

## UMANA Reacts to Ukraine's Medical Anguish

By George Hrycelak, M.D.

February 24, 2022 Ukraine found itself in a critical state – bombs, missiles, artillery shells raining down on previously peaceful and quiet cities, towns and villages. With no time to prepare or flee, the casualties are severe and extensive. No one could imagine the resulting maelstrom of medical misery. No country could be prepared for the largest European land war since World War II. But it happened.

The diaspora responded quickly. Ukrainians of all stripes, from recent immigrants, to older members from previous generations, were moved to provide assistance and help in any way possible.

UMANA quickly realized: Ukraine needs lots of help! **As physicians, we know medicine best.** We have connections, experience, and the wherewithal to spearhead the drive for medical supplies, equipment and medications to the areas in need. That became our mission to this day.

The UMANA central in office in Chicago, along with its sister non-profit association the UMANA Foundation, became a central gathering point for financial donations. It must be publicly acknowledged, that a very substantial amount of financial help flowed in from non-Ukrainian entities – from small donations of \$5 or \$10 from the general public, to donations of tens of thousands of dollars from individuals as well as medical corporations, medical staffs and various local fund-raising efforts. Local Ukrainian communities gifted hundreds of thousands directly and through the local Selfreliance Federal Credit Union Foundation (Chicago) and regional banks.

The UMANA Foundation, channeled mainly through chapters in Illinois(Wisconsin), New York Metro, Syracuse, Ohio, Michigan, Maryland DC, Pennsylvania, along with hundreds of volunteers nationwide, has collected **\$1,815,700** dollars in financial donations, and an over **\$25,000,000** dollars of in-kind donated medical assistance. As of the date of publication, below is a partial list of what we have sent over:

- 1- Four planeloads of over 350 tons of medical supplies and equipment delivered via Poland.
- 2- Over 60,000 doses of donated and purchased antibiotics shipped by air.
- 3- Over 3,100 individually transported suitcases of supplies delivered.
- 4- 16 fully equipped ambulances shipped (2 purchased directly in Europe).
- 5- 750 military grade IFAKS (Individual First Aid Kits) delivered for distribution.
- 6- 2,700 CAT (Combat Application Tourniquets) delivered.
- 7- 16 Point of Care (POCUS) Portable Ultrasound machines.
- 8- Surgical instruments for trauma surgery delivered to hot zones.
- 9- 5 photo-therapy lamps supplied to pediatric units in area hospitals.
- 10- 200 portable, reusable, non-electric incubators for premature infants.
- 11- Food deliveries to critical and refugee areas.
- 12- C-Arm fluoroscopic X-ray machine for military hospital use.
- 13- 5 portable ventilators for critical use in ambulances and field hospitals.
- 14- 3 personal vehicles for transportation of humanitarian aid.
- 15- Craniotomy instrumentation to select centers.
- 16- Sterilization units to multiple hospitals.
- 17- EKG machines, cardiac monitors and defibrillators to critical centers.
- 18- Partnering with ViveoCares Foundation to provide tele-medicine services in Ukraine.
- 19- Dental repair and reconstructive equipment.



UMANA is focusing now on 2 more efficient methods of help

1. Through **Project Mission: Medicines**, UMANA is collecting funds to purchase bulk generic medicine at cost, to be distributed directly to needed areas in Ukraine.
2. Bypassing middle-man costs by using individual transport of medical supplies directly to needed areas,

Finally, this effort involves many, many individuals, anonymous as well as known. To see a detailed extensive listing of donors, both financial as well as in kind, we invite you to visit our web site [www.umana.org](http://www.umana.org) and click on "DONORS THAT HELP US" in the right upper corner.

# UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

**NEW YORK METRO BRANCH** continues fundraising efforts sending vital medical supplies including IFAKS and Wound Vacs to Ukraine. Our youngest members: **Ivan Wolansky, Chrystia Lenchur, Petro Lenchur** and **Adrian Temnycky** traveled to Przemysl, Poland, to volunteer with helping Ukrainian refugees. The Chapter now is also working on providing medical consultations in Jersey City to new arriving refugees in the tri-state area.



*New York Metro Branch members volunteering in Poland*

**ILLINOIS BRANCH** continues to send cargo; critical medications are bought and sent in suitcases via commercial flights almost weekly totaling thousands of bags. The Chapter has spent nearly \$350,000 on medical equipment, supplying Kramatorsk, Odesa, Cherkasy, Donetsk, Mykolaiv, Kyiv and many other hospitals with surgical lights, BOWA machines, surgical instruments, lamps, wound vacs, and other critical equipment. The

UMANA Illinois Medical Relief Team has established a close network of volunteers in Ukraine, who receive and distribute our aid directly to front line doctors and hospitals in the hot zones.

On June 30, 2022, The Institute of Medicine of Chicago awarded UMANA Illinois the Global Humanitarian Medical Award in recognition of all the Branch members and volunteers who never stopped helping and supporting the Ukrainian people to this day.



Sunday, August 7, 2022, despite a rainy forecast, Illinois Branch members and volunteers gathered for their Annual Chapter Picnic at UYCO/Plast Campground in Round Lake, Illinois. Participants were encouraged to write words of support on two donated ambulances which are on their way to Ukrainian hot zones.



*Illinois Branch members*



## 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**

## LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Dear UMANA members: I wanted to take this opportunity to express my amazement and complete awe as to all that numerous UMANA members have been doing and continue to do for Ukraine in this wartime. Many have spent inhumane hours to raise funds, find equipment and supplies, send huge shipments, provide medical care either physically or via telehealth, take in refugees and so much more. I cannot find words of gratitude that would do justice to all that have shown that you are not just patriots. You have shown your soul. You embody what it means to be a compassionate servant of your fellow man and our motherland. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Lydia Wozny RPh

## OBITUARIES



**EFREMOV MD, Mary**, age 75, *Université libre de Bruxelles* 1978, member of UMANA New York Metro Branch, died February 21, 2022.



## President's Message

Putin needs you...

Putin needs you and your organization...to remain silent. He needs you to be noncommittal and to remain neutral. Some professional societies, including medical societies that describe their organization's mission with language such as "...to foster good health and well-being..." and phrases such as "...to improve the rates of morbidity and mortality..." are satisfying Putin's needs...by remaining silent.

Within a few days of the war, I reached out to my university and to every professional organization with which I am affiliated. I wrote to them about the UN General Assembly's March 2 resolution regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Resolutions are passed when 2/3 of the voting member nations vote, "Yes." Abstentions are not counted. The essence of the resolution can be distilled to the following numbered points,

that the UN General Assembly:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters.
2. Deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine....
3. Demands that the Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and to refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against any Member State.
4. Also demands that the Russian Federation immediately, completely, and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders."

The vote was adopted by a resounding 97% (141:5)!

Some organizations / institutions responded admirably, issuing strong statements in support of Ukraine. Others replied to me, "Our institution is apolitical and therefore cannot issue a statement." I replied that this is not a question of politics, in the sense that an apolitical organization should not support a candidate from the Democratic or Republican party. This is a question of human decency.

Any organization that pretends in their mission statement that they seek "to foster good health and well-being," is obligated to voice an opinion on "war crimes" (defined as such by the US Congress)

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-senate-unanimously-condemns-putin-war-criminal-2022-03-15/>

As of July 31, the WHO reports 434 specific attacks on healthcare facilities, not to mention the thousands who have been killed in the bombings of non-military homes and public facilities. Furthermore, since by overwhelming majority, the UN "Deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine" and "Demands that the Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine" even the deaths of Ukrainian soldiers are the responsibility of Putin's army. Even the deaths of Russian soldiers at the hands of Ukrainian soldiers are the fault of Putin and his henchmen. All that Russia needs to do to avoid further death and disability is withdraw and go home.

I urge each of you to find out what your professional society or affiliated medical university has officially stated about Russia's war on Ukraine. If they are conspicuously silent or noncommittal, it is time to point out that their inaction is in fact "tacit approval" of what Putin is doing and diametrically opposed to their mission as an organization of healthcare professionals or an institution of higher learning involved in healthcare.

Certainly, they would not claim to be "apolitical" if they were asked to voice an opinion on the atrocities committed by Hitler. Although Hitler's atrocities were unspeakably horrific, in one way Putin's actions are even worse. At least Hitler hid what he was doing. Putin is challenging the very fabric of morality by flagrantly committing war crimes, which sends the moral message to society including the children of the world that "Evil wins and good loses."

In the words of Ukrainian sports legend Andriy Shevchenko: "silence kills" ("мовчання вбиває").

Д-р Лев Волянський  
Dr. Leo Wolansky

## POWERFUL MESSAGES

Dr. Andriy Bazylevych is the President of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (Світова Федерація Українських Лікарських Товариств) (Abbreviated WFUMA/CFULIT) and has worked on collaborations with both UMANA and "Friends of Radiology in Ukraine" for a number of years. He recently discussed the upcoming 2023 WFUMA conference, originally planned for Odessa. I related to him the Odessa would be impossible at the present time in view of the war. He recently contacted me and proposed the venue be moved to Uzhorod. I told him that I would certainly participate and that I believe many from the diaspora would do so as well. After all, Uzhorod is on the border with Slovakia. Russian attempts to bomb Uzhorod could easily result to hitting Slovakia, a NATO country, and could trigger article 5, requiring NATO intervention in the war. Please join us October 27-29. We will work on arranging for translations for Ukrainian-Americans who require that. It is my belief that holding an international medical conference with diaspora participation would send a powerful message of support to Ukraine. Do not be silent!

# UMANA MEMBER NEWS



**Oksana BALTAROWICH-HUD, MD** (Pennsylvania Branch), Professor of Radiology, retired from Thomas Jefferson University in 2021 after 41 years of service. Dr. Baltarowich was the Director of Medical Student Education in Radiology, receiving numerous teaching awards

from the medical school and from local and national radiological organizations.



**Larissa T. BILANIUK, MD, FACR** (Pennsylvania Branch), Professor of Radiology at University of Pennsylvania, retired in 2021. A symposium was organized to honor her career, awarding her the: “Larissa T. Bilaniuk Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neuro-radiology Research at the University of

Pennsylvania” and “The Larissa T. Bilaniuk Award for Excellence in Teaching Pediatric Neuroradiology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia”.



**Alexandra BRESNAHAN, DDS** (Illinois Branch), graduated in June 2022 from the University of Missouri Kansas City School of Dentistry. She has moved to Rochester, NY, to start her residency in general dentistry at the Eastman Institute of Oral Health at the University of Rochester Medical Center.



**Andrew DZUL, MD** (Michigan Branch), recently retired from a successful career in otolaryngology. He and wife Khrystyna also recently returned from a mission to Poland with the program run by the archdiocese of Przemyśl. This was a well run enterprise and a rewarding experience for them.



**Stephen DZUL, MD, PhD** (Michigan Branch), is beginning his last year of Radiation oncology residency at Detroit Medical Center.



**Andrew JATSKIV, MD** (Member-At-Large), formerly an Illinois Branch member, is now an Internal Medicine Hospitalist in San Antonio, Texas.



**Andrew KALIN, MD** (Illinois Branch), has recently opened a new pain management practice with Duly Health and Care with two locations: Oak Lawn and Lockport, IL.



**Alexander MANDYCH, MD** (Buffalo Branch), has been an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center since 2017. He is a comprehensive otolaryngologist and involved with the Resident Education program.

**WE'RE MISSING YOUR NEWS!  
YOUR STUDIES, YOUR CAREER AND  
CHANGES, FAMILY, OR OTHER  
INTERESTING ACTIVITIES!**  
Send mail to **UMANA** main office or by e-mail to  
[umana@umana.org](mailto:umana@umana.org)

## SAVE THE DATE !

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