

A GENETIC LINK TO UMANA'S ANCESTRY

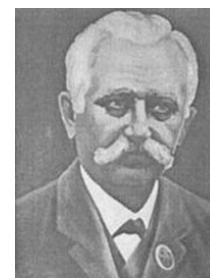


By: *George Hrycelak, M.D.*

1898...1950—2020

Most UMANA members know that the association was incorporated in the state of New York in 1950. But deeper research into its beginnings reveals that it did not arise *de novo* in the US – in fact, there are links to a much earlier grouping whose members naturally morphed into the UMANA we now know.

In the late 1890's, the Shevchenko Scientific Society (Наукове Товариство ім. Шевченка) in Lviv, Ukraine, published sporadic medical articles in the collected volumes of its mathematical-natural history-medical section. In 1898, under the direction of Dr. Eugene Ozarkevych (1861-1916), a separate medical section published its first collected works of medical literature in the Ukrainian language. In his forward to the new Medical Collection ("Медичний Збірник" т-1, в-1) Dr. Ozarkevych states the goals of the journal: "To lay the foundation of medical literature in the Ukrainian language, and develop a professional medical terminology".



Dr. E. Ozarkevych

Dr. Ozarkevych was instrumental in the development of the first Peoples Hospital in Lviv in 1904-5, (now known as Sheptytsky Hospital) dedicated to the treatment of the indigent population on the city. His vision was not only to treat needy patients, but to have the hospital serve as a basis for establishing a professional organization of Ukrainian physicians. By the end of the decade, under the initiative and guidance of Dr. Olexander Kozakevych (1873-1952) the long-anticipated creation of the Ukrainian Medical Association in Lviv took place in 1910.

So, where is our connection? UMANA's first president, **Dr. Roman Osinchuk** (1902-1991) worked at the People's Hospital in 1938. Illinois branch member **Dr. Toma Worobec** (1899-1986), Michigan branch member **Dr. Sophia Parfanowych** (1898-1968), NYMetro branch member and UMANA past-president **Dr. Bohdan Makarushka** (1901-1992), Syracuse branch member **Dr. Mychaylo Lohaza** (1906-1989) and multiple others contributed to the history of Ukrainian medicine through this hospital, and brought their memories, experiences and dreams to their new homeland.

COVID 19 UMANA UPDATE



Despite the current pandemic, UMANA continues to perform its obligatory functions on a somewhat limited basis. Face-to-face interactions are discouraged, but telephone and electronic communications maintain good linkage among the membership. 2020 dues payments are incoming daily, both through US mail and web-based payments. We thank the membership for its steadfast support!

UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

ILLINOIS BRANCH — Members of the Illinois Chapter Board delivered meals to frontline healthcare heroes who have been overwhelmed and overworked during the COVID pandemic. The Chapter not only thanked its colleagues; doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists at Swedish Covenant Hospital and at AMITA St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital but also supported local restaurants in these trying times. Individual lunches were prepared by the local *Panera* restaurant and *Shokolad Pastry & Café*. The staffs at both hospitals thanked UMANA Illinois for this gesture of gratitude and genuinely appreciated their support.



Dr. Igor PRUS delivering lunches to his colleagues at Swedish Covenant Hospital.



Olha MAIHUTIAK brings delicious lunches from Shokolad to St. Mary's Hospital.

MARYLAND BRANCH — Amidst COVID19 pandemic, on July 24, 2020, Maryland Chapter members held their first Zoom meeting, linking members who have worked through the pandemic or returned to re-opening clinics, in hospitals and public health settings, as well as those in

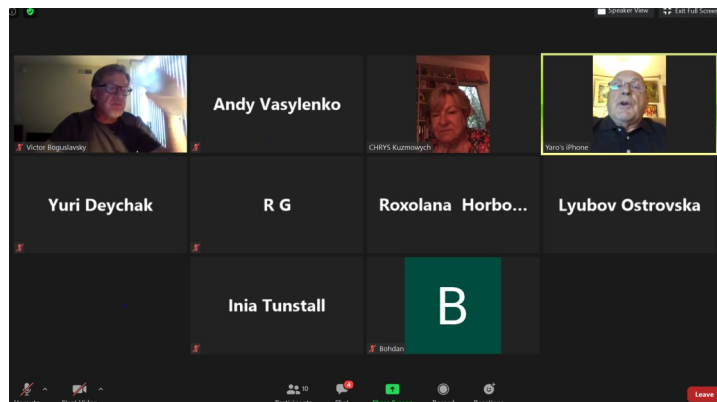


Photo courtesy of Andriy Vasylenko

quarantine. With teamwork in progress, participants virtually zoomed through the agenda, which included a timely presentation by **Yaro ORYSHKEVYCH, DDS**: Aerosols – Indoor and Outdoor Viral Transmissions – a recount of experiences and video demonstrations:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=cDE5J7og_xM.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6QwnzbrUyA>.

After lively discussion, the benefits of teamwork, a plan (test & practice–do–refine approach) and member convenience were noted. Participants enthusiastically planned another Zoom meeting for July 31, 2020, with presentation by **Nadia CIUHA, ND**: Naturopathic Care in Time of Pandemic, and WFUMA Congress Zoom meeting on October 13, 2020, were announced.

Continued on Page 3



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

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The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America



President's Message

It has been approximately 3 months since I shared my thoughts about the COVID-19 pandemic in our newsletter. In that issue we also included the contributions and accomplishments of our members who fought this disease. Today I want to share with you a more optimistic message.

Much of the media coverage of COVID-19 has focused on bad things happening. It is very easy to accuse people of wrongdoing when you have 20-20 vision in hindsight and these stories make for good headlines, but is this right?

To counterbalance negativity, I suggest we also look towards the positive so that people can see what has been done, what is working, and how things might look in the future if we encounter a second wave of this virus. These positives include:

COVID-19 is under control and in decline in the U.S. and in many countries. If this wasn't the case, then the problems with PPE, ventilators and hospital beds, not to mention the personal suffering, would still be ongoing and enormous.

This has been achieved by us all abandoning our way of life temporarily. None would have predicted just how much we have all come together to get on top of this disease. Observing social distancing, wearing masks and PPE as well as hand washing and sanitizing has been enormously successful.

We now know a lot more about how to manage this disease. Physicians learn from each other and from personal experience how to recognize COVID-19 early, look for atypical presentations, whom and how to treat, how to protect ourselves and how to use different therapeutics.

I am extremely proud of our fellow Ukrainian healthcare professionals who were and are on the front lines of this battle. Please continue to inform us about successes and challenges that you face in fighting this pandemic. We are looking forward to overcoming these temporary difficulties and returning our lives to normalcy.

*Sincerely,
Petro Lenchur, MD*

UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

Continued from Page 2

OHIO BRANCH — Social distancing has required diminished chapter activity but has not stopped the search for potential new members for UMANA.



Alina Khil, MD, achieved her Doctor of Medicine degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and will be completing a residency in surgery at the University of California at Fresno. Alina has an extensive research history, and has

published multiple research papers and case presentations.



Christina Liscynsky, MD, is the Assistant Medical Director of Epidemiology at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, specializing in Infectious Diseases. She earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from Northeastern Ohio

Universities College of Medicine. Christina is active in educating her colleagues and the public about the current COVID 19 pandemic.

We hope these two colleagues will become active and contributing members of our UMANA community.

UMANA Member News



Markian BOJKO, MD, MPH (New England Branch) graduated from Drexel University College of Medicine, and will be starting his residency in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

influence American politics by infiltrating the religious heart of our country. D. Donovan, of *Midwest Book Review* writes: “Complex, exciting and hard to put down ... A compelling story replete with social, psychological, and philosophical inspection ... highly recommended for readers of international intrigue in general and Russian and American social issues, politics, and dark connections in particular.”



Colonel **Andrew P. CAP, MD, PhD** (Member At-Large) was recently promoted to Full Professor of Medicine at Uniformed Services University and to Director of Research at the US Army Institute of Surgical Research. Col. Cap directs 340 staff and over \$45M in research funds. He is also attending

physician at the Hematology, Oncology & Bone Marrow Transplant Services at San Antonio Military Medical Center.



Michael LEWKO, MD (NY Metro Branch) has a wellness blog at his website: www.mslpristinehealth.com also on Facebook: MSL Pristine Health LLC.



Andrew DROZD, MD (Ohio Branch), a recipient of the UMANA Prokopiw Scholarship, recently matched in the Urology residency of Case Western Reserve University Hospitals of Cleveland this Spring after graduating from Wright State University Boonshoft School of

Medicine in Dayton.



Vassyl LONCHYNA, MD (Illinois Branch) retired from Cardiothoracic Surgery and Critical Care but is keeping quite busy. He was Editor of the book *Difficult Decisions in Cardiothoracic Critical Care Surgery* (2019, Springer Publishing), and is editing a new book

Difficult Decisions in Surgical Ethics (out in 2021). He was also awarded a second Fulbright Scholarship 2020-21 to continue research on medical education in Ukraine. Dr. Lonchyna is also the Associate Editor for *Medical Sciences. Proceedings of the Schevchenko Scientific Society* (Lviv, Ukraine).



Daniel HRYHORCZUK, MD (Illinois Branch) recently published his third book: *Amerikana: A Novel*. The book is available through retailers like Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The new novel is a political thriller about how Russia could



Andrew ZURA, MD (Ohio Branch), anesthesiologist at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, was elected secretary/treasurer of the Ohio Society of Anesthesiologists.