UMANA News

Established 1950

The Newsletter of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America
Бюлетень Українського Лікарського Товариства Північної Америки

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A Special Honor for You, UMANA Members

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America received the Certificate of Merit from the Order of Saint Panteleimon Foreign Council USA, awarded for its service in bringing medical aid to Ukraine. **Dr. Olena Gordon,** President of UMANA, accepted the award on behalf of all UMANA members, supporters and volunteers for their tireless work over the last 5 years. UMANA was one of several honorees of the evening. UMANA members **Tatyana Tymkiv, MSN, MBA,** President at the Foreign Council of the Order of St. Panteleimon USA and **Vassyl Lonchyna, MD,** were hosts of the reception.

The event was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago on September 26, 2026. Several UMANA members attended the presentation. St. Panteleimon was a physician and healer and is the patron saint of healthcare workers.



The honorees of the evening.
Tatyana Tymkiv, MSN, MBA (sixth from right), Olena Gordon, MD (fourth from right), Vassyl Lonchyna, MD (second from right)

When Russia launched its full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, UMANA responded almost immediately. By the second day of the war, UMANA had mobilized a Medical Relief Task Force, bringing together physicians, chapters, volunteers, donors, and partners across North America to provide urgently needed medical assistance to Ukraine.

In March 2022, UMANA's first of 4 humanitarian cargo planes departed with approximately 350 tons of critical medical aid. The supplies traveled through Poland and onward to Ukraine in coordination with Ukraine's Ministry of Health. Additional air shipments quickly followed, carrying medications, surgical supplies, emergency equipment, and even an ambulance. The Ukrainian Ministry of Health publicly acknowledged UMANA's role in organizing these shipments and distributing the aid to hospitals serving areas most affected by the war. But UMANA's mission did not stop with those first emergency flights.

Over the past four and a half years, UMANA and the UMANA Foundation have built a continuing medical lifeline to Ukraine. More than $3.16 million in monetary donations has been raised for medical relief, along with several million dollars in donated supplies and equipment. UMANA reports that medications and medical supplies with an estimated value of $25 million have reached regions throughout Ukraine. Our chapters and partners have provided everything from surgical instruments, medications, audiometers, wound-care supplies, and orthopedic equipment to 2,800 CAT tourniquets, portable ultrasound machines, C-arm fluoroscopy equipment, sterilizers, orthopedic fixators, gas and solar generators, and other lifesaving equipment. UMANA helped deliver nearly 300 IFAKs and hundreds of wound VAC systems for Ukrainian defenders, supported specialized treatment for war-related hearing loss, supplied equipment for hospitals in Kharkiv and other regions, and continued supporting orthopedic trauma care through the purchase of components for external fixators.

Our work has continued long after the first months of the invasion. In 2026, surgical instruments sent from Chicago through Poland reached frontline hospitals and hot zones in eastern Ukraine, where Ukrainian physicians are using them to perform surgeries and save lives. Bronchoscopes and antibiotic resistance kits were sent to hospitals for children in Lviv. Recently a 500-gallon potable water tank was purchased and is on the way to a hospital in the east. UMANA has also worked beyond humanitarian shipments – supporting telemedicine, medical education, physician collaboration, advocacy, and partnerships connecting Ukrainian and North American healthcare professionals and institutions.

This recognition belongs to every UMANA physician and member, every chapter, donor, volunteer, hospital, organization, and partner who answered Ukraine's call. What began as an emergency response in February 2022 has become a long-term commitment: to save lives, support Ukrainian physicians, strengthen hospitals, educate the next generation and help rebuild the future of Ukrainian medicine.



UMANA Illinois members



UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

ILLINOIS BRANCH took part in the Ukrainian Independence Day Parade in Chicago's Ukrainian Village neighborhood on August 23, 2026. UMANA proudly formed its group and marched along Chicago Avenue with the other 50+ organizations and churches to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of renewed Independence of Ukraine and show support of Ukraine's fight against their aggressor. The hot August weather didn't waver the uplifting spirit of the day and everyone was in good cheer.



Illinois Branch members and family at the parade



ILLINOIS BRANCH held an educational presentation, "Rethinking Cardiovascular Risks: Lipids, CAC and Lp(a)" on October 11, 2026, at Seasons 52 Grill and Wine Bar in Oakbrook. **Andrii Labchuk, MD,** Cardiology Fellow at Lutheran General Hospital, shared the latest advances in cardiovascular risk assessment. It was a wonderful afternoon filled valuable medical insights, thoughtful questions, meaningful conversations, and connection within our professional community.



Dr. Andrii Labchuk

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

OBITUARIES



CARDOSO, Orysia RPh, MPH, age 81, *University of Illinois School of Pharmacy 1968*, member of Illinois Branch, died August 29, 2026.



MYSKIW, Peter DPM, age 69, *New York College of Podiatric Medicine 1978*, At-Large UMANA member in Arizona, died February 5, 2022.

President's Message



Dear UMANA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

As we enter the final months of 2026, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our work together and, most importantly, thank each of you for your continued commitment to the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

This year has reminded us once again that UMANA is much more than a professional organization. We are a community of physicians and healthcare professionals united by our Ukrainian roots, our commitment to medicine, and our responsibility to support Ukraine during this extraordinarily difficult time. Our humanitarian medical work continues. Through the dedication of our Medical Relief Committee, chapters, volunteers, donors, and partners, we continue to provide Ukrainian hospitals and healthcare professionals with urgently needed medical equipment, surgical instruments, supplies, and other support. Every shipment represents more than equipment - it represents patients who can receive care and lives that may be saved.

I am also deeply grateful to the many UMANA members who continue to take action within their communities. Our members are participating in rallies, peaceful demonstrations, community events, and advocacy efforts across North America - raising awareness, standing with Ukraine, and reminding the world that Ukraine still needs our support. Your voices matter. Your presence matters. Your continued commitment helps keep Ukraine visible and heard.

In the coming months, we look forward to sharing updates from our Medical Relief and Educational Committees, including the progress of current initiatives and new opportunities for collaboration.

We are also pleased to announce that UMANA is preparing for our Scientific Conference in June 2027. This will be an important opportunity to bring our medical community together to learn, exchange ideas, and strengthen professional relationships. Additional information about the conference program, location, registration, and opportunities to participate will be shared as plans are finalized.

We need your involvement. I encourage each of you to choose at least one way to become more involved in the months ahead: join a committee or project, participate in your local chapter, volunteer your professional expertise, mentor a student or young healthcare professional, support our medical relief and educational initiatives, attend and promote UMANA events, or advocate for Ukraine within your own community. Please also reach out to colleagues who may not yet be active in UMANA. Invite them to join us and help us strengthen the next generation of our organization. Every member who becomes involved brings new ideas, new connections, and new possibilities.

UMANA was built by generations of Ukrainian physicians who understood the importance of preserving our professional community while serving others. Today, it is our responsibility to continue that legacy and prepare our organization for the next generation.

Thank you for your trust, your dedication, and your continued support.

Together, we are stronger. Together, we continue to make a difference - for our medical community, for our patients, and for Ukraine.

With gratitude,

Olena Gordon, MD



UMANA MEMBER NEWS

Maria HRYCELAK, MD (Illinois Branch), UMANA Foundation President, was awarded the high honor of Ukraine's National Order of St. Olha (III Degree). The President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, presented her the Order in New York City, on September 23, 2026. The Order was given to Dr. Hrycelak for her long years of service to the Ukrainian community in the U.S. and more recently with the UMANA Foundation work in aiding Ukraine immediately after the invasion in 2022. The foundation was able to facilitate millions of dollars of medical aid to Ukraine through the work of UMANA and its chapters.

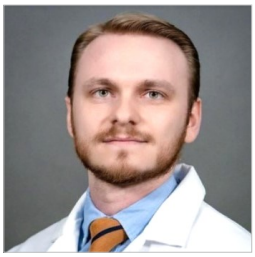


Catherine KRUCYLAK, MD (Illinois Branch), retired from Washington University School of Medicine faculty/pediatric anesthesiology staff at St. Louis Children's Hospital in July 2025. She continues volunteering with WUSM Admissions Committee. Now she has more time to enjoy exploring parks with her dogs Molly and Nemo.





Nelya MELNITCHOUK, MD (New England Branch), received the Order of St. Olha (III Degree) from Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky on September 23, 2026, in New York City for her work as co-founder and CEO of Global Medical Knowledge Alliance.



Andriian SEREDA, MD (UMANA At-Large member in Washington), completed his residency in Internal Medicine from Skagit Regional Health and will continue as a Hospitalist at Viginia Mason St. Michael's Medical Center in Washington state.

Eugene SHMORHUN, MD (Maryland/DC Metro Branch), retired in September 2026 from his private practice Family Healthcare of Fairfax that he established in 1989. He is very proud to have had several 4 generation families under his care. He was known as an "old school" physician that still did regular hospital, assisted living and home visits. He was voted Washingtonian Top Doctor by peers continuously since 1990.



He also served as the family practice home for the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington for nearly 30 years, helping their patients with navigating an unfamiliar healthcare system, immunizations, school entry for the children. He accompanied patients to specialist visits, testing and surgeries when necessary. For his work with the Ukrainian Embassy and newly arrived immigrants, Dr. Shmorhun was awarded the Order of Merit (III Degree) by Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine, on September 23, 2026, in New York City.

His retirement plans include rest, travel, grandparenting and some volunteer work.



Michael YAREMCHUK, MD FACS (New England Branch), recently retire after nearly five decades in practice of craniofacial surgery and microsurgery. He was also Clinical Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and Chief of Craniofacial Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. He authored four textbooks, over 50 book chapters, and 150 scientific articles. Dr. Yaremchuk received numerous awards and honors throughout his career and was President of the New England Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He also has lectured as visiting professor across the U.S. and 15 countries. After such a busy career, he will be able to finally relax and enjoy his retirement.



Andriy ZBOROVSKY, BS (Ohio Branch) graduated from the University of Cincinnati and is now in his first year of medical school at the University of Toledo.



YOUR NEWS NEEDED HERE !!

Started school? Graduated? Started working? Changed positions? Promoted? Retired?
Got married? Children? Traveled? Wrote a book? Took up a hobby?
Send your news to UMANA either by mail or email:
umana123@peoplepc.com or umana@umana.org

