UMANA’s New Option: Zoom

By: George Hrycelak, M.D.

The COVID-19 pandemic has thwarted the ability for UMANA members to meet in person. Social distancing recommendations, mask-wearing, travel difficulties, all conspire to eliminate face-to-face interaction for the foreseeable future. What to do?

Technology to the rescue! UMANA leadership, both national as well as local chapters, have eagerly embraced virtual meetings, using apps such as Zoom, Skype and others. UMANANews is highlighting this new avenue of communication in the current issue: see the various chapters successfully meeting on-line, with credible results and productive activity.

If your chapter has not tried this approach yet, give it a whirl. The tech is simple, and once you have a virtual meeting, you might find it a nice substitute during these difficult times. Take a look at what others are doing.

New York Metro Branch December 7, 2020,
Zoom meeting — see page 2

UMANA Board of Directors’ Zoom Meeting
February 6, 2021

NEW FORMAT THIS YEAR!

XXXIX Assembly of Delegates June 19, 2021 — Zoom Meeting
XLVI Scientific Conference to be held separately — more information to come.
UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

MARYLAND/DC BRANCH are continuing their series of Zoom meetings. December 8, 2020, Victor Boguslavsky, MD, sharing on “COVID-19: Potential Impact on Child Growth and Development.” January 15, 2021, Chrystia Kuzmovych, OD, spoke about “Ocular Manifestations of COVID-19”. The latest meeting was on February 5, 2021, where Boris Lushniak, MD, presented an “Update on COVID-19 Vaccines”. Virtual meetings have made it possible for members from other chapters to join in on these presentations/discussions. Roxolana Horbowyj, MD, Chapter President, has scheduled further monthly Zoom meetings with various presenters through at least June 2021.

NEW YORK METRO BRANCH held its meeting on December 7, 2020, in virtual format. Marta Lopatynsky, MD, President of the NY Metro Chapter presented a report of chapter activities for the past 2 years. This was followed by a lively discussion for proposed future activities. At the end of the meeting, a new Board was elected: President: Ruta Cholhan, MD; Vice President: Vasyl Pidkaminetskiy, MD, President-Elect: Ariadna Bach, MD; Treasurer: Danylo Kuncio, DDS; Secretary: Luke Tomycz, MD. Members at Large: Victor Gribenko, MD; Victor Gorloff, MD; Audit Committee: Roman Liteplo, MD, Adrian Baranetsky, MD. We thank the outgoing Uprava under the leadership of Dr. Marta Lopatynsky for their dedication and positive contribution to our chapter. We wish the new Board all the best and hope they will come in with new ideas and enthusiasm for the benefit of UMANA.

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

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.

OBITUARIES

IWANCIW DMD, PhD, Myroslawa, age 101, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg 1948, member of UMANA Illinois Branch, died January 15, 2021.


KUSMA MD, Bohdan, age 96, Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck 1951, member of UMANA New England Branch, died October 11, 2020.
President’s Message

Reporting period was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost all UMANA activities were transitioned to virtual format. Chapter meetings and lectures were held using different virtual platforms, predominantly Zoom.

In October 2020 UMANA participated in 18th Congress of World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA). We gave an opening address to the Congress from Ukrainian Medical Association of North America. UMANA actively participated in Assembly of Delegates and nominated Delegates-Representatives from UMANA who are: Dr. Adrian Baranetsky, Dr. Borys Buniak, Dr. George Hrycelak and Dr. Vassyl Lonchyna.

In October 2020 UMANA co-organized virtual fundraising for Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City honoring medical personnel and 1st responders. UMANA addressed the gathering virtually.

New members were continuously recruited and accepted into our organization. As you will hear from the financial report, financial health of the organization remains stable.

In this difficult year, new virtual technology which was unintentionally forced upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic paradoxically allowed for wider member participation and more interactions between physicians from different chapters and states across North America.

I am extremely proud of UMANA and fellow Ukrainian healthcare professionals who were and are on the front lines of this battle with COVID-19 pandemic. Please continue this important effort and I am certain that UMANA is going to overcome these temporary challenges.

Under usual circumstances during this time of the year we would be preparing for our biennial Scientific Conference and Assembly of Delegates. This year our plans have been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are still hoping that we will be able to carry out our XLVI Scientific Conference with Zoom and perhaps in person. Usually the Assembly of Delegates, the “highest governing body of Association” according to our bylaws, is held together with the Scientific Conference. In view of these unprecedented times I am proposing to the Board of Directors to separate the two events and execute our XXXIX Assembly of Delegates according to our biennial schedule in June of 2021. This way our new Board of Directors and President-Elect Dr. Leo Wolansky will be not “out of sync” with our usual schedule.

Sincerely,
Petro Lenchur, MD
Christina IWANIK, BA, (New England Branch) is the Dermatology Program Coordinator at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Zenon John KOSSAK, DDS, MD (Michigan Branch) is a retired Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI, who is proud to say that all three of his children have chosen to follow his career path: Lydia Kossak D’Agostini, DDS, Zenon Paul Kossak, DDS, MD, and Elizabeth Kossak Thompson, DDS. Just as they followed their father in careers, we hope that all three will also become UMANA members.

Viktoria KRAJNC, MD (Michigan Branch) completed her residency in June 2020 in Family Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix and started her new job as an attending physician at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix. Upon graduating from residency, she was awarded the “Resident Teacher Award” by the Society of Teachers in Family Medicine, as well as the 2020 James L. Grobe Award, which is given by the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians. Viktoria is the daughter of Lydia Baltarowich, MD and the granddaughter of the late Maria Baltarowich, DDS, both longtime members of UMANA.

Victor LEBEDOVYCH, MD, (Syracuse Branch) is fully retired, but he spends his time volunteering at Meals-on-Wheels and the VA Hospital transporting patients and specimens, visiting veterans at their homes.

Mark ORLAND, BS, (Illinois Branch) a 3rd year medical student at University of Illinois at Chicago, had a busy Covid summer and fall in 2020. He is interested in Orthopedic Surgery and medical career tied to biotechnology and innovative virtual teaching techniques. He had 2 articles published as first author: “Does Virtual Reality Improve Procedural Completion and Accuracy in an Intramedullary Tibial Nail Procedure?: A Randomized Controlled Trial” (Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, Sept 2020.) and “Surgical Duration Implicated in Major Postoperative Complications in Total Hip and Total Knee Arthroplasty: A Retrospective Cohort Study” (Journal of American Academy of Orthopeadic Surgeons, Sept 2020).

Olga SALETSKA, DNP, FN (Illinois Branch) received her Doctorate in Nursing Practice at Loyola University Chicago with successfully defending her scholar project and dissertation on Obesity Management Standardizing Care in Primary Care. She also obtained an advanced education and certification in Obesity Medicine from the Obesity Medicine Association.

Wira SLOBODIANIUK-TRIGOS, MD (Pennsylvania Branch), at 95 says there is not much to say, but tells us that she still paints and also reads a lot now that she has the time.

Sophia WELYKJ, MS, MD, FAAD (Illinois Branch) has retired from the practice of dermatology. Her 43 year career spanned a master’s degree in mathematics with teaching positions at Triton Community College and the University of Illinois, an academic appointment at Loyola University School of Medicine, Dermatology, where she published 13 scientific papers, presented at national meetings, and a solo private practice in Riverside, IL. She is looking forward to a long deserved break before starting life’s next chapter.

Inia YEVICH-TUNSTALL MD (Maryland/DC Branch) recently retired and hopes to move to the warmer temperatures of Florida soon.