

American Ukrainian Medical Project News, December, 2001

Dear Friends:

Greetings from America! We are well and happy and hope that you are, too. Many things have happened since we last met. Our return trip to America was very different from our flight to Ukraine with much more security and scrutiny of documents. Our big surprise was coming home to a nation very much at war. America's mood was very different and unlike anything we had experienced before. Economic consequences of the terrorist attacks combined with a normal, overdue downward business cycle have also altered the mood of the country. This is very apparent in charity giving which has dropped by more than half since September 11.

A positive note is our website. We are in the process of obtaining an official domain (permanent Internet address) and preparing to add some important features. It is our hope we can use the website to reach others who might be interested or able to help our Project. It may also be a means through which we can all conduct some of our Project's business and communication. Please tell us what Internet browser software is used on your computer. It may be Netscape Navigator, Microsoft Internet Explorer, or another name. Can you please tell us what it is? If you cannot tell, will you please ask someone who does know? This information is very important as we consider exactly how to construct the website.

To test another tool which we may explore I have attached a photograph file. It is a <<.jpg>> file. Will you please try to download and open it? We need to know if this technique is available to you for sending diagnostic aids and other information. It can be tricky to do with some computers so we are asking all of you to write back with your results and whether or not the file downloaded aright.

Another good development is finally establishing contact with the organization which manages shipments of equipment from the US to Ukraine. There are many procedures and documents, of course, so it will take some time to make all the arrangements. We are happy to announce that this upcoming shipment should include even more equipment and supplies than the first shipment in 1999. We may be in contact in the future to have your institution complete some documents regarding this shipment.

We have heard some very good news about the antibodies we brought in September. If you have any questions or problems with them we are happy to help. We do not yet have a large travel budget but we can improvise! It is still too soon to know when we will return to Ukraine. After the Christmas holidays we plan to finish a number of details which will simplify travel for us and hopefully some of you. We are hoping that our website and other connections will help us raise money to fund travel and other work of our

Project. We would also like to hear any ideas or suggestions you have for ways to use our Project - this is an exchange, after all, and it will be most successful if it reflects your needs. America's war and economic uncertainty will surely pass and we will continue our Project as we have discussed.

Please give our best wishes to your families and colleagues. We look forward to the day when we can meet them again.

Sincerely,

Russell Ayers
President

Terry Ayers
Technical Advisor - USA