Dr. Nikita Romashko - Chief Dental Advisor for the Department of Health Care and Doping Control of Sochi 2014

By Dental Tribune MEA

Dental Tribune MEA: Dr. Nikita, a pleasure to interview you. Could you introduce yourself to the readers of Dental Tribune and your experience as an Oral Surgeon?

Dr. Nikita Romashko: In the past century I graduated from the Moscow Medical Stomatological Institute - a leading dental school of the former USSR. Since then I have gone from intern to the head of a large dental clinic Baderenta in Moscow. Besides treating patients I did a lot of organizing work, collaborated with insurance and assistance companies and acted as a business development advisor.

You were the Chief Dental Advisor for the Department of Healthcare and Doping Control during the Sochi Olympics in Russia 2014. What responsibilities did this include and how did you manage the overview of the eight dental operators across the three Olympic Villages?

Russia began to prepare for the Winter Olympics years before the event. Four years before the Games we started to develop a detailed plan for dental care. Personally my role was to plan dental services during the preparation and coordination of its work during the games, including the interaction with the national federations and the IOC. Thinking of service we were setting the task not to provide urgent & necessary treatment only but to improve the dental health of athletes, to solve their present problems and to prevent their future problems as well. Our services applied not only to the athletes and the Olympic family, but also to numerous Organizational dental diseases. For me it is very encouraging that more than 100 athlete visits were exclusively related to professional hygiene and checkups.

What were the challenges and achievements during your experience in Sochi?

As I mentioned, we took care not only of athletes, but also the workforce. In fact, we had to take responsibility for more than 10,000 people – more or less the population of a small town. The number of visits were a record during the Olympic Games. As our clinic was proud of the ‘Mouthguard Programme’ - about 100 items were made. Perhaps that is why the hockey venue dentists had nothing to do and could just enjoy watching the game. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the team there was an easy and friendly atmosphere in the clinics, our patients happened to just come by to say “hello”. Perhaps the most challenging for me was not to share a tear with Olympic Bear Mascot when the fire of the Games died away.

What other partners did you work with who helped you achieve your goals in Sochi?

During the clinics equipping, we primarily took care of the quality and reliability of proven solutions the partners can offer. Therefore, a cooperation with Procter & Gamble was not only subject to partnership agreements but a personal choice.

Going beyond the Olympic Games, has Sochi had an impact on you?

Sure! Olympic Games are unique events and also it was the first Winter Olympics in my country. I was very happy to be part of it. Despite the hard work we managed to organize a successful event. I was fortunate to be an eyewitness of some major sporting events as the European Football Championship Final, the Biathlon World Cup finals, major hockey tournaments and the Olympic emotions I can only convey even in my native language.