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 team physician and each clinic had a dental department including 3 operatories in the coastal village, 2 - in the mountain village and 1 - in the endurance village. Do not forget about the 2 separate fully equipped dental offices at both hockey arenas, where dentists were present every day during the games and training sessions. Of course, it was a difficult job but thanks to the coordinated work, enthusiasm and devotion of the entire dental team we complied the mission whilst receiving excellent feedback from athletes, team physicians and officials.

How did you manage prevention and what were the preventive measures you took during the Olympic Games?

Prevention - is a long process that cannot be implemented for 2 weeks. Our task was to show the importance of prevention to athletes. In London 2012 and Sochi 2014 Games an Athletes Survey was carried out supported by Procter & Gamble, which showed the athletes' understanding of the importance of dental health and the link between oral health and training and performance results. Secondly, it was important to show in practice that prevention is a long process. For me it is very certain that prevention is a long process. I was fortunate to have 40% and others 15% - for teams. I would like to show my appreciation to Dr. Paul Piccinini, IOC Dental Director for his support and to Dr. Antony Chough, London 2012 Dental Chief for his active assistance, knowledge and experience. I was proud of the ‘Mouthguard Programme’ about 100 items were made. Perhaps that is why the hockey venue dentists had something 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 beneficial but also necessary for me and my team.

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 a 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 cannot convey even in my native language.

Contact details available from the publisher.