center located in Hollywood, Florida. The vast majority of her patients are of Russian background – 90% as estimated by Dr. Kharevich. She categorized her patients into three main groups: retired people with Medicare (30%), Middle-aged Russian immigrants with some type of private insurance (30%) and self-pay Russian tourists (30%).

*Dr. Jack Berman – Chiropractic Care – Practice in North Miami Beach, Florida.*<sup>28</sup> Dr. Berman is the founder of the “Berman Chiropractor Center” located in North Miami Beach,

Florida. In addition to spinal adjustments, his center's services include preventive health care, massage and rehabilitative exercise. Dr. Berman graduated from Life University in Georgia in 1980. He has been part of Berman Chiropractic Center since then. He was born in the United States and does not have any Russian ancestry, nor does he speak Russian. However, about 10% to 15% of his patients are of Russian origin. The vast majority of them speak English, but interpretation is available for those who do not speak the language. As per Dr. Berman, the Russian population living in South Florida, specifically in the areas of Aventura, North Miami Beach and Sunny Isles, should not be overlooked. It is rapidly growing and is a potential source for attention to wellbeing and business. That is why he actively advertises in printed Russian magazines distributed in South Florida. He is also a member of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, which is designed to connect Russian and American Businesses in South Florida to help them prosper.

*Michael Kenton – Physical Therapy - Practice in Hallandale Beach, Florida.*<sup>29</sup> Mr. Kenton (MSPT, CPT) graduated from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York in 1993, with a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy and Health Sciences. He has practiced in both the in-patient and outpatient settings with a primary patient population of adult orthopedics and neurology. Mr. Kenton is also a certified personal trainer through the International Sports and Fitness Trainer's Association. In 2003, he opened the doors to "Wellcare Rehabilitation," a private outpatient physical rehabilitation and wellness center in Hallandale Beach, Florida. It serves patients in Aventura, Dania Beach, Hollywood, North Miami Beach and Sunny Isles. "Wellcare Rehabilitation" was opened in response to requests by several local physicians and community members. It works directly with local medical doctors and home health agencies for home-bound patients.

Michael Kenton is a first generation American. His parents emigrated from the Soviet Union to the United States. Russian immigrants constitute about 20% of his patients. The majority of those patients have medical insurance plans that are accepted at “Wellcare Rehabilitation.” When asked whether he has any uninsured patients or self-pay patients, he could not remember any of those. While Kenton does not speak Russian, his center has a Russian-speaking individual who assists with translation or interpretation and is in charge of marketing and advertisement. Similar to Dr. Berman, Kenton believes that the growing Russian population in Hallandale Beach is potential business for him, thus he actively advertises in printed Russian magazines distributed in South Florida.

*A representative from the International Programs at Baptist Health, Miami, Florida.*<sup>30</sup>

At Baptist Health, Russians are far from making up a significant number of the patient base. When they do come as patients, though, the vast majority of people come for emergency visits through the ER, and they usually pay in cash. According to a representative at Baptist International, there are no current marketing/business development campaigns taking place in an effort to recruit more Russian patients. On the whole, Baptist health concentrates its efforts in recruiting patients from areas close to Miami like Latin America and the Caribbean. The International Department of Baptists Health does not have Russian-speaking personnel, although they have a multi-lingual interpretation line available for patients who call in. “Headquartered in Coral Gables, Florida, Baptist Health is a \$2.5 billion organization composed of seven hospitals and more than two dozen outpatient facilities.”<sup>31</sup> It has one of the largest hospital-based international programs in America. “More than 12,000 people, primarily from Latin America and the Caribbean, travel to Baptist Health facilities each year to receive medical care.”<sup>32</sup>

*Mr. Emilio Nuñez, Executive Director of the International Medicine Institute at UHealth.*<sup>33</sup> Built upon a sophisticated system of research and the long-standing medical education tradition of the University of Miami Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, UHealth is South Florida's only university system "comprised of three hospitals, more than two dozen outpatient facilities in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Collier counties with more than 1,500 physicians and 8,200 staff."<sup>34</sup> Mr. Nuñez noted that the University of Miami has Russian-speaking staff and four Russian-speaking doctors: two of them in the department of anesthesiology; one is a pediatric oncologist and one is an oncologist (lymphoma specialist). UHealth has a well-structured program of international medical referrals, the majority of which come from Latin America and the Caribbean:

UHealth has seen an increase of 12.6% during FY 2012 in the number of international referrals received compared to FY 2011. Latin America (49%) and the Caribbean (43%) are the largest markets for UHealth. The rest of international patients have the following representation: North America 20%, Europe 4%, Middle East 2%, and Asia/Africa 2%.<sup>35</sup>

Concerning medical tourism, an important initiative to attract more international patients to Miami and market the local health care capabilities is the creation of a collaborative web site ([www.MiamiHealthCare.org](http://www.MiamiHealthCare.org)) by the joint effort of The Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau and six area hospitals and medical systems.<sup>36</sup> The interview with Mr. Nuñez also shed light on the growing number of medical facilities that are marketing obstetrics services to international patients including Russian women. Mr. Nuñez mentioned that the University of Miami has interest in recruiting a Russian-speaking obstetrician from New

York who has a good record of international referrals from the University of New York in order to serve more Russian obstetrics patients. The phenomenon of Russian pregnant women giving birth in South Florida is one of the most interesting findings of my study.

## **Conclusion**

Many Russian professionals, including physicians and nurses were affected during the first waves of changes in Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union, causing a wave of immigration of personnel from the medical field whose priorities included higher standards of living, better work-related conditions and the opportunity to realize their professional potential. Many of those immigrants settled down in South Florida, which contributed to the growth of the population enclaves in Northeastern Miami-Dade (Aventura, Sunny Isles and North Miami Beach) and Broward (Hollywood and Hallandale Beach) counties. The present paper offers a preliminary characterization of the private medical practices that they developed in these areas.

No generalization can be made from these results but they shed light on issues of interest that deserve further research. In this preliminary study 53 private medical practices where Russian patients tend to receive medical care were identified. The majority of them are located in the City of Aventura, which also has the largest Russian ancestry representation – 11.9%. Aventura is followed by Hollywood – total of 12, North Miami Beach – total of 10, Hallandale Beach – total of 9, and Sunny Isles – total of 8. Conducted interviews showed that Russian-speaking doctors in fact tend to have a higher percentage of Russian patients than those who do not speak the language. However, as interviews also showed, there are doctors who do not have Russian ancestry and do not speak any Russian, but they nevertheless try to attract Russian patients via advertisements. In terms of insurance status, it was difficult to identify the exact percentage of

insured versus uninsured patients. I found out that these characteristics vary based on the facility and the specialty.

In terms of medical tourism, the majority of international patients coming to South Florida for medical care originate from the Caribbean and Latin America. Russians do not seem to have a significant representation in medical tourism. The majority of Russian patients going to South Florida health care facilities seem to come from people who have had emergency needs while visiting on a temporary status. Due to the disrupted and underfunded health care system, Russians have to travel for medical purposes, but their preferred destinations are Germany, Turkey and Switzerland due to its geographical proximity. “Maternity tourism” seems to be bringing Russians to South Florida. Russian pregnant women seem to be attracted to South Florida by the possibility of having their babies here and obtaining a pathway to citizenship when the baby is born. “Maternity tourism” is a topic, which in reference to Russian patients in South Florida deserves more attention and further research.

---

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> I would like to thank Dr. Margarita Rodriguez for encouraging primary research in her students' projects, hence contributing to the creation of unique pieces of academic work. This paper results from my participation in her course on International Migration and the Health Care System.

<sup>2</sup> Owen Matthews and Anna Nemtsova. "Smart Russia." *Newsweek International*, 115, No. 22 (2010).

Retrieved from:

[http://go.galegroup/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA226656556&v=2.1&u=miami\\_richter&it=r&p=AONE&sw=](http://go.galegroup/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA226656556&v=2.1&u=miami_richter&it=r&p=AONE&sw=)

<sup>3</sup> *Florida Russian Magazine*, No. 2, (2012): 134.

<sup>4</sup> Spravochnik. *Florida Russian Directory & Guide*, Free Monthly Publication, (2012).

<sup>5</sup> Igor Georgievich Ushkalov and Irina Aleksandrovna Malakha. "The 'Brain Drain' as a Global Phenomenon and Its Characteristics in Russia." *Russian Social Science Review*, 42, No. 5, (2001): 80.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 82.

<sup>7</sup> Jasmina Sopova. "Former USSR: halting the brain drain." *UNESCO Courier*. Retrieved from:

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1310/is\\_1999\\_May/ai\\_54738748/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1310/is_1999_May/ai_54738748/).

<sup>8</sup> Georgievich and Malakha, (2001): 83.

<sup>9</sup> "Selected Population Profile in the United States. 2011 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimate."

American Fact Finder. U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved from

[http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_S0201&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_S0201&prodType=table).

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> City-data.com. Sunny Isles Beach. Retrieved from: <http://www.city-data.com/city/Sunny-Isles-Beach-Florida.html>

<sup>14</sup> City-data.com. Races in Sunny Isles Beach, Florida (FL). Detailed stats: Ancestries, Foreign born residents, place of birth. Retrieved from: <http://www.city-data.com/races/races-Sunny-Isles-Beach-Florida.html>.

<sup>15</sup> MLA Language Map Data Center. Sunny Isles, Florida. Retrieved from:

[http://www.mla.org/map\\_data\\_results&state\\_id=12&county\\_id=&mode=place&zip=&place\\_id=69550&cty\\_id=&ll=&a=&ea=&order=r](http://www.mla.org/map_data_results&state_id=12&county_id=&mode=place&zip=&place_id=69550&cty_id=&ll=&a=&ea=&order=r).

<sup>16</sup> United States Census Bureau. State & County Quick Facts. Sunny Isles Beach (city,) Florida. Retrieved from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/1269555.html>

<sup>17</sup> City-data.com. Races in Aventura, Florida (FL). Detailed Stats: Ancestries, Foreign born residents, place of birth. Retrieved from: <http://www.city-data.com/races/races-Aventura-Florida.html>

<sup>18</sup> MLA Language Map Data Center. Sunny Isles, Florida. Retrieved from:

[http://www.mla.org/map\\_data\\_results&state\\_id=12&place\\_id=2681&cty\\_id=](http://www.mla.org/map_data_results&state_id=12&place_id=2681&cty_id=)

<sup>19</sup> United States Census Bureau. State & County Quick Facts. North Miami Beach (city), Florida.

Retrieved from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/1228452.html>

<sup>20</sup> City-data.com. Races in North Miami Beach, Florida (FL). Detailed stats: Ancestries, Foreign born residents, place of birth. Retrieved from: <http://www.city-data.com/races/races-North-Miami-Beach-Florida.html>

<sup>21</sup> United States Census Bureau. State & County Quick Facts. Hallandale Beach (city), Florida. Retrieved from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/1228452.html>

<sup>22</sup> City-data.com. Races in Hallandale, Florida (FL). Detailed Stats: Ancestries, Foreign born residents, place of birth. Retrieved from: <http://www.city-data.com/races/races-Hallandale-Florida.html>

<sup>23</sup> MLA Language Map Data Center. Hallandale, Florida. Retrieved from: [http://www.mla.org/cgi-shl/docstudio/docs.pl?map\\_data\\_results](http://www.mla.org/cgi-shl/docstudio/docs.pl?map_data_results)

<sup>24</sup> United States Census Bureau. State & County Quick Facts. Hollywood (city), Florida. Retrieved from: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/1232000.html>

- 
- <sup>25</sup> MLA Language Map Data Center. Hollywood, Florida. Retrieved from: [http://www.mla.org/map\\_data\\_results&state\\_id=12&place\\_id=32000&cty\\_id=](http://www.mla.org/map_data_results&state_id=12&place_id=32000&cty_id=)
- <sup>26</sup> City-data.com. Races in Hollywood, Florida (FL). Detailed stats: Ancestries, Foreign born residents, place of birth. Retrieved from: <http://www.city-data.com/races/races-Hollywood-Florida.html>
- <sup>27</sup> Phone interview with Dr. Olga Kharevich, Founder of “Cosmetic and Reconstructive Dentistry,” Hollywood, Florida. June 19, 2012.
- <sup>28</sup> Phone interview with Dr. Jack Berman, Founder of “Berman Chiropractic Center,” North Miami Beach, Florida. June 19, 2012.
- <sup>29</sup> Phone interview with Michael Kenton, Founder of “Wellcare Rehabilitation,” Hallandale Beach, Florida. June 19, 2012.
- <sup>30</sup> Phone interview with a representative from the International Programs at Baptist Health, Miami. October 24, 2012.
- <sup>31</sup> About Baptist. Baptisthealth.net. Retrieved from: <http://baptisthealth.net/en/about-baptist-health/Pages/default.aspx>
- <sup>32</sup> “Our name is health.” Baptist Health.net. Retrieved from: [http://baptisthealth.net/en/about-baptist-health/Documents/NameHealthBrochure\\_Eng.pdf](http://baptisthealth.net/en/about-baptist-health/Documents/NameHealthBrochure_Eng.pdf).
- <sup>33</sup> In-person interview with Emilio Nuñez, Executive Director of International Medicine Institute, Miami, Florida. October 10, 2012.
- <sup>34</sup> UHEALTH – University of Miami Health System. UMiamiHospital.com. Retrieved from: <http://umiamihospital.com/uhealth>
- <sup>35</sup> In-person interview with Emilio Nuñez, Executive Director of International Medicine Institute, Miami, Florida. October 10, 2012.
- <sup>36</sup> Marilyn Bowden. “Medical tourism fills hospital beds.” *Miami Today online*, (2012). Retrieved from: <http://www.miamitodaynews.com/news/120823/story6.shtml>.