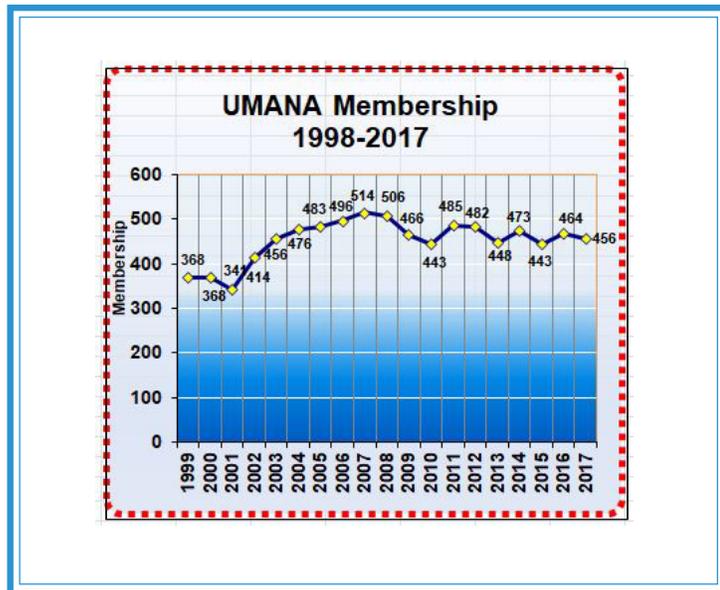


UMANA by the Numbers: 2016 and 2017



Transparency is today's idea *du jour*, leading us to reflect on the status of our membership and direction UMANA has been taking for the last two years.

There is good news: active membership remains steady, bouncing on either side of 450 members in the U.S. and Canada. Bad news? We have **760** total names in our database – a lot of potential still out there. New members are replacing demographic losses due to retirement, relocation, and debilitation. There has been a resurgence of activity in many UMANA chapters, as well as interest in reactivating a few of the inactive branches.

Total UMANA changes for 2016-2017:

58 new applicants in 2016 and 2017
13 members known to have died

Activity in Canadian chapters continues to confound us, with a potentially large membership, especially in Ontario, electing to sit on the sidelines. Efforts to entice activity, such as accepting dues payment in Canadian funds, have not spurred reactivation of once-vital branches in Toronto or Montreal. We are very grateful for those Canadian members who stay involved.

The 2017 Assembly of Delegates held in Arlington, VA, successfully reviewed UMANA accomplishments and prepared the

association for the next two years of vibrant activity.

Breakdown of new applicants 2016-2017:

27 – Students	11 – Affiliates
8 – Regular	6 – Residents
6 – Associates	0 – Pharmacists

Financially, as long as we hew to the accepted annual budget, UMANA is stable, with the optimistic dream that all of the recent student and resident applicants advance in their careers and become regular, full dues-paying members of UMANA.

As of this publication date, **312** members have paid dues for 2018. To you we say thanks! If you are still debating whether to pay or not, remember this: your support makes possible the growth and existence of the largest professional Ukrainian-American group in the Western Hemisphere! For 68 uninterrupted years, that's quite an accomplishment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations

WFUMA XVII Scientific Conference
Ternopil, Ukraine
September 20-23, 2018
www.vult.org.ua

Friends of Radiology in Ukraine

Scientific Conference
Lviv, Ukraine
September 24-26, 2018
www.friendsofradiologyinukraine.org

Medical Mission to Ukraine

Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
September 24-28, 2018
mlewyckyj@nwiea.com

UMANA in Utah Next Year

XLV Scientific Conference
XXXVIII Assembly of Delegates
Park City, Utah
June 19-22, 2019 Next Year

UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

Illinois Branch

April 20, 2018 The UMANA Illinois branch mission project held a preparatory meeting chaired by branch President **Myron Lewyckyj, MD**, at the Tryzub Ukrainian Kitchen. Nearly 20 members met with Taras Maslyak, MD, chief physician at the Ivano-Frankivsk



Illinois Branch mission meeting greets Dr. Taras Maslyak (center).



UMANA News

The Newsletter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America is published quarterly by UMANA with the objective to promote good fellowship and to uphold and enhance the best interests of UMANA. The newsletter serves as an impartial forum for information for its members. UMANA cannot guarantee the accuracy of all information contained herein. Some information has been obtained from third party published and oral sources and may not have been independently verified. The treatment of articles, views, and opinions expressed in UMANA News is not necessarily endorsed by UMANA.

Distributed to members and friends of UMANA

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The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America



City Hospital, which will be home base for this mission, scheduled for September 24-28, 2018.

May 5, 2018 Members of the Illinois Branch had the opportunity to meet and greet the Acting Minister of Health of Ukraine, Ulana Suprun, MD. Dr. Suprun was guest of honor at the Excellence in Education Gala in support of Kyiv-Mohyla University, held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Ukrainian Village. She graciously set aside time to confer with colleagues concerning a wide variety of issues of importance to Ukrainian physicians.



(From left) Drs. Roksolana Tymiak-Lonchyna, Vassyl Lonchyna, and President Myron Lewyckyj confer with Ulana Suprun.

Michigan Branch

March 11, 2018 A joint fundraiser, "Long Road Home", involving the UMANA Michigan Branch and the American Ukrainian Medical Foundation (AUMF) was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center

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OBITUARIES



BURBELO MD, Gregory M., age 93, *Medizinische Fakultät, Freidrich Alexander Universität, Erlangen, Germany, 1951*, member UMANA New England branch, died January 23, 2017.



NAKONECZNA MD, Irene, age 96, *Medizinische Fakultät, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany 1949*, member UMANA Maryland-DC Metro branch, died June 7, 2017.

SYM-LIPSKY MD, Joanna, age 93, *Medizinische Fakultät, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany, 1950*, member UMANA Ohio branch, died October 11, 2017.



YABLONSKY MD, Michael D., age 79, *SUNY Upstate Medical University College of Medicine 1956*, member UMANA NY Metro branch, died January 25, 2010.



President's Message

There is much to discuss, making it hard to know where to start. As events unfold at a dizzying pace it's good to stop and reflect so we can begin to make sense of it all. Many of us attending the recent Kyiv Mohyla Foundation fundraisers in Chicago and New York had an opportunity to hear directly from our former UMANA colleague Dr. Ulana Suprun, Ukraine's Acting Minister of Health. Her observations are thus a good place to begin. She discussed her efforts to reform healthcare in Ukraine, starting with education, specialty training, and licensure. Simultaneously, Dr. Suprun has initiated foundational changes in healthcare delivery, quality control, and financing. Not surprisingly, these proposals have generated significant opposition, evoking recollections of debates here in the U.S., where healthcare remains far from a settled issue. UMANA members thus benefit from our own experience with systemic changes in healthcare delivery as we listen to the concerns expressed by our Ukrainian colleagues, echoing our own. A sentiment I often heard meeting with colleagues in Ukraine was some variation of, "We know things are in terrible shape now but we think these reforms are going to make things worse." This sounded not unlike my fellow UMANA members expressing deep dissatisfaction with medical practice, including burdensome regulations, low reimbursement, loss of autonomy, and demanding schedules.

Solutions are never easy to find, but the people I've seen doing best both here and in Ukraine are those that have rediscovered the core interests and values that first led them to medicine. Facilitating this process is something UMANA is in a position to do. The intensity of need and thus opportunity is greatest in Ukraine, but there might be important projects in the U.S. and Canada that would capture our members' interest. Dr. Suprun highlighted several areas of need, including medical education, especially in the specialties of emergency medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation (physiatry), and PTSD. The modernization of Ukraine's emergency medicine system is a national priority; training and equipping of EMTs and paramedics is crucial. We are most fortunate to have our California colleague **Dr. Yuriy Goy** (goyhouse@aol.com) leading intensive training courses addressing these needs in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Dr. Goy would welcome any assistance, ranging from teaching a class, to making a donation supporting student tuition, to collecting and sending equipment and supplies. Another opportunity exists with **Dr. Luke Tomycz** (tomyczluke@gmail.com), a member of our NY Metro branch, who continues to seek physicians interested in joining his Co-Pilot Project or perhaps mentoring residents or early career physicians for advanced training in their specialties. In Chicago, **Dr. Myron Lewickyj** (mlewyckyj@nwiea.com) is organizing a mission to the main hospital in Ivano-Frankivsk that encompasses most specialties.

This is but a sampling of projects and opportunities that are operating or planned. I apologize for any omissions. Due to so many initiatives, Dr. Suprun has requested that physicians interested in becoming involved coordinate their efforts with her staff at the Ministry of Health so that issues and regions of greatest need are targeted.

Finally, let me mention still another way to connect. In the heat of Ukraine's emotional healthcare debate, personal attacks have been directed at Dr. Suprun. Incredibly, these have often revolved around accusations that she is not actually a "real" licensed physician, eligible to practice in the U.S. (New York). Dr. Suprun would much appreciate letters of support directed to her at the Ministry of Health (moz.gov.ua) or to Olha Bohomolets (bohomolets.olha@rada.gov.ua), chair of the parliamentary committee overseeing the Health Ministry. While healthcare policy is a matter for Ukrainians to address, we can certainly speak to Dr. Suprun's standing as a capable, trusted colleague. As I sign off, let me ask all our members to join this discussion by passing along your reactions, ideas, and experiences.

Sincerely,
Andrew Ripecky, MD

UMANA MEMBER NEWS



Christine BRYNDZIA, DO (Member at Large) has completed her pediatric

Intensive Care Fellowship and is now a pediatric intensivist at Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital at the Texas Medical Center in Houston, TX.



Anastasia HRYHORCZUK, MD (Michigan Branch) has accepted a position of

Assistant Professor in Pediatric Radiology at the University of Michigan Medical School and the C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI.



B o r i s LEHETA, MD (Michigan Branch) attended the 12th World

Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy) in Warsaw, Poland. Boris was buoyed to meet nearly 30 attendees from Ukraine, saying, "such exposure of Ukrainian professionals onto the international scene can only help expedite the current medical reforms in Ukraine and elevate their standard of healthcare."



T e r e s a SOSENKO, MD (Illinois Branch) is a 2nd year internal medicine

resident at TriHealth Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Centers in Cincinnati, OH and has been named chief resident for next year. She is primary author of "Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis – a rare initial presentation of SLE", published in *The Rheumatologist*.

UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from page 2

in Warren, MI. This event highlighted the presentation of the book *Combat and Operational Behavioral Health*, a new translation into



the Ukrainian language under the auspices of the AUMF. Chapter President **Dr. Zenon Kossak** opened the event, underscoring the importance of the Ukrainian diaspora in assisting Ukraine in handling the medical and psychological damage from the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine. Keynote speaker **Dr. Boris**

The recently published 'Combat and Operational Behavioral Health'

Leheta, president of AUMF, gave a heartfelt description of the many Ukrainian veterans and their "Long Road Home."

Special guests included the Ukrainian rock group Okean El' zy, president of the Ukraine-Canada Foundation Victor Hetmanczuk, president of the Ukrainian-American Civic Committee of Metropolitan Detroit Mrs. Vera Andrushkiv, Chief Development Officer of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation (UCEF) Alexander Kuzma, and Defense Attaché to the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington, DC Major-General Volodymyr Havrylov.

NY Metro Branch

May 6, 2018 The NY Metro branch held a chapter meeting at the Ukrainian Institute of America in Manhattan to elect a new slate of officers for the upcoming 2 years. The election was spurred on by the naming of the then-current chapter President **Peter Lenchur, MD** to the post of president-elect of the National Office during the Assembly of Delegates in Mont Tremblant, Quebec in June 2017. To avoid any conflicts of interest, and free up Dr. Lenchur to concentrate on his new position, the chapter elected the following individuals.

President: **Dr. Marta Lopatynsky**

Vice President: **Dr. Ariadne Bach**

President Elect: **Dr. Ruta Cholhan-Lenchur**

Secretary: **Dr. Luke Tomycz**

Treasurer: **Dr. Danylo Kuncio**

Members at Large: **Drs. Romko (Ronald) Liteplo, Victor**

Gribenko, and Irena Karanetz

Along with guests **Dr. Andriy Ripecky**, UMANA president,



NY Metro Officers (from left) Drs. V. Gribenko, A. Ripecky, A. Bach, R. Cholhan-Lenchur, M. Lopatynsky, P. Lenchur, and A. Baranetsky

Dr. Ihor Fedoriw, past president of the Pennsylvania chapter, and **Dr. George Goy**, Southern California branch member, a large group of chapter members had the opportunity to meet with the acting Minister of Health of Ukraine, Dr. Ulana Suprun. Dr. Suprun was keynote speaker at the Excellence in Education Reception in support of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, in New York's Ukrainian Institute of America. A productive discussion ensued with a variety of issues debated.



UMANA members greet Dr. Ulana Suprun, Acting Minister of Health of Ukraine.

Ohio Branch

February 18, 2017, and June 3, 2017 Cleveland area UMANA members, the Cleveland Maidan Association, and the community at large, gathered to pack medical supplies for wounded soldiers in Ukraine, sending 86 packages weighing approximately 55 pounds each. **Dr. Michael Samotowka** and **Dr. Ihor Zachary** continued to organize medical supply packing events at MedWish Foundation at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

September 17, 2017 The Ohio Chapter held its biennial picnic at St. Pokrova grounds. It was well attended by current members, family, and guests. Good food and drink, socializing, and a short review of goals of UMANA from its inception to its current role in the community took place. Oleksandr Nechyporuk, who sustained a gunshot wound to this right knee during 2014 uprisings in Maidan, spoke, honoring his host family, Dr. Nestor, and Anizia Shust for their commitment and vital role in helping him three times in his treatment in Cleveland. He recently received a knee replacement and has regained ability to ambulate, returning to Ukraine to join his wife and three children.

Sadly, we report that several of our members passed into eternity: **Drs. Daria Dubas Wojtyna, Chrystyna Nebesh-Jatsyshyn, and Joanna Sym-Lipsky.**



Ohio branch members gather for picnic festivities.