

**Moscow Department of Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor)**

**Press-Release on Round-Table Discussion 'Committed to Vaccination' Featuring Rospotrebnadzor and Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation**

April 21, 2015

On April 21, in the framework of activities under European Immunization Week campaign, a round-table discussion 'Committed to Vaccination' focusing on urgent vaccination-related issues took place at the address of Moscow Rospotrebnadzor Department: 4/9 Graftsky per, Moscow.

This round-table discussion was jointly arranged by Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor) and the Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation. During the entire period of active work of the RVF in Russia, successful interaction between Rospotrebnadzor and the RVF was key to their fruitful cooperation on immunization activities, targeting children and adolescents.

Participants to this round-table discussion were employees of the RVF, including Elena and Olga Rostropovich, representatives of scientific community specializing on vaccination, key officers of Rospotrebnadzor in Moscow and Moscow Region, healthcare workers and specialists from regional Rospotrebnadzor departments in Moscow and Moscow Region.

Dr. Anna Popova, Head of Rospotrebnadzor, highlighted that the Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation had become a forerunner who arranged for a pilot immunization of children and adolescents against most life-threatening vaccine-preventable infections and as a result of its activity, National Vaccination Schedule had been modified to include new vaccines to be in line with modern challenges. She reminded that during 2001-2006, cooperation with the RVF in national vaccination campaign against hepatitis B yielded over 2 million adolescents and medical workers vaccinated in 23 regions of the Russian Federation. In Nizhny Novgorod, the RVF funded vaccination of over 150,000 children against MMR. As a result of RVF-funded pilot vaccination program against Hib, changes to National Vaccination Schedule were recommended to include vaccine against Hib. Since 2011, routine immunization against Hib has become part of the National Vaccination Schedule. The most important part of cooperation between the Rospotrebnadzor and the Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation featured epidemiological study on prevalence of pneumococcal infection on the territory of the Russian Federation which was carried out in collaboration with the Center for Bacterial Meningitis Surveillance (based on the Rospotrebnadzor Central Scientific-Research Institute of Epidemiology). Based on Rospotrebnadzor recommendations and results of the pilot study on prevalence of pneumococcal infection, PCV has become an integral part of the National Vaccination Schedule in 2014.

RVF President Elena Rostropovich stressed out that fruitful cooperation with Rospotrebnadzor is a great honor for the Foundation. She made it clear that commitment to vaccination among general population is key to successful prevention of vaccine-preventable infections.

In a wrap-up session following to round-table discussion participants exchanged their views on urgent issues of immunization. They laid out plans for the nearest future and expressed their gratitude to the organizers of the round-table discussion.