

## UMANA holds 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly of Delegates

By George Hrycelak, M.D.



*Newly elected Board of Directors of UMANA*

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its 39<sup>th</sup> biennial Assembly of Delegates virtually on June 19, 2021. Delegates elected **Dr. Leo Wolansky**, president of the organization for the next two years.

Outgoing president **Dr. Peter Lenchur** welcomed nearly 30 delegates from the various UMANA branches in the virtual meeting, representing the organizations roster of nearly 500 members. This required business meeting formally reviewed UMANA activity from 2019 through mid-2021. Reports by the outgoing officers emphasized UMANA's flexibility in converting face-to-face meetings to virtual venues, allowing continued communication with members and the general public. Unfortunately, the UMANA Scientific Convention, which usually runs concurrently with the Assembly, needed to be rescheduled to 2023 due to the COVID19 pandemic restrictions.

The long-time editor-in-chief of the Journal of the Ukrainian Medical Association (JUMANA), **Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj**, after many years of dedicated service, stepped down from her position. Dr. Lenchur thanked Dr. Horbowyj for maintaining the Journal, awarding her a personalized plaque for Outstanding Achievement. Dr. Lenchur introduced the new editor-in-chief of JUMANA a long-time member and UMANA past-president, **Dr. Andrew Melnyk**.

The non-profit educational and scientific arm of UMANA, the UMANA Foundation, continues to support CPR and First Aid classes for various Ukrainian-American youth organizations. Foundation president **Dr. Maria Hrycelak** reported that 62 medical and dental students have received scholarships since inception. The Foundation continues support for international medical education projects in the US and Ukraine through collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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# JUMANA ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear UMANA Colleagues,

Since the founding of UMANA, the Journal of UMANA („Лікарський Вісник” LV) has traditionally provided a venue for exhibiting and sharing the collective expertise and scientific knowledge of our membership, and to affirm the professional status of our organization.

As the newly elected editor in chief of JUMANA: I am privileged to announce that publication will be resuming shortly. To accomplish this goal, I invite our UMANA colleagues to provide us with the necessary article manuscripts.

To facilitate the process of writing and submitting manuscripts, I prepared updated policies and guidelines for prospective authors (details to be posted on the UMANA website [www.umana.org](http://www.umana.org)). Note that manuscripts will be accepted in Ukrainian or in English on all topics related to health care. A selection of formats is available for all scientific levels, including original studies, literature reviews, and case reports, as well as commentaries, correspondence, and announcements. This diversity of manuscript options and formats should eliminate most of the usual obstacles for prospective authors.

Remember, the resumed publication of JUMANA will only be possible with **your** efforts and contribution! I look forward to your participation which will be greatly appreciated by all.



Sincerely,  
Andriy Melnyk, MD  
Editor in Chief, JUMANA

## 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 the 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, view, and opinions expressed in UMANA News is not necessarily endorsed by UMANA.

Distributed to members and friends of UMANA

**UMANA News Acting Editor:** George Hrycelak, MD, Elmwood Park, IL  
**Copy Editing and Layout:** Nadia Zajac, Chicago, IL

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**Send your articles, letters, and comments to:**  
UMANA News  
2247 West Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60622-8957  
Email: [umana@umana.org](mailto:umana@umana.org)

**The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America**

## 39th Assembly of Delegates...

*Continued from front*

The Assembly received written reports from chapter presidents **Dr. Igor Prus** (Illinois), **Dr. Ruta Cholhan** (NYMetro), **Dr. Andrew Dzul** (Michigan), **Dr. Ihor Fedoriw** (Pennsylvania), **Dr. Maria Strus** (Ohio), **Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj** (Maryland-DC Metro) and **Dr. Borys Buniak** (Syracuse).

The Assembly issued a vote of confidence for the outgoing Board of Directors, and voted in the next slate of officers. In his first official act, Dr. Wolansky awarded Dr. Lenchur a plaque in appreciation of his dedication to UMANA. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Wolansky welcomed new and especially younger members in health care professions to join UMANA, and proposed using expanded social media to attract and maintain relations with the younger generation. He thanked the Assembly for electing the new Board of Directors, and promised to work hard at developing new venues to share medical knowledge among Ukrainians worldwide.



## President's Message

Дорогі!

It's a tremendous honor to be elected President. Exactly ½ a century ago, another Ukrainian-American assumed the Presidency of UMANA. During the 1970's he was Director of the largest hospital in New York State (with 5,000 employees and 5,000 patients), Letchworth Village, a state school and hospital for the developmentally disabled.

As a hospital administrator and a psychiatrist, he carried out two actions professionally that stand out as truly heroic:

1) When budget reductions led to inhumane conditions, and then additional budget cuts were about to be implemented, he lobbied with the state government for funding, repeatedly. When this failed, he became a "whistle-blower" and turned to the press. The press came to the hospital, exposed the conditions, leading to TV coverage by Geraldo Rivera. As a result of this, the latest budget cuts were not implemented. His actions contributed to dramatic improvements in the care for the developmentally disabled.

2) During Soviet times (in 1975), he traveled to Ukraine and visited mental hospitals. Upon returning to the US, he published articles on abuses of psychiatry in the USSR to persecute political prisoners.

The man I am describing was my father, Dr. Oleh M. Wolansky. When he was President of UMANA, the Iron Curtain was still intact. UMANA was still in a phase where there was little it could do to help Ukraine and it focused more on networking for professional development, as it had since its founding in 1950. Immigrants were arriving "off the boat," didn't know the language, and created opportunities to help each other.

Exactly ½ century has passed since my father became President of UMANA and filling his shoes will be a challenge. Destiny has given us some tools: 1) The Independence of Ukraine and 2) Internet and social media.

What we envision:

1) The Internet, including social media, creates tools with which we can communicate among ourselves, whether we are from New England, New York, Chicago, Cleveland, or Texas, we can collaborate much more easily than our predecessors. A half century ago, Ukrainian-Americans were dispersed among non-Ukrainians in the US, because they had to live where they had job opportunities. In the contemporary world, the internet and social media allow us to communicate easily and therefore our geographic location becomes less relevant. Because of this, we are able to maintain a "critical mass," virtually.

The internet and social media also create opportunities for collaboration with Ukraine. This can be used for educational purposes as well as entertainment. Here are the links to a website and Facebook page my son, Ivan, and I created for "Friends of Radiology in Ukraine."

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsofradiologyinukraine/videos> (slides from 47 lectures in Ukrainian)

<https://www.friendsofradiologyinukraine.org/> (slides from 38 lectures in Ukrainian)

Similar educational resources can easily be created for UMANA.

2) To facilitate this, we will be appointing an Information Director. This will be a predominantly a Social Media Director who will, in turn, form a committee. I welcome names of health care professionals to develop this for UMANA (both for education and networking). I think this would be particularly suitable for our younger health care professionals, who tend to be more tech-savvy and could use this title for professional development.

We should note that many independent efforts are made by humanitarians across the globe: The Razom Co-Pilot Project, Medwish, The Canada-Ukraine Foundation's Health Advisory Team, Friends Of Radiology in Ukraine, Ukrainian Women's League, Doctors without Borders, etc. What seems to be lacking is coordination between these efforts. It is our plan that the Information Director would develop an UMANA "bulletin board" filled with notices of proposals, dates, and links to tell us, "Who is planning what?" in terms of Ukrainian humanitarian or educational medical effort. Why shouldn't UMANA with its fundamental identity and legacy as an all-continental organization, be an information focal point, to help coordinate the efforts of all these organizations, thereby fostering synergy?

3) Conferences in Ukraine:

A few years after Ukraine declared its independence, with Friends of Radiology in Ukraine, I founded a Medical conference series, which initially took place biennially, but then became annual.

Cumulatively, these have been attended by thousands over the years, averaging about 300 participants and getting excellent press, being featured on national TV. Then Acting Minister of Health, Ulana Suprun, gave the opening address at our last conference in 2019.

Despite resounding continued success, there is possibility of even greater impact. For example, Friends Of Radiology in Ukraine consists mostly of Radiologists, who have formed the visiting faculty for our conferences. This means that there is untapped potential, which could be realized by partnering with other specialists. This could increase the frequency of our conferences and our impact further. It seems the program could be many times more robust if we have the many medical specialties take turns: Radiology, Cardiology, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, etc. This program could and should be rolled out in the name of UMANA. Clearly COVID is the "wild card," but it's essential to plan and be prepared to redirect.

I look forward to your partnership.

Слава Україні!

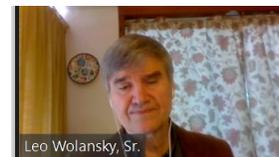
Др. Лев Волянський  
Leo Wolansky, MD

# UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

**NEW YORK METRO BRANCH** is venturing into other social media platforms to reach out to younger generations. An Instagram page for the NY Metro Chapter has been created by one of our younger members, **Dr. Irena Karanetz**. She is a recent board certified plastic surgeon in private practice in Long Island. The page can be searched and followed by typing **@UMANA\_metrochapter**. The first post will be dedicated to the origin of UMANA and our mission.



The **World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA-CΦYIT)** held its conference in Przemyśl, Poland, and via Zoom online, on July 16, 2021.



UMANA's President **Dr. Leo Wolansky** greeted all participants.

Several UMANA members were at the meeting, including **Leo Wolansky, MD, Peter Lenchur, MD, Lida Wozny, RPh.**

UMANA member speakers included **Pavlo Royal-Priest, MD**: "COVID-19 in the elderly"; **Maria Hrycelak, MD**: "COVID-19 Experience in a Pediatric practice"; and **Roxolana Horbowyj, MD**: "Experience with long distance learning of the Stop the Bleed program during COVID-19".

# UMANA MEMBER NEWS



**Roman ALYSKEWYCZ, MD**, (New York Metro Branch), retired from his practice as a urologist in Glen Cove, NY. (Corrected photo from previous issue)



**Oksana BALTAROWICH-HUD, MD**, (Pennsylvania Branch), retired June 30, 2021. She was professor of diagnostic radiology at Thomas Jefferson University.



**Larissa BILANIUK, MD**, (Pennsylvania Branch), has retired as of June 30, 2021, after an academic medical career of 56 years. Dr. Bilaniuk was a pediatric neuroradiologist and the Robert Zimmerman Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neuroradiology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.



**Natalie Irene BILENKI, MD**, (New York Metro Branch), retired August 2020 after a 41 year career. The last 32 years were at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Paterson in the ObGyn Department where she was an attending director of ambulatory Ob-Gyn for 29

years and a clinical assistant professor. She also had a private practice in Wayne, NJ. Dr. Bilenki states that she feels blessed for having the opportunity to be in this profession.



**Stephen DZUL, MD, PhD**, (Michigan Branch) is completing his second year radiation oncology residency at Detroit Medical Center. He completed his studies at Wayne State University.



**Irena KARANETZ, MD**, (New York Metro Branch), is a board-certified New York City-trained plastic surgeon, who completed advanced fellowship training in the field of breast cosmetic and reconstructive procedures. She joined the Long Island Plastic Surgical Group in 2019 and currently sees patients in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Long Island.

**THIS SPACE COULD BE FILLED WITH YOUR NEWS:**

**YOUR STUDIES, YOUR CAREER AND CHANGES, FAMILY, OR OTHER INTERESTING ACTIVITIES.**

Send mail to UMANA main office or by e-mail to [umana@umana.org](mailto:umana@umana.org)