

snow falling on the streets, squares, bridges, and fountains of St. Petersburg, and the hot air and dog presence on the streets of Erice in Sicily. I can hear the bells of the Pražský orloj, a medieval astronomical clock in Prague, and the vocal conversation in Italian on the Spanish Steps in Rome. If I think of Vienna, it is Mozart, Strauss, and Klimt and an apfel strudel with a single shot of espresso accompanied by a glass of water. I enjoy standing on the pier in Palanga, Lithuania that extends into the Baltic Sea and feeling the strong northern winds, which take your breath away.

**Q What characteristic do you most admire in others?**

Honesty, compassion, and trustworthiness.

**Q Tell us something that may surprise us about you.**

I like to express feelings and ideas by writing poetry in Russian and enjoy surprising my friends with rhythms on special occasions. I still cannot achieve such proficiency in English.

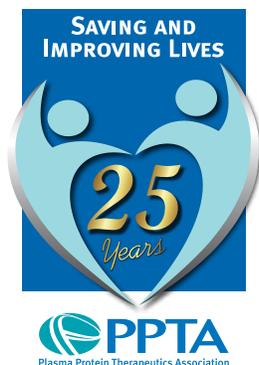
**Q Who's been an inspiration to you in your life?**

My writing inspiration has always been Dr. Paul Brown, who never judged my English writing skills even when pieces needed significant editing. My inspiration for endurance and self-motivation is Dr. Lev Goldfarb, who helped me to settle in the U.S., provided unselfish mentorship, and entrusted

me with the invaluable samples from patients with various neurological diseases, for molecular genetic analysis. Many of you may remember Dr. Bill Drohan, the Chief of the Plasma Derivatives Department at the ARC, who was an example of a strong leader and a human being ... he even remembered the names of each individual's spouses and children! I can continue with the list of people who were inspirational, supportive, and had a significant impact on my life, but I am afraid that this writing would then become an elaborate memoir. Many of you in the industry became my life-long colleagues and friends and I am grateful to you.

**Q How did you get involved in this industry?**

My five years of work on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies at the NIH were ending at the time when the epidemic of vCJD started in the United Kingdom. The uncertainty about the vCJD threat to the blood supply brought me to the J.H. Holland Laboratory of the ARC to address some of the questions that the plasma and blood industry faced. I have read almost every issue of The Source magazine from its first publication and kept on file many issues of the magazine. I call it a "wheel of life" that I was listed as a speaker of the PPTA meeting in Rome in 2002 and now I am a "happy camper" within this industry. ●



## COMMEMORATING 25 YEARS OF SAVING AND IMPROVING LIVES

**JUNE 13, 2017**

This year, PPTA celebrates 25 years of saving and improving lives. In recognition of this, we will be hosting a black tie gala in Washington, D.C. on the evening of June 13, 2017 at the Mellon Auditorium in Washington, D.C. Registration will be in conjunction with the 2017 Plasma Protein Forum and will be open on a limited "first-come, first-served" basis. Watch the PPTA website for more information in the coming months. ●