PANDEMIC COMPELS CHANGE

By: George Hrycelak, M.D.

The COVID19 pandemic has pushed UMANA members to quickly adapt to an ever-changing situation never encountered in our 70 year history. Professional association activity is being hampered by social distancing guidelines, limits on meeting groups, and availability of meeting venues. Financial pressures on medical professionals have been serious, with some businesses not able to survive the economic downturn. Our sympathies go out to any of our members who have been affected by coronavirus.

So, is there good news?

First, the majority of UMANA members are experiencing good health, despite being active in a risky health care environment, while performing their professional duties. We hope that this remains a positive trend.

Second, thanks to member dedication, UMANA’s financial state remains stable. Expenses are down due to a decrease in activity and aggressive budgeting. Members have maintained their financial obligations by continuing to pay their annual dues — the rate of dues payment is comparable to non-COVID years. We thank each and every member for staying active and believing in the benefit of UMANA.

Third, chapters have quickly pivoted to virtual activity — meetings are being conducted on various internet platforms that enable participation by members from safe locations while interacting with colleagues and speakers.

Fourth, UMANA activity is now conducted on-line, with minimal impact of functionality. We have experienced no problems with communication.

Fifth, the publication of our newsletter, UMANANews continues uninterrupted, and the next issue of Лікарський Вісник/JUMANA is currently in preparation.

Finally, we are working hard to continue adapting to whatever the Pandemic throws at us. Keep up your spirits and best wishes to all.

All donations ($25 or over) to the UMANA Foundation will receive this collectible limited edition pin celebrating UMANA’s 70th Anniversary. The easiest way to do this, is to add your donation on your dues statements.

Thank you in advance for supporting this worthwhile educational cause.
ILLINOIS BRANCH — On October 29, 2020, Illinois Chapter members participated in a live teleconference with Dr. Jorge Parada, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA, FSHEA Medical Director Infection Prevention & Control Hospital Epidemiologist — Division of Infectious Diseases Loyola Medical Center. Dr. Parada informed the members of the current status of COVID-19 infection and the efforts underway to combat this pandemic. The conference host, Theresa Kuritza, DO, entertained questions from the audience about various aspects of the impact of COVID-19 on life in America.

The wildly popular “Robotic Applications in General Surgery” presentation moderated by Yevhen Pavelko, MD, that was scheduled for March 2020, was canceled due to the COVID-19 shut down. The chapter will be making every effort to present this talk at a time yet to be determined. Please watch your emails.

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**President’s Message**

НЕМАЄ ЛИХА БЕЗ ДОБРА

We are in the ninth month of COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. It has affected our daily lives including professional and social interactions between people.

Despite mostly negative effects of the corona virus we have been able to experience a positive aspect with a fast development and implementation of virtual meetings, webinars, conferences by using different platforms like Zoom, Webex and others.

In August I was invited via Zoom to join the meeting of Maryland/DC Metro Chapter of UMANA organized by chapter president Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj where I shared our COVID-19 experience in New York area during the height of the pandemic. Many doctors and members were able to join and participate in interesting discussion.

More recently I was able to join the Illinois Chapter meeting organized by chapter president Dr. Igor Prus and hosted by Dr. Theresa Kuritza where Dr. Jorge Parada, ID specialist from Loyola University gave an informative “COVID-19 update”.

In early October the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA/ФУЛТ) held its 18th Clinical Congress virtually in Lviv. Thanks again to virtual format many of us were able to participate in lectures and discussions. I was able to address the Congress via Zoom during the opening ceremony. The Congress was followed by the Assembly of Delegates where we had a fruitful business meeting. Many international Ukrainian physicians were in attendance.

I find it incredible that this new technology which was unintentionally forced upon us by the pandemic allows for wider participation and more interactions between physicians from different chapters, states and even countries. I would like to ask chapter presidents and meeting organizers to inform UMANA about your future conferences, chapter meetings and events so that we can distribute this information to allow more members to join in.

This wide utilization of virtual technology across a variety of organizations throughout the world including UMANA and WFUMA is echoed in the Ukrainian saying “Немає лиха без добра”.

Sincerely,

Petro Lenchur, MD

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**UMANA CHAPTER NEWS**

MARYLAND/DC Metro BRANCH — Chapter President Roxolana Horbowyj, MD, has embraced virtual platforms for education and held several meetings on the internet. August 7, 2020, Peter Lenchur, MD, New York Metro Branch, presented COVID-19: NYC Cardiologist’s Experience, and on September 11, Chapter member and dermatologist Inia Tunstall, MD, discussed COVID-19 and skin. Maria Hrycelak, MD, Illinois Branch, presented her experiences with COVID-19 in pediatrics on November 6. All speakers used the Zoom platform successfully, which enabled conversation between listeners and the speakers. In December Victor Bogulavsky, MD, a global health and development professional will present COVID-19: Neurological implications. More presentations are planned in the upcoming months. Please keep an eye on your emails.
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.

Andrew OLEARCHYK, MD (Pennsylvania Branch) just published his sixth book *The Evolution of Medicine* (co-authored by Renata Olearchyk). The book was composed using a novel approach of presenting in a chronological order the theoretical and clinical medicine from the prehistoric time to the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, based on the significant contribution of the known, less known and unknown individuals. The book is available through online retailers like Amazon and Authorhouse.

**WFUMA (СФУЛТ) Virtual Conference October 1-3, 2020**

Dr. Horbowyj also organized two round table sessions: Burns-Global Perspectives and COVID-19 in Ukraine and the World. Over 25 speakers from all over the world participated in the round table. UMANA members who participated were Roxolana Horbowyj, MD, who presented in both round tables: *Quality of Burn Care and Quality of Treatment in Coronavirus Illness*. Maria Hrycelak, MD, presented *COVID-19 in Pediatrics* and Inia Tunstall, MD, discussed *Skin Findings in COVID-19*. Leo Wolansky, MD, helped organize an International Neuroradiology Symposium on the last day of the conference through the collaboration of Friends of Radiology in Ukraine. Dr. Wolansky presented: *Gadolinium induced marrow signal changes with metabolic correlation after monthly triple-dose Gadolinium administration for a year*. Research carried out by: John J. DeBevits, Devin Bageac, Ivan Wolansky, Paul DiCamillo, Rong Wu, Chaoran Hu, David Karimeddin, Leo Wolansky.

The World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA) in Lviv, Ukraine, held their biennial conference in a virtual format this October 1-3. UMANA is one of the latest members of WFUMA.

UMANA President Petro Lenchur, MD, took part in the plenary sessions as did Roxolana Horbowyj, MD, - WFUMA US President.

**In our 70 years....**


*From left: Mrs. Lida & Dr. Wolodymyr Kassaraba, unknown, Jack Palance, unknown, Dr. Vasyl Truchly, Dr. Orest & Mrs. Roma Jachtorowycz, and veterinarian Dr. Ivan Rudawsky*