

## UMANA Holds 2009 Biennial Convention in Vancouver, B.C.

By George Hrycelak, MD

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) held its 40th biennial Scientific Conference and 33rd Assembly of Delegates July 1-5, 2009, in

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Over 60 members, family, and guests of the association traveled to the west coast Canadian port city to hear colleagues review issues in patient safety, medical ethics, disaster management, and projects in Ukraine. The UMANA Assembly of Delegates reviewed the association's last two years of work, and elected a new Board of Directors for the upcoming term.



**UMANA Board of Directors 2009-2011 (from left): Drs. M. Hrycelak, L. Pilch, B. Buniak, W. Tymchak, A. Dzul, A. Melnyk, R. Horbowyj, and G. Hrycelak**

dedicated to scientific sessions. Scientific coordinator **Dr. Luba Komar** (Toronto) arranged for a panel of speakers in a range of specialties to cover the program material. The University of Alberta certified the program for 10 Category I continuing medical education credits.

Participation in discussions was active and spirited, with an exchange of opinions between Canadian and American colleagues. This brought a better understanding of issues common to health care professionals on both sides of the border, as well as internationally in Ukraine.

Friday evening, the group met for an UMANA reunion and awards presentation dinner. Following a tradition started years ago, UMANA Archivist **Dr. Maria Hrycelak** delivered the "outgoing president roast", lightheartedly reviewing the work of **Dr. Ariadna Holynskyy** for the last two years and awarding Dr. Holynskyy a plaque in recognition of her two years of volunteer service to the association.

**Ms. Andrea Zelisko**, a medical student at the University of Wisconsin, was welcomed as a new member of UMANA participating in the conference. The remainder of the evening was spent networking, reminiscing, and enjoying the company of colleagues and friends.

Saturday morning was devoted to the 33rd Assembly of Delegates, the highest governing body of UMANA. The entire two-year term was reviewed, with detailed examination of financial reports, as well as

*Continued on page 2*

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Members gathered at a welcome reception Wednesday evening at the Marriott Pinnacle Downtown Vancouver Hotel, meeting with arriving attendees in a relaxed atmosphere and familiarizing themselves with the conference schedule.

Thursday and Friday mornings were



**UMANA members enjoy a social hour at the Vancouver Pinnacle Hotel.**

# UMANA Holds 2009 Biennial Convention...

*Continued from front*

the state of the organization and summary of activity in participating chapters. Thirty-five new members were formally inducted into the association, with nearly half of the group being medical students. These numbers reaffirm UMANA's viability as the largest Ukrainian-American professional organization in North America.

The biennial Assembly of Delegates reviewed the slate of officers submitted by the nominating committee. Unanimously elected

for two years were President **Dr. Wayne Tymchak** (Edmonton), Vice president **Dr. Andrew Dzul** (Michigan), President-elect **Dr. Andrew Melnyk** (Illinois), Secretary **Dr. Borys Buniak** (Syracuse), and Treasurer **Dr. Liza Pilch** (Illinois). The Assembly also approved three elected members to the UMANA Foundation, **Drs. Maria Hrycelak, Yarko Maryniuk, and Ihor Voyevodka**. Elected to the ethics committee were **Drs. Adrian Kesala, Wolodymyr Medwidsky, and Ihor Voyevodka**. Heads of standing committees were approved, with **Dr. Roxolana Horbowyj** (Maryland-DC Metro) as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America*, and **Dr. Andrew Iwach** (N. California) as Editor-in-Chief of *UMANA News*.

To conclude the proceedings, newly elected President Dr. Tymchak greeted the Assembly. Speaking as the first president from a Canadian branch, he thanked the participants for the confidence extended to him and his leadership team and shared his vision of the upcoming two years. The newly elected Board of Directors then held a brief meeting to set an agenda for the next several months.

*Continued on back*



## 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 is intended to serve as an impartial forum for 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. Inadvertent omissions and errors will be corrected in future issues. The treatment of articles, views, 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**

*Physicians dedicated to the Ukrainian Community*



## OBITUARIES

**Jaroslav Rozankowski**, age 99: *Lviv Medical School 1939*; UMANA New York Metro Chapter, died April 23, 2008.

**UMANA Branch Officers:**  
Please let us know of activity  
in your local branch.  
E-mail news and photos  
to [umana@umana.org](mailto:umana@umana.org)

We will make every effort  
to include reports of your  
events in an upcoming issue  
of **UMANA News!**



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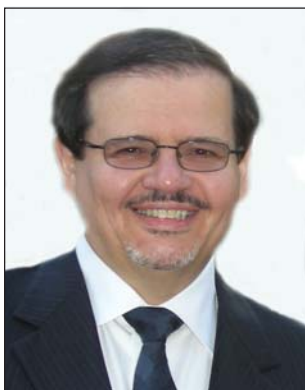
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## President's Message

It is my great pleasure and honor to be your next UMANA president. I feel privileged that you have entrusted this role to me. We have strong and eager individuals comprising the Board and executive committee, and they are to be congratulated. I truly believe that with this talented group we can be successful.

It is unfortunate that **Dr. Ariadna Holynska** was unable to attend our recent conference in Vancouver. I would like to acknowledge her and offer many thanks to Ariadna and her Board for a successful two years.

We had a very successful conference in Vancouver, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The weather was perfect in a city where rain may occur on a daily basis. The sessions, focusing on ethics, safety, disasters, and projects in Ukraine, were of the highest quality. Health care professionals of all disciplines took away valuable information impacting their practices. **Dr. Lubar Komar** needs to be congratulated for a great job on organizing our academic program and, of course, **Drs. George and Marika Hrycelak** for their many hours of work to make this happen. Also many thanks to all of our speakers.

As mentioned, I am excited about the possibilities for UMANA. Our last three conferences have had some emphasis placed on projects for Ukraine. By connecting interested UMANA members in a database, we can network to learn about the successes and challenges of such projects. This raises the potential for collaboration in future similar projects with several organizations in the U.S. and Canada that are already doing good work in Ukraine

Maintaining memberships and attracting new young members is vital for the future of UMANA. We will form committees to look into these issues. I would like to encourage all chapters to stay active, ranging from local projects and CME courses to projects in Ukraine. An active chapter creates enthusiasm and is the incentive for recruitment.

I thank my colleagues who make UMANA's work possible. **Dr. Roxolana Horbova** has done a great job to date with her topic and needs-based focus that *JUMANA* has taken. I strongly support the notion that *JUMANA* should be a publication that has impact on the health of the citizens of Ukraine. Further, I thank **Dr. Andrew Iwach** for his fine efforts in putting together the timely *UMANA News* newsletter. Finally, Dr. Maria Hrycelak, president of the UMANA Foundation, can count on my active participation on its board of directors.

These are just a few of the many areas I am interested in and committed to. Once again, I look forward to working with our new Board and executive committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Wayne Tymchak

## Conference Speakers



**Dr. Borys Buniak:**  
*Feeding Tube Dilemma: To PEG or Not to PEG*



**Dr. Daniel Hryhorczuk:**  
*The Family and Children of Ukraine (FCOU) Longitudinal Study*



**Dr. Andrew Melnyk:**  
*Lead Poisoning in Children in Ukraine and Cystic Fibrosis Mutation Genotyping in Ukraine*



**Ms. Christine Czoli:** *The Ethics of Biobanks: Challenges and a Proposed Solution*



**Dr. Luba Komar:** *To Err is Human: Fostering a Culture of Safety and Pandemic Influenza*



**Dr. Roman Petryshyn:**  
*New Health Endowment Established for Projects in Ukraine and North America*



**Dr. Michelle Hladunewich:**  
*Remembering SARS: The Toronto Experience*



**Dr. Alice Lytwyn:**  
*Surgical Pathology: Under the Microscope*



**Dr. Liza Pilch:** *ER Disaster Management*

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*Continued from page 3*



**Dr. Catherine Popadiuk:** *Physician Crisis Management Education: A Review of Physician Preparedness in Response to a Systemic Crisis*



**Dr. Sonia Prokopetz:** *Children of Chornobyl Canadian Fund: Projects in Ukraine - What Have We Learned?*



**Dr. Christine Sapka:** *Reducing Errors in Diagnosis of Cervical Radiculopathy*

## 2009 Biennial Convention...

*Continued from page 2*



**Conference attendees absorb lecture material during Thursday's presentation.**

Saturday evening, the attendees enjoyed a memorable twilight sunset harbor cruise with dinner while viewing the dramatic Vancouver skyline. This cruise served as a fitting conclusion to the conference, with discussions revolving around the new information learned at the conference. Members were heard actively planning events for 2011, exploring possible locations for the next UMANA Scientific Conference and Assembly of Delegates, and looking forward to continuing a long-standing custom of informational and social exchange.