

July - August 2003 Newsletter from American Ukrainian Medical Project

Greetings from American Ukrainian Medical Project in Seattle! We are happy to tell you more good news about:

Busy Summer
Action Plan Proposal
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Subscriptions

Summer 2003 has been unusually busy here in Seattle! A full slate of activities with the Kent – Kherson Sister City Committee and continuing developments within AUMP have kept many of us very busy. At this writing three technical manual translations have been received to support our Operation Provide Hope equipment shipment. Our second fiscal year has just closed and the creation of a new histology instruction booklet is just the latest in a long list of activities which have been going on. An obvious result of this has been a delay in producing our regular electronic newsletter – this July – August edition is a month late! Read on to find out what has been going on at AUMP.

Action Plan Proposal for AUMP in Ukraine in 2003-2004

We're approved! AUMP has been approved for shipping up to two containers between now and the end of June, 2004. Approval was granted by Counterpart International and the US State Department. Now it is time to revise our inventory lists, begin packing and crating what we can and finishing our technical manual translations. Ideally these manuals will be crated up with their respective machines so there is no chance of separation. Already three of our technical manual translations have been received and several more are nearly complete, while still others are in the editing stage. As we draw nearer to a final shipping date we will also have to finalize the planned distribution of all the equipment and supplies.

During November AUMP will be making an appeal to those in the Seattle area to help with crating and finalizing preparations for our container shipment. It is critical that the container be completed then so that it will arrive in Ukraine on schedule for our next round of immunohistochemistry training which will occur in January 2004. Also, our action plan proposal calls for AUMP to oversee the distribution and training necessary for the donated equipment to begin its "second life" in Ukraine.

In late June we made some agreements with other Seattle-area aid organizations to ensure that our container would be fully qualified for shipment (there is a value and percent of capacity threshold to pass), or AUMP could add its equipment to one of their containers. This will ensure our donors' valuable contributions will be on their way to Ukraine no matter what.

Kherson Oblast Oncology Hospital

As a result of our collaboration with the Kent – Kherson Sister City Committee AUMP will be conducting histology and immunohistochemistry training at Kherson Oblast Oncology Hospital. Training is scheduled to occur during the latter part of October and will include seventeen or more physicians and technicians. Traveling to Ukraine to conduct this training will be AUMP co-founders Russ and Terry Ayers.

This visit is yet another step in the process which began over a year ago when the Kent – Kherson Sister City Committee and AUMP began working together to build a medical project in Kherson. It will be very interesting to see what the future holds for this growing relationship.

Equipment Donations

Last call! If your laboratory has any functional, surplus microtomes, waterbaths or embedding centers we would like to hear from you! It is not too late for these items to be prepared for shipment to Ukraine with our upcoming container. Microtomes in particular are in high demand as they are the key to allowing our Ukrainian colleagues to improve the precision and quality of their histology. We really like those using steel blades but we can use disposable knives, too. The additional equipment helps us to better equip more laboratories to ensure that other key variables such as tissue processing can be better controlled.

We hope this upcoming shipment will allow us to clear our storage spaces of everything. As we have said before, this equipment does no good here but it can be an enormous boost in Ukraine.

AUMP is an IRS-approved Section 501(c)(3) charity so your donations of equipment, supplies, or funds are fully tax deductible. Any questions about this should be referred to your tax advisor or Donations@aump.org

Volunteers in the Spotlight

AUMP is only able to achieve its success through the generous gifts of time and talent from our many volunteers. Several have recently distinguished themselves for both their efforts and the importance of their work. Michelle Fuqua, Kate Makienko and Lolita Simonyan have helped us turn thousands of English words and formulae into the only Russian-language advanced histology reference we know of. Olha Buchel, Eugene Deneka, Elena Dournova, Anna Rudova, and Ruslan Tykholaz have also taken technical manuals, references, newsletters, and webpages and translated them into Ukrainian and Russian for us. Last, but not least is the contribution made by Julie Hyatt who is transcribing stacks of hand-written Russian into Word format. Their work is deeply appreciated and will be highlighted during our next two visits to Ukraine. Thank you all!

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