

## Chapter 24

# Forensic Support in Remote Territories of Russian Arctic: The Realities of Modern Education

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The chapter covers the relevant aspects of education and training of medical specialist to work in the northern territories remote from the administrative centers. The chapter reveals the problem of insufficient basic training in forensic medicine for the specialists living and working in geographically isolated areas of the Arctic zone of Russia. The author outlines the contradictions between the provisions on forensic medical training, declared educational standards, and requirements of the criminal procedures set by the Russian legislation. In the case of circumpolar territories in Russia, the author attempts to elaborate possible ways of solution of the specified problems.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Alexander Eliseev (1886), a military doctor, doctor of medicine, anthropologist, writer, and traveler said “First, give literacy to the Pomors, then build a hospital to ensure the survival of living Russian power, provide the order and living environment with well-organized local government, establish post service and connections along the coast of the Arctic Ocean, and the North of Russia will prosper”.

The emphasis of this chapter is made on the features of forensic medical training of doctors working in the remote territories of the Arctic zone of Russia. The issue, however, is relevant for the circumpolar territories of all Nordic countries. Due to the remoteness of such areas from the administrative centers and unstable transport connection, the doctors who live and work there periodically experience specific situations that require their urgent involvement in investigative actions or forensic expert examinations. According to the legal regulations in the majority of countries, a doctor of any specialization has to have the skills and abilities required for a forensic medical examination. However, the existing educational standards, specifically, in Russia, do not assume the development of such skills to the extent required.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-6954-1.ch024

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A reduction in the number of class hours for Forensic Medicine courses affects the level of training in this field. In turn, it causes the inability of doctors in the remote circumpolar settlements to carry out forensic medical expertise in the absence of full-time forensic experts.

The above provisions have prompted the author to analyze the educational standards in the field of forensic medicine based on the contemporary situation in the practical medical activities in the remote areas of the Arctic zone of Russia as well as to develop the recommendation for the prospective improvements of forensic medical training. To justify the revision of the existing Russian legislation in that field, a complex range of logical and legal arguments has been utilized to substantiate the need in the elaboration of modern provisions and principles of forensic medicine training. This chapter develops the author's previous studies in the field of forensic medical training of physicians working in circumpolar territories (Kuznetsov, 2014).

## **BACKGROUND**

The year 1653 is the starting point in the medical and demographic studies of the Arctic. In February 1653, Pierre-Martin de Lamartine, a French surgeon, departed from Copenhagen as a member of the Danish expedition of the Northern trading company, visited Norway, Lapland, and the North of Russia. His voyage resulted in a report containing rich ethnographic material (Kasparyan, 2013).

The Arctic zone of Russia is located along the coast of the Arctic Ocean, particularly, the Barents, Kara, Laptev, East Siberian, and Chukchi seas. It is Russia's longest maritime border of 19,724 km. The land area of the Arctic zone is 18% of Russia's territory, or 3.1 million km<sup>2</sup> (Kamenetsky, 2015). According to the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On Land Territories of the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation" (President of the Russian Federation, 2014), Russian Arctic includes:

- Murmanskaya Oblast;
- Nenetsky Autonomous District;
- Chukotsky Autonomous District;
- Yamalo-Nenetsky Autonomous District;
- Vorkuta municipal district (Komi Republic);
- Allaikovsky district, Anabar national (Dolgan-Evenk) district, Bulunsky district, Nizhnekolymsky district, and Ust-Yansky district (Republic of Sakha (Yakutia));
- Norilsk and Taimyr Dolgan-Nenets municipal districts, Turukhansk district (Krasnoyarsky Krai);
- Arkhangelsk, Mezensk municipal area, Novaya Zemlya, Novodvinsk, Onezh municipal area, Primorsk municipal area, Severodvinsk (Arkhangelskaya Oblast);
- Territories and islands located in the Arctic Ocean specified in the Decree of the Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) "On the Declaration as the Territory of the USSR of the Lands and Islands Located in the Arctic Ocean" (Presidium of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1926) and other regulation documents of the USSR.

During 2004-2014, rural population in Russia decreased by 1.7% (from 38.62 million in 2004 down to 37.98 million in 2014). The decline further increased the gap in the development between urban (sub-urban) and rural territories including the ones in the Arctic zone of the country. The industrial sector

