

Feedback Deficiency Syndrome

“feed-back de-fi-cie-ncy syn-drome (FDS)” *noun*

A group of symptoms afflicting active, dues-paying UMANA members with a sudden loss for words; a reluctance to express their opinions on UMANA matters to the elected leadership.

- Sometimes referred to by the phrase “where is everybody?”
- Symptoms include: leadership in a quandry, member ambivalence, organizational ennui.
- Etiology: unknown

Why is this important? The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America will soon be starting its 8th continuous decade of existence. Its health is quite good. Finances are stable, members continue to apply, educational and humanitarian projects are underway. But age is a tricky thing.

After many decades of successful functioning, a certain sclerosis sneaks in. Members see that they pay their dues, the organization thrives, somehow the branches work, the newsletter appears every three months, and *JUMANA* is published. Who can blame the average UMANA member coming to the conclusion that “Great, I don’t have to do a thing!”

Well, if only it was that easy. First, UMANA is your organization – nearly 500 of you. You own it. Your elected officers are

dedicated to representing you and your ideas. Second, UMANA is not a private group; there are no hidden agendas. Third, new ideas, or even old ideas updated and refreshed, attract new membership – the life-blood of every professional/social organization.

Symptoms of FDS are – very little, sometimes no response to UMANA’s daily efforts. UMANA needs, actually thirsts, for comments, good or bad, on the direction of the newsletter, *JUMANA*, the biennial scientific conferences, branch meetings, e-blasts, and social functions.

So, what is the cure for Feedback Deficiency Syndrome?

√ Rx #1, E-mail your opinions, views, likes or dislikes to: umana@umana.org

√ Rx #2, Take a moment to compose a letter to:

UMANA, 2247 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60622

√ Rx #3, Leave a message: (773) 278-6262

Get involved and share your views. Give your opinions. Speak up. Write. Yes, it takes a little time, but in the long run it will make your association better for you. Reach out!

Thank you in advance, and we will follow-up in future issues of *UMANA*News.



Your Support Still Needed for the Volunteer Hundred at the Kyiv Central Military Hospital

Although the war in Ukraine has largely disappeared from the headlines, the casualties and death toll continue to rise. Just last week, we heard from our contact at the hospital that 20 young soldiers were admitted in one day, many with severed limbs and other serious wounds. Every dollar contributed goes directly to the wounded and is carefully accounted for by volunteers with whom we are personally acquainted. Since my wife Ruta and I will be traveling to Kyiv in a few weeks, your generous contributions will be immediately put to work helping our wounded Ukrainian veterans and their families.

Your gifts are tax-deductible, with checks written to UMANA's long-time partner in humanitarian undertakings, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC). Mail your check to my attention at:

UUARC
c/o Andriy Ripecky, MD
6230 N. Mandell Ave.
Chicago, IL 60646

-Dr. Andriy Ripecky



The Ripeckys with volunteer leaders in November 2017, (from left) Pani Olena, Andriy and Ruta Ripecky, Nataliya Voronkova (head of the Volunteer Hundred) and Pani Tania at the Kyiv Central Military Hospital



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 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, 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



OBITUARIES



SZANDRA, MD, Joseph, age 97, *Medizinische Fakultät, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany* 1950, member UMANA Illinois Branch, first violin in UMANA's orchestra, died July 17, 2018.



WOROBEC, MD, Sophie, age 69, *University of Illinois, Chicago, 1973*, member UMANA Illinois Branch, died July 12, 2018.



President's Message

As I write this, preparing for my latest trip to Ukraine, I'm excited to catch up on some of the many developments there, especially of course in healthcare. Just this spring, the Verkhovna Rada voted to establish a Ukrainian version of a veterans' healthcare system as a separate institution. This is a wonderful development, as it recognizes the need for specialized healthcare for the country's estimated 1.6 million veterans, nearly 350,000 of whom served in the current war in eastern Ukraine. Many of these suffer from a variety of chronic ailments likely to require medical care for many years. Sadly, there is also a large number of civilians suffering from war-related trauma. Fortunately, parallel developments in healthcare reform in the civilian sector seek to address the needs of this population. Under the leadership of U.S.-trained Dr. Ulana Suprun, Acting Health Minister, extensive reforms are underway.

We in the diaspora are well positioned to meaningfully support these efforts, principally by connecting with our Ukrainian colleagues to offer our experience, arrange ongoing exchanges of information, and facilitate the many governmental and non-governmental (NGO) projects directed at this effort. Examples include our UMANA colleagues **Drs. Daniel Hryhorczuk's** and **Boris Lushniak's** participation in a recent NATO conference in Ukraine focusing on environmental health in Ukrainian conflict zones. From September 24-26, **Dr. Leo Wolansky** is once again leading his traditional Friends of Radiology in Ukraine Conference in Lviv (friendsofradiologyinukraine.org). **Dr. Yuriy Jaskiw** and I have been communicating with staff in the office of Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio. Rep. Kaptur has been extraordinarily invested in assisting Ukraine over many years, and she reached out to discuss ways U.S. government agencies could facilitate improvement in Ukraine's system of care of veterans suffering from PTSD. Tragically, to date about 1,000 veterans of the war in eastern Ukraine have died by suicide. Thankfully, there is growing awareness of the need to expand mental health and general rehabilitation services in Ukraine.

On this trip, I hope to again meet with Dr. Vsevolod Stebliuk (google him for more information on his wartime heroism), a physician at Kyiv's Central Military Hospital specializing in traumatic brain injury and PTSD, Dr. Ulana Suprun of the Health Ministry, and researchers such as Dr. Serhiy Bohdanov of Kyiv Mohyla Academy.

Sincerely,
Andriy Ripecky, MD

Certificates of Gratitude

March 11, 2018 UMANA President **Andriy Ripecky, MD** had the pleasure of presenting Certificates of Gratitude to three UMANA members who have significantly contributed to the efforts in support of the Volunteer Hundred at the Kyiv Central Military

Hospital. During the annual UMANA Illinois Branch "Pysanka", held at the Selfreliance Ukrainian American Federal Credit Union Conference Center in Ukrainian Village, **Roman Dykun, MD, Adrian Kecala, MD, and Maria Hrycelak, MD** each received a personalized note of thanks from military representatives in Ukraine, thanking them for their continued backing of the healing efforts underway at the Military Hospital in Kyiv. These individuals serve as exemplars of what each and every member can do on a personal basis, supporting the humanitarian projects of their choice, since the needs are voluminous.



(From left) Dr. Andriy Ripecky and his wife Ruta Ripecky present a Certificate of Gratitude to Dr. Maria Hrycelak.



Upcoming Events

World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations
WFUMA XVII Scientific Conference
Ternopil, Ukraine
September 20-23, 2018
<http://sfult.org/>

Friends of Radiology in Ukraine
Scientific Conference
Lviv, Ukraine
September 24-26, 2018
www.friendsofradiologyinukraine.org

Medical Mission to Ukraine
Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine
September 24-28, 2018
Mission Director: Ihor Draganchuk at
ihorhania@aol.com

UMANA in Utah Next Year
XLV Scientific Conference
XXXVIII Assembly of Delegates
Park City, Utah
June 19-22, 2019 Next Year

UMANA CHAPTER NEWS

Illinois Branch

In April, **Andriy Ripecky, MD** had the pleasure of hosting two professors from Petro Mohyla Black Sea University in Mykolayiv, Ukraine. Rector Leonid Klymenko and Professor Oleksander Pronkevych visited the medical schools at the University of Illinois and Loyola Stritch to familiarize themselves with the curricula at these schools as they seek to adopt a similar state of the art program at their own medical school. **Dr. Evhen Kovalsky** and Marika Kovalsky



(From left) Andriy Ripecky, Oleksander Pronkevych, and Leonid Klymenko

graciously welcoming them into their home during their stay was much appreciated by our guests.

On August 10, 2018 a trip orientation meeting for the upcoming UMANA Illinois Medical Mission to Ukraine (Ivano-Frankivsk, September 24-28, 2018) was held at Tryzub Ukrainian Kitchen in Chicago's Ukrainian Village, to prepare logistics and operational details for the upcoming trip.

August 19, 2018 – the proverbial “Illinois Branch Picnic and BBQ” is back! Held from time immemorial at the verdant Osela, now the UYCO/Plast campground at Round Lake, IL, the UMANA picnic goes back to when most of our senior members were still students! Delicious steaks grilled to perfection by the late **Dr. Peter Charuk** will always serve as a challenge to new generations of UMANA officers. Weather permitting - and even if not permitting - the picnic will gather together colleagues and families in a fun outdoor event. More news in the next edition of *UMANA News*.



Past UMANA Illinois BBQ

Ohio Branch

May 21, 2018, **Dr. Maria Strus** and **Dr. Yurko Jaskiw**, along with other Ukrainian community leaders, met with Nataalka Fedorovych, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine, and Elvira Mruchkovska, Deputy Head of the nongovernment organization Suchasnyk Plus, to discuss social issues, human trafficking, and the general status of healthcare in Ukraine. Fedorovych and Mruchkovska were in Cleveland to participate in instruction at MetroHealth Medical Center, the Regional Transit Authority, and other groups on human trafficking, sexual violence, and post-traumatic stress disorder. They were invited to the U.S. under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program and traveled throughout

the U.S., participating in various educational activities.

On June 2, 2018, the Ohio Chapter of UMANA and the Cleveland community again held a medical supplies packing event, the eleventh official event since the start of the war in Ukraine in 2014. **Drs. Michael Samotowka** and **Ihor Zachary**, along with our collaborating brothers from Buffalo, including Yurij Hryshchshyn and Yuriy Darmohray, organized the medical supply packing event. Members of the Ohio chapter of UMANA, our friends from Buffalo, and many wonderful community volunteers gathered to pack medical supplies for soldiers fighting for freedom in Ukraine. We packed a total of 31 boxes, for over 1500 pounds of supplies, including medical supplies donated by MedWish International and private donors, including Mr. and Mrs. John Olenchuk of North Royalton, OH. Funds were donated by several generous private individuals to cover the cost of the supplies and shipments. The boxes were then picked up by Hryshchshyn, Darmohray, and their colleagues, who transported them to Buffalo for shipment to Ukraine.

-Dr. Maria Strus



Medical supply packing event at MedWish International