

UMANA News



Established 1950

The Newsletter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America

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Landmark Interactive Teleconference Broadcast to Ukraine

In May 2006, First Lady of Ukraine, **Kateryna Yushchenko**, after meeting with First lady **Laura Bush** and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services **Mike Leavitt** in Washington, visited Philadelphia to meet with doctors, businessmen, and local Ukrainian community representatives. They discussed potential areas of cooperation between American health institutions and the Ukraine 3000 International Charitable Foundation, created to improve health care in Ukraine.

As a result of this meeting, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America liaison of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations, **Roxolana Horbowyj, MD**, engaged **International Medical Programs, Inc.** and **IcoDE Systems** to conduct a live interactive teleconference demonstration of lectures broadcast between Philadelphia and cities in Ukraine. Several area physicians participated in this live broadcast, wherein multiple cities/sites were connected with Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

In August 2006 a 1½-hour live interactive teleconference was broadcast from Thomas Jefferson University Hospital as a pilot project. Lectures were delivered in the Ukrainian language with Ukrainian slides. The lectures included:

“Sonographic evaluation of right lower quadrant pain in women” by **Oksana H. Baltarowich, MD**, Thomas Jefferson University

“Breast ultrasound” by **Roxolana Horbowyj, MD**

This landmark teleconference occurred during the Friends of Radiology Conference, which was held in Lviv, Ukraine, a well-known, respected, highly academic, and clinically practical biennial international radiological conference. The Friends of Radiology Conference included 500 participants. Philadelphia was linked with Lviv and Pidhaytsi, another site in Ukraine.

A second event took place in late August during the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations Congress held in

Poltava, Ukraine. On August 30, 2006 during a 2-hour session, four live interactive lectures were broadcast from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Three lectures were delivered in English by pediatric ophthalmology specialists, with the assistance of a translator. Oksana H. Baltarowich, MD, of Thomas Jefferson University, spoke in Ukrainian on “Ultrasound evaluation of GI causes of right lower quadrant pain.” This session was linked between the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Poltava, Charkiv, Zhitomyr, Kyiv Hospital #1, Rohatyn, Dolyna, Pidhaytsi (with Chortkiv physicians attending), Berezhany (with Zalishchyky physicians present), and First Lady Yushchenko's Office in Kyiv.

Audience participation during question and answer sessions revealed the uniqueness of the live session and created much enthusiasm among participants. Plans are in the making to continue such sessions as “e-Grand Rounds” between hospitals in the U.S. and Ukraine on a regular basis.

UMANA
Board of Director's meeting
UMANA Foundation Fundraiser at the
UMANA Illinois Debutante Ball
Saturday, January 27, 2007
in Chicago
All members welcome!

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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 is intended to serve 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. Inadvertent omissions and errors will be corrected in future issues. 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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UMANA News

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The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America
Physicians dedicated to the Ukrainian Community

Guest Editor's Note

For over 10 years Adrian Baranetsky, MD has done a wonderful job as Editor of the UMANA News. We are all grateful for his dedication to keeping us connected and informed. Recent professional demands have led Adrian to take a hiatus from this position, and I have agreed to act as interim Guest Editor. We are pleased to have the newsletter back on schedule, keeping you current on UMANA and all of the exciting events our members have been involved with. It is our hope that you will see a smaller newsletter, more often, with timely articles celebrating our community and our work. As a resource, we have full-color back issues of UMANA News available on our web site as well as printed copies that can be sent to you. As always, we encourage chapters to send in items of interest, including photos, for this newsletter to the UMANA central office in Chicago.

Sincerely,
Andrew Iwach, MD
San Francisco, CA

UMANA National New Member Candidates Since June 2005

Wasył Fedoriw, student, Illinois
Oksana Geitzen, student, Michigan
Peter Golubka, student, Toronto
J. Peter Klim, DO, regular, Illinois
Anna K. Orland, DDS, Illinois
David M. Kupiak, RPh, Syracuse
Liya Kusen, associate, New York Metro
Andrew Mykytskey, Illinois
Lisa Ann Romanetz, PT, ATC, New York Metro
Nataliya Sehinovych, associate, Illinois
Oleh Waler, MD, regular, Toronto
Tetiana Zubrycky, Illinois
Viola Arias (Yarostchuk), associate, Northern California
Volodymyr Demsky, associate, Illinois
Victor Denysenko, DDS, regular, Edmonton, Canada
Ihor Draganchuk, affiliate, Illinois
Olga Ivanov, regular, Illinois
John Dymitr Kot, student, New York Metro
Gregory Nicholas Kozlov, MD, Illinois
Markian Kovaluk DC, regular, Montreal, Canada
Nataliya Kukhar, associate, Illinois
Ivan Kukhar, associate, Illinois
Andrey Ostrovsky, student, New England
Liza Pilch, MD, regular, Illinois
Michal Racki, student, Toronto
Pavlo Sakhatsky, associate, New England
Julia Skliarenko, student, Ottawa, Canada
Vasyl Sorokhan, associate, Michigan
Rostyslav Sz wajkun, MD, regular, Illinois
Anna Zaparaniuk, RN, BSN, affiliate, Illinois

UMANA NOTES



UMANA Purpose: The purpose of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America is to unite health care professionals into a voluntary not-for-profit association, whose interest is to promote and safeguard the health and well-being of Ukrainians worldwide. The Association seeks to foster closer fellowship and greater participation among physicians and members of other branches of health care in educational and civic activities.



UKRAINIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (Founded in 1950)

Physicians dedicated to the Ukrainian Community

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More on UMANA's Major Expansion of Web Presence

Representatives of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) and the Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal Consortium Association (UKiP) carried out plans for a major expansion of UMANA's Internet activity. UMANA's president **Andrew Iwach, MD**, believes that "communication via the World Wide Web is the key to expanding medical knowledge and resources to Ukrainians globally, at a fast pace and reasonable cost." UMANA's old web site had served admirably until now. Dr. Iwach explains that "UMANA is striving to become the first major Ukrainian-American professional group to fully incorporate the Ukrainian language into its web site, thereby opening its resources to all. Collaborating with our Canadian colleagues will lead to an efficient partnership."

Headquartered in Edmonton, Alberta, UKiP coordinates, develops and provides bilingual (English-Ukrainian) on-line learning resources to a variety of schools, post-secondary institutions, and worldwide audience. Members of UKiP include the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta, Canada Ukraine Foundation, Ukrainian Resource and Development Center at Grant MacEwan College, and others.



UMANA-UKiP conference participants
(from left) Dr. Bohdan Klid, Anna Biscoe, Dr. George Hrycelak, Kim Robinson (UKiP) Dr. Andrew Iwach

UKiP members **Dr. Roman Petryshyn** (via teleconference), **Anna Biscoe**, **Dr. Bohdan Klid**, and **Kim Robinson** visited UMANA headquarters over the weekend of October 15-17, 2005, meeting formally with the board of directors to present their proposal for redesigning the UMANA web site. Board members discussed the various options and potential expansions with enthusiasm, realizing that a successful web expansion will significantly increase the Association's reach, and include a large segment of Ukrainian-speaking health care professionals for whom this has been a difficult task.

With the basic web site in both languages, English and Ukrainian, a visitor can pick between versions with a simple click of a button. Posted material is translated and updated with new editions, such as the current issues of "UMANA News" and "Likarskyj Visnyk" (*Journal of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, JUMANA*). Options are built in to allow links to major medical resource sites, and allow viewing of select articles of interest to the medical community.

Another goal is to encourage UMANA members to begin to incorporate the internet as a basic learning resource, as well as communication center for association activities and knowledge database. "If we can serve as a template for other Ukrainian-American professional organizations in the diaspora, so much the better," reasons Dr. Iwach.

To help support future issues of UMANA News we are considering running ethical, tasteful ads. If you have any comments, suggestions, or know a business that may be interested in advertising, please contact us.

President's Message

UMANA has had a productive and exciting year. I'd like to share some of the highlights with you.

In October 2005 your governing board signed a contract with Edmonton-based UkiP, the Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal Consortium Association, to upgrade and redesign the UMANA web site. UKiP has converted our web site to a bilingual format and made it more current, to better reflect both the make-up and interests of our membership. UkiP is committed to helping us make the web site elegant and accessible, with an interactive design that includes links to other sites of interest.

One of the goals of this redesign was to facilitate the transition of health care professionals from Ukraine into practices in North America by making communication between us faster and easier. In fact, an even greater outcome has been to connect the broader Ukrainian community directly with our membership for mutual benefit. The new membership map on our web site has done just that. Up and running since April, the web site and membership map have already received very positive feedback. Allow me to share with you one example. We received a letter of thanks and gratitude from a mother who was looking for an UMANA Member pediatrician in her area. The membership map allowed her to find a doctor she was comfortable with for her children. Going beyond the theoretical, this is a real benefit to the membership and the community. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to peruse our web site and see what it can do for you. Please check your listing and let us know if it needs to be updated.

Also in October 2005, ten representatives of UMANA met with the wife of Ukrainian President Yushchenko in Chicago. I wish to thank those who came on short notice from all over the United States to meet with Mrs. Yushchenko. She presented information on the initiatives Ukraine is taking to improve health care and health care education there. The meeting was productive and confirmed that we have common goals. I reflect on that meeting as one that illustrates perfectly how UMANA has become not just an organization that drives projects forward but also one that can respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the Ukrainian community. This requires organization and depth. I would like to commend the board members and our membership at all levels for their responsiveness and commitment.

Where do we go from here? I look forward to hearing your ideas. With the new web site, I anticipate better communication with all of you, so that you have up-to-date news on UMANA's activities and an avenue for the exchange of resources and ideas. The web site needs to be interesting and reflective of the interests of UMANA members. Let us know what links to other sites would be useful to you. Your feedback is critical in order for the web site - and the organization as a whole - to continue to be viable and productive.



Lushniak Takes Oath of Office as Assistant Surgeon General of U.S.

by George Matwyslyn

ROCKVILLE, Md. - During a flag officer promotion ceremony here at the headquarters of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on August 31, Rear Adm. Boris D. Lushniak was awarded his star and administered the oath of office as Assistant Surgeon General of the United States. He now becomes the highest-ranking active-duty Ukrainian American officer in the U.S. uniformed services.

Dr. Lushniak, who is a physician and holds a master's degree in public health, was promoted to the rank of Assistant Surgeon General and Rear Admiral by direction of the former Surgeon General of the United States, Vice-Admiral Richard Carmona, in April. Dr. Lushniak was a captain in the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and now serves as Assistant Commissioner at the FDA.

The promotion ceremony was led by Rear Adm. Moritsugu, with Dr. Patricia Lushniak, and daughters Larissa and Stephanie

assisting. The oath of office was administered by Adm. Agwunobi, as the parents of the new rear admiral, Mykola and Olha Lushniak held a Ukrainian Bible upon which their son placed his hand as he took the oath. The Bible used in the oath of office ceremony was the same Bible presented to Dr. Lushniak and his wife on their wedding day 15 years ago by the Orden Khrestonostsiv fraternity of Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Rear Adm. Lushniak was born and reared in Chicago. He was the youngest of three children of post-World War II immigrants from Ukraine. He graduated from St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral School, in what is now the Ukrainian Village Landmark District of Chicago. He was a parishioner of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral and very active in the community, especially Plast.

UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

UMANA Illinois

The Illinois Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) met Sunday, October 23, 2005, to conduct regular Chapter business and hear a presentation by **Andrew R. Melnyk, MD**, on “*Forensic Genetics – the Science of Human Identification and Genetic Profiling by DNA Analysis.*”

George Kuritza, MD, Chapter President, welcomed over 40 members to Maggiano’s Little Italy Restaurant in Skokie, Illinois, holding a brief business meeting before the luncheon presentation. Dr. Kuritza reviewed the activities of the prior year, and encouraged all members to actively participate in UMANA branch functions. He expressed special gratitude to branch member **Peter Blendonohy, MD**, a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist at Resurrection Hospital, for his generous and compassionate care of **Aleksandr Bakhtiarov**. Aleksandr is a Ukrainian soldier severely injured earlier this year in Iraq, requiring extensive and aggressive rehabilitative care. UMANA approached Dr. Blendonohy, who graciously volunteered his services and facilitated his stay at Resurrection Hospital on humanitarian grounds. During the several months of his care, Aleksandr progressed well, to the point of being discharged home to Ukraine in the prior week. “Dr. Blendonohy’s dedication is exemplary,” said Dr. Kuritza.

Dr. Kuritza then introduced Dr. Andrew Melnyk, Director of the Section of Cytogenetics and Assistant Director of the Section of Molecular Genetics, Department of Pathology at Resurrection Medical Health Center, Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Melnyk reviewed the biochemical and molecular basis of DNA function, explaining the current methods used to extract DNA information, and displayed typical examples of DNA electrophoresis. He then switched emphasis to “the interesting stuff: paternity suites, criminal cases, and human identification.”

Dr. Melnyk informed the listeners that the bulk of cases using DNA analysis involve determinations of paternity, either confirming or excluding a man in disputes questioning whose children are whose. These cases tend to be rather straightforward, since adequate samples of DNA are obtainable from the interested parties, and usually not much time has transpired since the events leading to the inquiries.

DNA samples at crime scenes, however, may exist in minute quantities or may be many years old. Furthermore, the simple presence of DNA is useful only if there are suspects. At that point, DNA evidence can either match or exclude suspects in criminal acts. Dr. Melnyk summarized the case of O.J. Simpson, wherein, despite what appeared to be strong DNA evidence matching the suspect, the court proceedings came to quite a different conclusion, underscoring the ambivalent nature of this science.

Concluding, Dr. Melnyk presented the cases of the **Romanov royal family** and **Heorhii Gongadze**. In each case, DNA evidence was obtained from both the deceased as well as their closest available living relatives, to confirm the identity of the remains. Dr. Melnyk stressed that the confirming nature of these investigations can bring solace and closure to recent as well as historical events, relieving uncertainty and dispelling doubt.

The attendees ended the meeting with a question and answer session, many remaining behind for quite some time in collegial discussion.

UMANA Michigan

September 23, 2006, the Michigan Branch of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, (UMANA) hosted an international video-conference with a live internet link between Detroit and the Institute of Neurology, Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine (INPN) in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

The idea for this conference first arose during a meeting in October of 2005 in Chicago with the First Lady of Ukraine **Kateryna Yushchenko**, and the executive board of the UMANA. Mrs. Yushchenko’s extensive charitable work has been manifested through the establishment of the “Ukraine 3000” Foundation. One of the Foundation’s primary medical initiatives is to give physicians from both sides of the globe an opportunity to exchange ideas about new research, diagnostic techniques, and therapies, as well as management strategies useful in their everyday patient care. During this encounter various topics were discussed, including the state of medical affairs in Ukraine and possible interactions with the west. It became apparent that one method to facilitate communication between physicians in Ukraine and the United States could be simultaneous conferences between colleagues in both countries utilizing internet connections.

Encouraged by this discussion, and with the approval of the national executive board of UMANA, **Dr. Boris Leheta**, UMANA’s national board secretary, took the initiative to make this conference a reality. With the financial support of the pharmaceutical firm **Novartis**, and after many months of technical planning, the videoconference took place at 9 am EST, September 23rd, connecting St. John’s Hospital in Detroit, MI and the Institute of Neurology, Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine in Kharkiv, Ukraine. The guest speaker was **Rodrigo O. Kuljis, MD**, **Esther Lichtenstein**, Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology, Director, Division of Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology, Department of Neurology, University of Miami School of Medicine. Representing the INPN in Kharkiv were **Professor Tamara Mischenko** and **Professor Petro Voloshyn**. Dr. Leheta feels “that the conference yielded useful information for both sides, and served as a good learning tool for future interactive conferences between the medical community in Ukraine and the United States.” The UMANA will closely analyze this new communications technique, evaluating its usefulness in future collaborative efforts between medical centers in the U.S. and Ukraine. Physicians from both sides of the globe have much to learn from such interactive exchanges.

UMANA New York Metro

The Wheelchair Foundation (www.wheelchairfoundation.org) has made a significant effort to bring wheelchairs to disabled people in Ukraine, in part due to the county's high number of disabled residents and its extreme shortage of usable wheelchairs. The foundation launched its "Ukraine Project I" in New York with the assistance of the Ukrainian-American community, including such organizations as the **Ukrainian American Medical Association** and **Self-Reliance NY Federal Credit Union**. A fundraiser in New York City on Dec. 10, 2004 was hosted by the **UMANA NY Metro Chapter**, together with **UMANA National** and the **Ukrainian Institute of America** in the Institute. **Libby Pataki**, the First Lady of New York, was in attendance to show her support of the Foundation. The action brought together more than 150 individuals and organizations from the Ukrainian-American community.

So far, \$42,000 has been raised for a total of 560 wheelchairs to be distributed in Ukraine. The Wheelchair Foundation has committed or delivered a total of 357,191 wheelchairs in 136 countries, of which 3,628 wheelchairs are designated for Ukraine. The first container of 280 wheelchairs arrived in the Ukraine in 2005. Mrs. Pataki met with First Lady of Ukraine **Kateryna Yushchenko**, in Kyiv on June 13, 2005 to launch the wheelchair distribution project. Transport for the first container of 280 wheelchairs was provided by Lufthansa Airlines.

UMANA Ohio

On September 25th, the Traditional Fall "Get-together" Picnic was held for the members of the UMANA Ohio Chapter and invited guests, on the farm of **Dr. Richard Mason**. About 35 allied health personnel (physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, etc.) with their



spouses and children (totaling about 74 people) enjoyed the good weather, camaraderie, and delicious food and drinks. A short report was given by chapter president, **Ihor Zachary, MD** about the activities and scientific presentations at the recent UMANA Congress, which was held in July 2005 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. **Andrew Fedynsky**, director of the Ukrainian Museum - Archives in Cleveland, political activist, and a frequent contributor to the *Ukrainian Weekly*, presented a short summary and personal interpretation of some

of the recent events that have been so prominent in the headlines about the Ukrainian political scene.

UMANA Pennsylvania

The UMANA Pennsylvania chapter held its tradition annual Yalyinka together with fellow members of the Ukrainian Engineers Society of America on January, 15, 2006 in the Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center in Jenkintown, PA. **Wasył Salak, MD**, former president of the Pennsylvania chapter, served as master of ceremonies.



Lviv Medical Association

The Lviv Ukrainian Medical Association (LUMA) elected its board for 2004-2006. They are: **Ihor Herych, MD**, president; **Iryna Nej Liubov, MD**, head of the qualification committee; **Rohnida Sendets'ka, MD**, head of the Dr. Yuriy Lypy Club; **Oleksandr Kan-chalaba, MD**, treasurer and administrator of the M. Pan-chyshyn Galician Museum of Medicine in Halych; and, **Ihor Zbo-riv-s'kyj, MD**, administrator ULT.

Like the UMANA, ULT has revamped its official web site. This year there were 75 new members. Plans include rebuilding the Museum of Galician Medicine and a School of Medical Reform, together with the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the Sigmund Freud Institute of Vienna. For further information go to: www.ult.lviv.ua

Obituaries

Lubomyr Kuzmak, MD, 77; Medical University, Lodz, Poland; Patented an implantable, adjustable gastric banding device in 1993 used in the treatment of morbid obesity; UMANA New York Metro member; died October 12, 2006.

Helen Pachovsky, pharmacist, 81; UMANA national office secretary; Illinois member; died July 31, 2006.



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For more information on the conference, call UMANA at (773) 278-6262.