

## 71st Year of Collegial Cooperation

By: George Hrycelak, M.D.



**Collegium** – noun (Latin) A group whose members pursue shared goals while working within a framework of mutual trust and respect. American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America embarks on its 8<sup>th</sup> decade of continuous professional existence, now merging multiple generations of physicians, dentists and health care workers.

The journey was not easy. Our founding fathers (and a sprinkling of mothers) faced the immigrant’s challenge – learning a new language, securing family income, navigating the licensing bureaucracy, obtaining a respectable position, yet at the same time maintaining a sense of commitment to and support of their emigre community,

Next came the years prior to Ukraine’s independence. Despite developing their professional realms in the USA and Canada, members preserved and sustained Ukrainian medical terminology and literature in a restrictive and destructive overseas milieu. A second generation joined UMANA, continuing and expanding the Ukrainian medical diaspora.

Then Ukraine’s unexpected independence nudged UMANA to adopt a new and more sophisticated approach justifying its existence; leadership roles were expanded to all of North America, computer technology and electronic communication assumed a major role in administration, and an influx of young physicians trained in Ukraine augmented our association. A third generation of medical enthusiasts was eager to enroll into UMANA’s ranks.

Currently, we have encountered the COVID 19 pandemic – a stunningly unexpected hardship that has curtailed much person-to-person contact, limiting our usual chapter meetings, lectures and continuing medical education. Though at this writing we are not yet out of the woods. There are signs of slow progress, and we are adapting to virtual communication with gusto.

Despite our struggles, UMANA endures. We continue to share experiences among members via ZOOM; we continue to publish our wildly popular quarterly newsletter *UMANA News*. Dues payments are steadily arriving. Perhaps the most reassuring sign of vigor and vitality is this: over the last two years we have welcomed over 70 new UMANA members – 50% of these applicants are medical students! This is a succession plan many associations would envy.

UMANA has overcome many hurdles in the past. There is no reason we can’t beat this one. The goal is to maintain our “shared goals while working within a framework of mutual trust and respect.”

**The UMANA Assembly of Delegates will meet in plenary session June 19, 2021, via ZOOM.**

Chapter presidents have been notified to nominate their respective delegates to the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact your chapter president.

# UMANA CHAPTER NEWS



On May 5th, 2021 the US Holodomor Committee presented an online showing and discussion of the movie *When We Starve*, produced and directed by **Dr. Borys Buniak**, the UMANA representative on the US Holodomor Committee. The film describes the physical and psychological effects of starvation with emphasis on the Holodomor in Ukraine 1932-1933. **Drs. Maria Hrycelak and Sonia Prokopetz** attended the webinar. The UMANA Foundation was one of the supporters of the movie.

The US Holodomor Committee is seeking support to revoke the Pulitzer Prize won by Walter Duranty for his reporting of the Joseph Stalin's collectivization program in 1932-1933. Mr. Duranty denied that there was a famine in Ukraine and supported Moscow and Stalin's version of events.

If you wish to sign the petition go to:

<https://ukrainegenocide.com/duranty-revocation>



## 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**

**MARYLAND/DC BRANCH** is maintaining its series of Zoom meetings. March 5 – **Dr. Andre Cap** presented on COVID-19 and convalescent plasma; April 9 – **Dr. Andriy Kindzelski**: “COVID-19 and thrombo-inflammation”; May 14 – **Dr. Pavlo Royal-Priest** “COVID-19 and geriatrics”.

The next scheduled meeting includes: June 4 – **Dr. Natalia Korytnyk** “COVID-19 and psychological trauma in the first-line healthcare providers”.



*Maryland/DC Branch Zoom meetings*

## OBITUARIES



**CZEPAK MD, Bohdan**, age 83, *Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München 1970*, member of UMANA Ohio Branch, died April 9, 2021.



**GERENT MD, Walter**, age 98, *Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia 1947*, member of UMANA New England Branch, died February 17, 2021.



**KROCHAK MD, Michael**, age 89, *University of Saskatchewan 1957*, member of UMANA Saskatchewan Branch, died March 11, 2021.



**MAKAR-LAUDI MD, Stephanie**, age 95, *Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen 1955*, member of UMANA New York Metro Branch, died August 6, 2018.



**MYCHAJLIW MD, Stephen**, age 94, *Leopold-Franzens Universität Innsbruck 1967*, UMANA Member-at-large (Arizona), died June 9, 2020.



**SZCZERBANIUK RPH, JAROSLAWA**, age 69, *University of Illinois 1976*, member of UMANA Illinois Branch, died April 17, 2021.



## President's Message

As I write this last message, I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve as president of UMANA over the past 2 years. I am extremely grateful. Unfortunately, most of my term was consumed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the negative effects of the coronavirus, we have been able to experience some positives, such as fast development and implementation of virtual meetings and conferences. These meetings allowed me to effectively communicate with many of our members since the beginning of the pandemic. I could not be prouder of all of our member healthcare providers, and I am extremely thankful to all of you who were and are on the frontlines of this battle.

Usually, during this time of year we would be preparing and looking forward to our biennial Scientific Conference and Assembly of Delegates. This year we have had to reschedule our Scientific Conference. Our Assembly of Delegates will go on as scheduled and will be held virtually on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

During my term, we commemorated the 70th anniversary of the founding of UMANA. I am sure that our founding members would be pleased with the direction that our organization has taken and its continued success. Currently UMANA has 8 active branches in the United States. Membership of the organization is growing due to successful recruitment of new members, including medical students and residents. We would like to encourage these new members to be active participants in their respective chapters and in the larger UMANA, eventually assuming leadership positions.

Finally, I wish the incoming Board of Directors and president-elect **Dr. Leo Wolansky** success in the continued leadership of our organization.

To all members of UMANA, I am certain that, with all of your great personal and professional contributions, UMANA will continue to grow, adapt to ongoing challenges and become even more accomplished and successful.

*Sincerely,*  
**Petro Lenchur, MD**

## UMANA MEMBER NEWS



**Roman ALYSKEWYCZ, MD**, (New York Metro Branch), retired from his practice as a urologist in Glen Cove, NY.

5 grants including NIH P20 and P30. Her research focuses on bladder cancer, specifically hormone regulation in muscle invasive bladder cancer and image analysis prediction. She has recently been awarded Women in Urologic Oncology Advocacy Award, given to individuals with outstanding contributions. She has signed on to become attending staff at Case Western Urologic Oncology Program starting 2023, with dedicated research time as part of the surgeon scientist parallel path program.



**Laura BUKAVINA, MD MPH**, (Ohio Branch), currently finishing her 6 year residency in Urologic Surgery at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. She will be pursuing a 2 year urologic oncology fellowship at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia starting this Summer. During her residency,

she has been a prolific researcher, publishing a total of 40 manuscripts, 89 presentations, as well as a recipient of



**Borys BUNIAK, MD**, (Syracuse Branch), has been named Director of Endoscopy at St Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, NY.

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# UMANA MEMBER NEWS

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**Jaroslaw DZWYNYK, MD**, and **George HRYCELAK, MD**, (Illinois Branch) were presented with the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America Illinois Branch Community Awards on January 24, 2021, during the Unity Day celebration (via online video). Dr. Dzwinyk was recognized for his volunteer work in orthopedics with the Revived Soldiers Ukraine program and community work. Dr. Hrycelak's longtime community work in UMANA and the Ukrainian National Museum in Chicago was acknowledged.



**Michael KAROL, DDS** (NY Metro Branch) is celebrating his three year anniversary as a partner at US Dental Practices. He is working to expand the company's National presence in the dental brokerage field.



**Peter KOTSOPEY, DMD** (NY Metro Branch), purchased a dental practice in 2019. In January 2020 he merged his practice with his father's (**Omelan KOTSOPEY,**



**DMD**)forming 1100 Dental in Trenton, NJ. Today they practice together – Father & Son.



**Catherine POPADIUK, DO**, (Pennsylvania Branch), is currently completing an Allergy and Immunology Fellowship at Hershey Medical Center.



**Andrew RIPECKYJ, MD**, (Illinois Branch) was named to the 2021 *Top Doctors in the Chicago Area* list published by *Chicago Magazine*. The annual guide is prepared via nomination by peers nationwide. Educational and professional

experience is evaluated before final selection is made among those physicians most highly regarded by their peers. Dr. Ripecky is a practicing Psychiatrist at Hines VA Hospital with expertise in dementia, depression, and geriatric psychiatry.



UMANA members **Andriy RIPECKYJ, MD** (Illinois), and **George JASKIW, MD** (Ohio), have been collaborating with Ukrainian American Veterans members Carl Harvey, Commander, and Myron Melnyk, Welfare Officer, and others at Post 33, New Haven, CT, to develop training and academic exchange opportunities with leading Ukrainian institutions treating trauma related mental health conditions. This is an ideal time since Ukraine is developing its newly established Ministry of Veterans Affairs with the goal of providing care consistent with international best practices. The goal is to facilitate collaboration between the US Department of Veterans Affairs, US academic centers, and their counterparts in Ukraine. For more information or ways to join this effort, please contact [andrew.ripeckyj@va.gov](mailto:andrew.ripeckyj@va.gov).



**Myron STACHNIW, MD** (Illinois Branch), after retiring in 2019, is enjoying writing, traveling with his wife Reva, and visiting their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



UMANA members **Drs. Maria Hrycelak, Daniel Hryhorczuk** and **Boris Lushniak** along with **Ksenia Hankewych PharmD**, volunteered to judge a virtual science fair at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Cathedral School in Chicago February 4-5, 2021. The event was held over 2 days with the 6-8 grade students preparing taped presentations and abstracts. The students were then also interviewed by the judges over ZOOM. Our UMANA members were all St. Nicholas alumni.