

## UMANA Illinois Branch Doesn't Just Dance! Debutantes Raise \$32,000 for Baby Bronchoscopes at Annual Ball

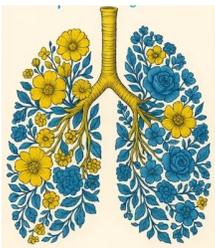
Saturday February 14, 2026, was not just Valentine's Day. It was time for the 65th Annual Debutante Ball at the historic Hilton Chicago Hotel. The grand presentation of debutantes is always a memorable event, and the evening's festivities delight all.

But there's more to it than that. Each year the debutante committee picks a philanthropic project to support. This year, it is supplying single-use AMBU pediatric bronchoscopes for the Lviv Regional Children's Specialized Clinic Hospital in Ukraine. This simple but critical piece of equipment will allow safe diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for young patients of all ages. The debutante's efforts on-line, on social media, and at the Ball itself resulted in an outpouring of support from local guests and membership. A special thank you to Zenon and Julie Szulyk who generously offered to match donations up to \$10,000.

This princely sum will provide a supply of single-use bronchoscopes, enough to treat a new patient each day for each of the next 365 days!

Kudos to this year's Chairperson **Dr. Daria Pachovsky Wang** and her committee for a job well done.

This fund-raising effort is an example of UMANA chapters continuing involvement in philanthropic support: involving the younger generation, linking to other existing branch activities, collecting donations large and small. Together, we can make a difference.



## UMANA Recognized with Prestigious Honor

The Order of St. Panteleimon awarded UMANA with a Certificate of Merit for the tireless, selfless and professional work in the war for Ukraine's Independence. The Order is awarded by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. The ceremony took place on November 8, 2025, at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City. Past President **Dr. Marta Lopatynsky** accepted the award for UMANA. **Tatyana Tymkiv, MSN, MBA**, President at the Foreign Council of the Order of St. Panteleimon US and **Vassyl Lonchyna, MD**, were hosts of the evening.



Seated from left: Drs. Vassyl Lonchyna, Marta Lopatynsky, and fifth from left Tatyana Tymkiv

# UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

**MICHIGAN BRANCH** enjoyed its annual Christmas luncheon at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. Special guest Alexander Kucy gave a presentation about his experience documenting the work of Ukrainian surgeons near the front lines. The event was well-attended, with many new members, including residents and medical students. The chapter looks forward to the upcoming year.



*Michigan Branch members at Grosse Pointe Yacht Club*



**ILLINOIS BRANCH** members held their traditional annual Yalynka on January 4, 2026 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago. Illinois President **Dr. Maryana Yaremko** welcomed everyone and gave a brief summary of the previous year's activities. Special guest was Oleksandra Ustinova—Member of Parliament of Ukraine.

Although many members had to leave early for other events, the camaraderie, great food and entertainment by flutist/saxophonist Andriy Chuyko made for an enjoyable afternoon.

*Oleksandra Ustinova  
Member of Parliament of Ukraine*



*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

**UMANA News Acting Editor:** George Hrycelak, MD, Elmwood Park, IL  
**Copy Editing and Layout:** Nadia Zajac, Chicago, IL

**Electronic Version:** [www.umana.org/newsletter.shtml](http://www.umana.org/newsletter.shtml)

**Send your articles, letters, and comments to:**  
UMANA News

2247 West Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60622-8957

Email: [umana@umana.org](mailto:umana@umana.org)

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America

## OBITUARIES



**HRYHORCZUK, MD, Natalia**, age 102, *Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München* 1950, member of Illinois Branch, died January 1, 2026.

## President's Message



Dear Friends,

As your National President of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, my goal is to strengthen the connections between all our members, across every chapter and state. Being part of UMANA means more than membership — it's about building a network where we can share knowledge, support each other, and work together for Ukraine.

I encourage you to stay involved, reach out to fellow members in other chapters, and help us grow this sense of connection and shared purpose. Staying connected helps us learn from one another, participate in continuing education, and join meaningful humanitarian efforts. Every time you engage — whether by attending a program, volunteering, or donating — you help make our community stronger and our impact greater. Being active helps us grow professionally and strengthens our network of colleagues. Together, we can support each other, serve Ukraine, and continue making a difference.

If you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, please reach out! Send us an email, text, or follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and other social media. We want to hear from you and stay connected.

Best regards,

Olena Gordon, MD  
UMANA President

*Continued from Page 2*

**OHIO BRANCH** members **Laura Bukavina, MD**, **Andrew Drozd, MD**, and **Tatyana Gabyak, PA**, were part of an eight-member urologic surgical team that traveled to Danylo Halytsky University Hospital in Lviv, Ukraine, for a week-long reconstructive urologic mission in October 2025. This was their third coordinated effort in Ukraine. The team also included: Drs. Shubham Gupta, Adam Calaway, George Koch, and Patrick Mershon. Over the course of the mission, the team operated on 24 patients, including 6 wounded military personnel, addressing a wide range of complex reconstructive needs. This mission reflects UMANA members' ongoing commitment to supporting Ukraine high-impact medical service and surgical education.

Chapter member **Mykhailo Samotowka, MD**, has taken an active role in surgical education regarding trauma surgery and critical care. He has participated in multiple conferences across Ukraine. **George Jaskiw, MD**, also participated in medical conferences in Kyiv and Lviv.

Ohio Branch has continued with their humanitarian medical efforts with donations of surgical and medical supplies, and in conjunction with UMANA Foundation, a high-speed Lenovo computer for 3D printing capabilities for reconstructive surgeries.



# UMANA MEMBER NEWS

**Orest BALYTSKY, DMD** (Northern California Branch) made his second dental mission trip to Ukraine in November 2025. His older daughter, Iryna, accompanied him, working as a makeshift dental assistant. For three weeks they worked at a dental clinic run by Dental Front, a volunteer organization focused on providing dental services for the Ukrainian military, located in a small town near Lviv, close to a military base. His focus was to provide endodontic treatment, but out of necessity, Dr. Balytsky also performed restorative dental procedures. He was very impressed to see soldiers from foreign countries such as Brazil and Colombia serving in the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Dr. Balytsky and Iryna also spent a few days in Kyiv, where they participated in a conference for military dentists.

He also states that there is a great need for dental supplies for military dental clinics. If you have any equipment or materials that you could donate, you can contact Dr. Balytsky.

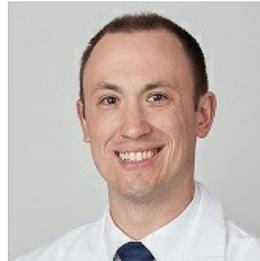


**Oksana JACKSON, MD** (Pennsylvania Branch) is a pediatric plastic surgeon at the Children's Hospital Philadelphia. She has been traveling to Ukraine one to two

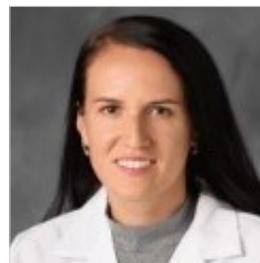


*3rd from left: Dr. Oksana Jackson*

times per year to work with pediatric surgeons and maxillofacial surgeons for children with cleft lip and palate craniofacial disorders. She brings a team including a hand and upper extremity surgeon. More info about her work: <https://iskraglobal.org>



**Mark KOZICKY, MD** (New York Metro Branch), was appointed Director of St. John's Riverside Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program in Yonkers, NY, in 2025.



**Ulyana MALOVANA, DO** (Michigan Branch), graduated from Michigan State School of Osteopathic Medicine in the Spring of 2025 and began her residency in Internal Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.



**Sergiy NESTERENKO, MD** (At-Large Member in Texas), continued with his primary focus of 2025 of educational programs with Ukraine through UMANA's partner NGO, the American Ukrainian Medical Foundation (AUMF). He hosted a physician from Ukraine for a month's rotation in orthopedic spine surgery at his private practice in Lubbock. Dr. Nesterenko also helped in translating surgical educational materials into Ukrainian, which are available on their online platform along with other military medicine materials. He also took part in the Heal Ukraine conference in Boston in the Fall 2025.



**Maryana STRYELKINA, DO** (Illinois Branch), is completing her Internal Medicine residency at Baylor College of Medicine (Temple), and will graduate in June 2026. After she will begin a Gastroenterology Fellowship in July 2026 at Baylor All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas.