

August 2002 Newsletter from American Ukrainian Medical Project

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Ukraine Forum at Sister Cities International Convention in Toledo, Ohio

July 17 representatives of America's 40 Ukrainian Sister City committees met to share their successes and insights at the first Ukraine Forum held by Sister Cities International (SCI). This event was arranged by SCI, the US Ukraine Foundation (USUF), and Gittins Associates. It was a very informative and productive session. Several sister city committees described their successful and varied projects in and with their Ukrainian sister cities. Among the notable presentations were Chicago (Kyiv), Cincinnati (Kharkiv), Birmingham (Krasnodon) and our host city Toledo (Nikopol). Nikopol also had three delegates in attendance.

Nadia K. McConnell, President of the US Ukraine Foundation, described her Foundation's wide-ranging work in Ukraine and America. She was very pleased with the attendance at the forum and offered to help the various American and Ukrainian communities to better communicate through the USUF website, and perhaps other channels as appropriate. With their Ukraine staff and several regional training centers USUF is an important resource for Ukrainians and Americans alike.

Counterpart International also sent representatives. Brian Propp described a new Counterpart initiative to better allocate and match humanitarian and technical assistance in Ukraine with the ultimate goal of increased economic cooperation and activity – the often missing key elements of otherwise very worthy, well-meaning assistance. The program, “Counterpart Communities”, was developed during Mr. Propp's seven year posting in Kyiv. Among the many elements of this innovative program is a web-based “needs list” which can be filled by any interested party with the needed resources.

Finally, AUMP's own Russ Ayers gave a presentation titled “Synergism in Toledo” describing AUMP and its accomplishments in Ukraine with an added element: with so many groups working in America and Ukraine, how much more could be done with added cooperation and communication, as a synergism? The idea was well received and in fact dovetailed very nicely with the Counterpart Communities program.

Much more could be said about the Ukraine Forum. It will also be available from USUF soon. There was keen interest in making the Forum an annual event, so there may be news to share from St. Louis next summer!

Educational Exchange Progress

How things can change! A couple weeks ago our friend and colleague Dr. Eugene Deneka arrived at the US Embassy in Kyiv for his visa application interview. It went quickly and very smoothly. Whether this is because Dr. Deneka has visited America before or if it is because he is not our first visitor, we cannot say. Either way his visa approval is very good news!

Preparations continue for the September-October visit of Dr. Eugene Deneka of Kyiv Hospital No. 10. His visit is timed to coincide with the National Society for Histotechnology's national Symposium in Long Beach, California. Just before Dr. Deneka arrives Terry Ayers, our immunohistochemistry (IHC) expert, will attend advanced IHC training at DAKO's US headquarters. The techniques and protocols she learns there will be added to our partners' technical training immediately.

Summer Internship

Our intern, Dr. Alexander Rakul, has been creating an outreach tool for AUMP. It will be a bilingual PowerPoint presentation suitable for medical and general audiences. The initial drafts are very promising! Not only has he created an attractive format for us, he is adding valuable information concerning the organization of Ukraine's healthcare system and many details of epidemiology, oncology and the particular challenges faced by our Ukrainian colleagues and their patients.

AUMP Board Welcomes Jim Soto as New Director

At the August 10 regular meeting of the AUMP Board of Directors a new director and vice president was selected. He is Jim Soto, one of our long-time volunteers who lives in University Heights, Iowa. In addition to his long interest in our work, Mr. Soto brings his fine writing skills and sales experience to his new role as Grant Writer.

Website News

As part of our ongoing effort to build a quality histology and pathology resource, our Downloads page now features procedures for histology's basic "H & E" stain and fourteen special stains. We plan to have a Russian version available soon, too.

Like any website, there are always a number of revisions and adjustments being made. Our new website tester volunteers have offered a number of good suggestions to help us in this effort, too. If you see anything you would like us to add or edit at www.aump.org please drop us a line. You can send your suggestions as a response to this email or contact our webmaster at Webmaster@aump.org

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