

Telehealth: UMANA Reaches Out to Ukraine



Ukraine needs medical help. UMANA does medicine best. How to connect the two? Technology.

Although our initial partner, Viveo Cares, is winding down its Ukraine telehealth initiative, we've identified two priority initiatives for partnership.



1. **HealthTech Without Borders (HTWB):** <https://www.htwb.org> is a non-profit organization connecting companies offering digital tools with those providing care for humanitarian purposes in Ukraine. A coalition including Massachusetts General Hospital, HTWB offers online trainings for clinicians in crisis areas in medical and mental health challenges, and is always looking for

Ukrainian-speaking clinicians and psychologists to support the training of Ukrainian providers. They also refer doctors looking to provide clinical care directly to <https://doctoronline.care/en/>, a Ukrainian telehealth platform offering video, phone, and instant messages with patients. Volunteer here: <https://airtable.com/shryHzP6J8FpbxqOK>



2. **Telehelp Ukraine:** Started by students from Stanford, <https://www.telehelpukraine.com/i-need-help> has become a full-fledged non-profit with an experienced board. They have provider

to patient visits, their platform is easy to use, and it is in Ukrainian. They have interpreters on staff that can join into three-way calls to help with any language barriers. For those who haven't had a chance to do so yet, we've heard from our own UMANA members that providing virtual consultations to Ukrainians in-need has been a very rewarding experience.

Additionally, we are currently looking for volunteers to beta test a new translation feature offered by HealthTech Without Borders, enabling asynchronous chat, powered by AI translation technology built by Microsoft. Please email us at telehealthumana@gmail.com if you're interested in providing this impactful support or have any questions about any of the telehealth opportunities, all of which are detailed on the UMANA website <https://umana.org/looking-for-physicians-and-interpreters-for-telemedicine-with-ukraine/>

Слава Україні! Slava Ukraini!

UMANA Telehealth Team

UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

ILLINOIS BRANCH members and other volunteers prepared a container for shipment to Ukraine with 32 pallets of supplies including anesthesiology machine, treadmill for stress test, 5 hospital beds, 2 mobile dental units and more. The volunteers sorted all the medication and supplies, constructed wooden crates to allow safe transport, and wrapped the pallets in plastic. The

Branch also is continuing sending suitcases filled with medical supplies to Ukraine.

MICHIGAN BRANCH has been focusing medical relief efforts in Kharkiv. They have purchased 2 ventilators and 3 critical care monitors for the Kharkiv Hospital. The Branch also received a generous donation from an individual physician practice and was able to purchase and ship orthopedic external fixators to the military hospital in Lviv. In addition, efforts continue to source donations from medical suppliers and healthcare centers.



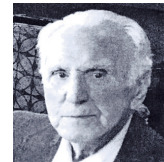
NEW YORK METRO BRANCH purchased 300 Individual First Aid Kits (IFAKs) along with 35 Wound Vacs which were delivered by UCCA's partners Operation White Stork as directed to Andrij from the Kyiv Special Battalion. Andrij is now distributing them further – and the first recipients were the 57th separate motorized infantry brigade.



Dr. Ruta CHOLHAN, NYMetro Chapter President and medical student **Christine LENCHUR**, represented UMANA at a Ukrainian Festival, and encouraged the community to learn about UMANA and recruit potential members.

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OBITUARIES



BAZIUK MD, Walter, age 99, *Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg 1958*, member of UMANA New York Metro Branch, died January 24, 2022.



BRODECH MD, Walter, age 80, *Universidad de Salamanca 1971*, member of UMANA Illinois Branch, died December 9, 2021.



GORCHYNSKI MD, Orest, age 88, *University of Manitoba 1958*, member of UMANA Southern California Branch, died November 28, 2018.



TURKEWYCZ DDS, Nadia, age 81, *University of Michigan 1960*, member of UMANA Michigan Branch, died May 2005.



WARVARIV MD, Eugene, age 97, *Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München 1958*, member of UMANA Northern California Branch, died June 22, 2020.



ZAPLITNY RPh, Jaroslav, age 93, *State University of Iowa 1959*, member of UMANA Illinois Branch and co-founder of the pharmacy section in 1962, died October 23, 2022.



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

Dear UMANA members,

It has been said that when victims of terrorism have to refrain from pursuing their normal activities, terrorists know they are winning. Since Ukraine is a victim of a state sponsor of terrorism, Russia, Ukrainian leadership is struggling to inspire its citizens to pursue some semblance of normalcy. Along those lines, the XIX international congress of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA) took place in hybrid form (both virtually and in-person) from October 27-29, 2022. Hundreds of Ukrainian healthcare workers were in attendance. From a podium in Uzhorod, Ukraine, I gave the following greeting:

“Вітаю! Слава Україні! Минуло 100 років від проголошення України незалежною. Як Ви знаєте, «Під Крутами,» міліція 400 чоловіків включно з 200 студентів, багато з яких ніколи перед бою рушницю не вживали, пішли боронити Україну проти тисячі професійних солдатів Москви. Один з Української міліції, називався Іван Шарий, опублікував першу історію цієї події, пишучи:

«Ми бачили, що Україна гине. Чорна гайворонь підіймалася з Московщини і непереможно сунула на наш край, голодна, хижа, дика... Це була московська «Красна Гвардія», ...Далі Іван писав що Красну Гвардію послали... «...для боротьби з вільною Україною, щоб накласти на неї старі кайдани неволі і користуватись її багатствами так само дурно, як користувалась Росія в попередніх більше ніж 200 літ.» Як Ви знаєте, наша міліція не втрималася. На кінець своєї історії Іван написав... «...По дорозі ми чули, що...» (Красна Гвардія) «люто помстились на полонених січовиках, ... а врешті після всяких знущань, всіх до одного перерізали. Так загинула майже половина моїх товаришів... ...Хай земля буде пухом, Вам, славні герої народні! Ви все, що могли, віднесли на вітар своєї Батьківщини — віддали їй найдорожче, що є в світі — молоде своє життя...» Іванові радили виїхати з України, але він лишився підтримувати Українську культуру, встав вчителем Української поезії. В 1929-ому році, НКВД заарештували його, мучили, тортували його і пострілили на смерть. Як забрали його, 7-літня донька дивилася з жахом! Вона виросла, поїхала в Америку і стала журналістом. Це була моя Мама, а Іван був мій Дідо.

Знайте тепер, що світ дивиться і знає що Україна переживає, і світ уважає що Україна є символ принципів демократії, прогресу, і людських права! А Росія є символ брак цих принципів. Західний світ є здивований і захоплений героїзму України. Україна дійсно є «Браття козацького роду!» І західний світ помагатиме Україні так довго як треба. До перемоги!”

Being at the meeting in Uzhorod provided me with a most humbling experience. Four minutes into my lecture I was interrupted by an air raid! We had to go to the bomb shelter! This is how it looked walking in.

An hour later, we exited the bomb shelter and headed to a windowless hallway, so I could continue my lecture. I had spent an hour in the bomb shelter, but some Ukrainian citizens had spent weeks in bomb shelters. During my entire trip I spent only three days in a “country at war,” but most Ukrainian citizens had been doing it for eight months! While I would soon be heading back to America, most Ukrainians would have to stay and fight!

After I spoke to the Ukrainian audience, a young man stepped up to me and said, “Dr. Wolansky, I’m from UMANA. I read your appeal in the last newsletter, asking UMANA members to support Ukraine by attending the WFUMA conference in Uzhorod! Well, here I am!” The young man is **Dr. Borys Bilaniuk**, a dentist from Ottawa. Together with Dr. Mykola Korpan, who practices in Vienna, Borys had converted the face to face conference from national to international, giving the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations an opportunity to live up to the “Worldwide” component of the organization’s title. Standing in solidarity with our heroic brethren is the least we can do!



Слава Україні! Glory to Ukraine!

Д-р Лев Волянський
Dr. Leo Wolansky

UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

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OHIO BRANCH members attended the Medwish International Gala on August 27, 2022, where **Drs. Maria STRUS**, Chapter President, and **Ihor ZACHARY** presented Dr. Lee Ponsky a plaque for recognition and gratitude to Medwish International and the Ponsky Family for their contribution to the war effort in Ukraine. Medwish International has been an integral part of the Branch’s medical supply shipments since the war began in 2014.

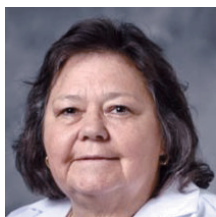


In September 2022, the Chapter partnered with St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral and Eparchy which purchased two ambulances from the ambulance company, Donald Martens and Sons. Branch members packed four pallets of supplies donated by Medwish International, and packed them into the ambulances. The ambulances are en-route to Belgium by freight container from the Port of Cleveland where they will be received and transported to Ukraine by our Dutch partners.

UMANA Ohio has been involved in many events and projects including the Ukrainian Independence Day parade held in Parma’s Ukrainian Village on August 27, 2022, the parade in One World Day at the Cultural Gardens of Cleveland on August 28, and others.

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UMANA MEMBER NEWS



Lydia (Lesia) BALTAROWICH, MD (Michigan Branch), retired in January 2022, after 40 years practice as an Emergency Medicine Physician and Faculty at the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. “Dr. B.” also had a parallel career in Medical Toxicology and was affiliated with the Michigan Poison and Drug Information Center at Wayne State University for 28 years, as a clinical consultant and toxicology fellowship faculty. She has been an active member of the Michigan Branch of UMANA since her residency training and remained on the Executive Board, including several stints as president, during the past 4 decades.



Victoria BLAGA, MS (Ohio Branch), joined other branch members during a packing event in September, and is now embarking on designing an UMANA Ohio website. She is currently in her third year at Case Western School of Medicine.



Colonel Andrew P. CAP, MD PhD (At-Large Member in Texas), US Army Medical Corps, is serving as Director of Research, US Army Institute of Surgical Research. He leads the Department of Defense research on combat casualty care. Dr. Cap is also an attending Hematologist-Oncologist – BMT specialist at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

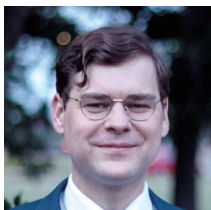


George KURITZA, MD (Illinois Branch), owner and Medical Director of Edgebrook Radiology, after half century at its Northwest Chicago location, recently expanded and relocated the independent diagnostic imaging center to neighboring DesPlaines, Illinois. With the newly acquired state-of-the-art high-field Fuji Open MRI system, along with new digital mammography, high-speed helical CT scanning, x-ray and state-of-the-art ultrasound equipment, the clinic continues to provide high-quality affordable services to northwest Chicago and surrounding communities.

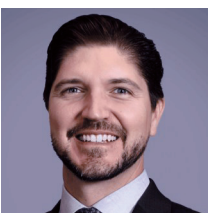
Ivanna MURSKYJ, MD (Michigan Branch), started fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at



Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Along with her father **Leo Murskyj, MD**, they recently returned from Poland where they assisted with Ukrainian refugees under the care of the Przemysl Archdiocese. They hope to return to Poland and encourage all to volunteer.



Nazary NEBELUK, MD (Washington DC/Maryland Branch), started his research track residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, where he will go into Infectious Disease fellowship.



Stephen ROS, MD PhD (At-Large Member in Arizona), recently moved to Scottsdale and is practicing orthopedics, specializing in hand and upper extremities.



Michael SAMOTOWKA, MD (Ohio Branch), is a trauma surgeon who formerly practiced at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, currently practices critical care medicine and trauma surgery in Florida and Georgia. He continues to work with the Ohio chapter in acquiring and packing supplies for Ukraine. Additionally, Dr. Samotowka has traveled to Kyiv on several occasions in partnership with MedGlobal to teach fellow surgeons important skills in trauma surgery.



Tetyana VASYLYEVA, MD PhD DSc (At-Large Member in Texas), beginning in late February 2022, co-lead a joint community effort in Amarillo (Northwest Texas Hospital, BSA Hospital, Kind House Ukrainian Bakery and the local Ukrainian community) in acquiring and packing a few tons of medical and injury protective supplies and sending to Dnipro, Ukraine, receiving a letter from the Mayor of Dnipro thanking them for their efforts. Continued efforts are to send more supplies as possible.

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PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH held their chapter meeting/luncheon September 18, 2022 in Schnecksville, where **Ihor RAK, MD**, presented his lecture “Coaching and Mentoring Professionals in the 21-st Century”.

WASHINGTON DC/MARYLAND BRANCH sent humanitarian aid to a city in Eastern Ukraine. Items included food, clothes, hygiene products and toys. The Chapter also helped to purchase a vehicle needed to conduct errands around the area.