UMANA and Maidan

By Alexander Nagrebetsky, MD

This winter has witnessed an unsurpassed level of unity and cooperation between Ukrainians worldwide. Civic society is being born and baptized by fire and ice on the streets of Kyiv and throughout Ukraine. Ukrainians are overcoming fear and joining the fight for a better future. We have been actively supporting this colossal effort. UMANA members have donated over $20,000 for humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians in need. We thank all our members for their generosity.

The dynamics in Ukraine have created a need for medical assistance to hundreds of people in Kyiv. Our colleagues are risking their health, careers, and even lives to volunteer in the field hospitals of Maidan. They work with extremely limited resources, in bitter cold, under the most adverse conditions. Nevertheless, the health services of Maidan have become one of the few aspects of the Ukrainian revolution that appear to receive uniformly positive feedback from the community.

A joint effort with the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) is underway, specifically aimed at supporting volunteer healthcare professionals of Maidan. At the end of January, over $2,300 worth of basic wound repair supplies were sent directly to field hospitals in Kyiv.

We urge you not to forget our colleagues caring for the ill, the cold, and the injured. Show that you care; donate what you can directly to UUARC (See blue box).

UMANA Board of Directors Meets in Chicago

On a cold, snowy, and windy Saturday morning, February 1, 2014, the board of directors of UMANA exercised their digital dexterity to dial in by teleconference for the regular meeting of the board of directors and chapter presidents in Chicago. Several hardy souls actually made the trek to UMANA headquarters at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Ukrainian Village.

Chaired by President Andrew Dzul, MD, fellow officers Drs. Liza Pilch (secretary-treasurer), George Hrycelak (executive director), Maria Hrycelak (archivist), and Diana Iwanik (president Illinois Branch) opened the meeting. Joining by telephone were Drs. George Kuritza (vice-president), Roxolana Horbowyj (Editor JUMANA), Dr. Petro Lenchur (president NY Metro branch), Ihor Fedoriw (president Pennsylvania branch), and Ihor Zachary (proxy for Ohio President Wolodymyr Masny).

Dr. Dzul reported on the humanitarian appeal ongoing with the Ukrainian America Relief Committee (UUARC) to aid our colleagues in Ukraine. Dr. Dzul was pleased to announce the availability of the next issue of the Journal of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (JUMANA), now available on our website www.umana.org in the Library section.

Routine discussions ensued, approving the proposed balanced budget for 2014, as well as approving 18 new members to UMANA since the last assembly of delegates in June 2013.

At the conclusion of the meeting colleagues adjourned to prepare for attending the 53rd Traditional Debutantes Banquet and Ball hosted by the UMANA Illinois Branch.
UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

Illinois Branch

December 8, 2013 – Members heard a fascinating presentation on “Alcohol and Cardiovascular Risk” by Andrew R. Kohut, MD, MPH, FACC at the Goose Island Brewpub on Clybourn in Chicago followed by a tour of the brewery and beer tasting.

January 12, 2014 – Annual UMANA Illinois Branch Yalynka at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art on Chicago Avenue in Ukrainian village.

February 1, 2014 – Traditional Debutante Ball with the presentation of 6 debutantes, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, Illinois.

UMANA Michigan Branch members and families at Yalynka

Michigan Branch

The Annual Christmas Celebration of the UMANA Michigan Chapter took place on December 18, 2013 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, Michigan. Members and their families enjoyed an evening of socializing with friends, excellent dining, and had a great time singing traditional Ukrainian “Kolяды”.

UMANA Michigan Branch members and families at Yalynka

OBITUARIES

CHUBACK, DDS, Garry W., age 61, University of Toronto, 1979, Member UMANA Toronto Branch, died January 21, 2013.

UMANA Branch Officers
Please let us know of activity in your local branch.

E-mail news and photos to umana@umana.org

We will make every effort to include reports of your events in an upcoming issue of UMANA News!
President’s Message

The last few months have been very active for UMANA. The Maidan protests in Kyiv have generated tremendous interest and sympathy from the Ukrainian diaspora. UMANA members have played a very significant role in supporting the Maidan, donating over $20,000 during this period. We thank Dr. Ihor Fedoriw, president of the Pennsylvania Branch, for encouraging us and making our connection with the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) possible. Of course the struggle in Kyiv goes on, and members are encouraged to contribute whatever they can through UUARC, a well established philanthropic organization working with Ukraine and its Maidan supporters.

Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj has been working hard and has completed a second edition of our UMANA journal. We’ve all seen JUMANA online and are impressed. UMANA members are all invited to visit our website, umana.org, and read the new issue online. Simply go to the lower left corner (“Library”) of the webpage and click on the JUMANA icon, dated December 2013. We’re sure you’ll be impressed as well. The UMANA Foundation, that publishes JUMANA, will print about 3,000 copies, which will be distributed among UMANA members and medical libraries and doctors in Ukraine. As you can imagine, this is expensive. Our Uprava is exploring the possibility of publishing JUMANA online, publishing and distributing only a couple hundred copies.

A couple of weeks ago I traveled to Chicago for our annual, mid-winter Uprava meeting. This time my wife Khrystya came along, and Saturday evening we attended the Likarska Zabava. What a spectacle! Over 350 persons attended, young and old in formal attire, all in the elegant Palmer House ballroom. The beautiful debutantes and their handsome escorts performed a dazzling presentation, beautifully choreographed. We’d never seen anything like it. We are very proud that the UMANA Illinois branch, especially Drs Maria Hrycelak and Diana Iwanik, organize and present this event every year. We’ll be back next year, and if any of you enjoys a unique zabava, you should come too.

This October, 2014, WFUMA will hold its biennial meeting in Chernivtsi, Ukraine. The Uprava is researching a topic and location for our next UMANA biennial scientific meeting, to be held in June 2015.

Sincerely,
Andrew Dzul
Bohdan L. Charkewycz, MD (Illinois Branch) has been appointed chairman of the Department of Anesthesia at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn, Illinois. He is past-president of the UMANA Illinois Branch, and completed his residency at Loyola University Medical Center.

Ihor Fedoriw, OD (Pennsylvania Branch president) through individual effort and personal example, spearheaded and facilitated UMANA’s appeal for humanitarian aid to Ukraine through the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC).

Olena Gordon, MD (Illinois Branch) has opened her practice of medicine at the Presence Medical Group in the Ukrainian Village at 809 N. Western Ave, Chicago, Illinois. Board certified in Family Practice and fluently bilingual, Dr. Gordon is accepting new patients of all ages.

Román Kozyckyj, MD (Illinois Branch) in private practice of Internal Medicine, has been appointed as Physician Advisor to Palliative Care at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Illinois. He consults with the Cardiovascular Team in cases involving Left Ventricular Assist Devices (LVAD) and transplantation.

John O. Kucan, MD (Illinois Branch) is Managing Editor of ePlasty (www.eplasty.com), an online PubMed indexed, peer-reviewed, Open Access journal that covers all aspects of medicine, surgery, and related disciplines. Articles are available free to anyone with internet access.

Maria Martyniuk-Griffiths, MD, (Ohio Branch) graduate of Northeastern Ohio Universities and board certified in anesthesiology, has been appointed vice chief of staff at the Summa Wadsworth Rittman Hospital in Wadsworth, Ohio.

Jerome (Yarko) Maryniuk, MD (Southern California Branch) is the vice president of the California Association to Aid Ukraine (CAAU), an all-voluntary, non-profit organization based in southern California that channels local support and fundraising for the people of Ukraine. You can learn more about his organization at www.caaukraine.org

Mary Sosenko, MD, (Illinois Branch) along with Tanya Jacenkiw, exhibited her vibrant pastels at a gallery reception at the Old Town Art Center Holiday Party in Chicago on December 8, 2013.

Adrian Sheremeta, MD (Michigan Branch) is now affiliated with MDVIP, a personalized preventive healthcare program. Patients benefit from a customized wellness program plus many conveniences not typically found in other primary care practices. You can view his profile at www.Mdvip.com/AdrianSheremetaMD.