

## September - October 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:

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### About AUMP

For our newer readers, American Ukrainian Medical Project is an all-volunteer nonprofit charity which conducts medical training and equipment exchanges between the United States and Ukraine. Our primary focus is on histology and pathology because this is where our expertise lies, however, we are always open to new programs and projects as our talents and other resources allow.

Our biggest success has come from continuing a USAID breast cancer program which featured immunohistochemistry (IHC). We found that the IHC process and antibodies were quite suited to Ukraine's histology and pathology laboratories. Further, there is a great need in Ukraine for the enhanced diagnostic precision which IHC gives. This in turn leads to better patient therapies and better patient outcomes. We have been very fortunate to receive substantial contributions of antibodies, histology supplies and equipment and volunteer help which have allowed us to do some great things on a very meager budget. We continue to match the resources we have with the needs we know of in an ongoing effort to better support IHC and our growing network of participating hospitals.

Our Project was officially incorporated in August, 2001 less than a month before terrorist attacks changed so much in America. After the massive outpouring of support for New York and other victims of the attacks charitable giving in America dropped sharply. Based as we are in Seattle we have also seen huge consequences for the local Boeing-based economy. Foreseeing these problems, coupled with the economic, military and airline security aftermath of the attacks, we wondered if AUMP even had a future. In December 2001 however, we chose to accept the challenges of launching our Project during such difficult and unforeseeable circumstances.

What began as an idea conceived by four friends in an airport has grown to almost 50 official volunteers, plus many, many more who prefer anonymity. What began as a plan to ship a single microtome and tissue processor has already shipped much, much more than that. Later this year we will ship our largest collection of donated equipment ever, including seven microtomes and a wide assortment of other histology and clinical laboratory equipment and supplies.

## Humanitarian Visas

We are deeply grateful to the assistance of the Cabinet of Ministers Committee on Humanitarian Assistance, Verkhovna Rada's Committee on Social Welfare of Great Patriotic War Veterans and Kherson City Administration for their help in obtaining our Humanitarian visas. These visas will facilitate our travel and related work in Ukraine in the coming six months. They will also allow greater flexibility for travel scheduling and simpler border crossings with baggage full of medical supplies.

## Kherson Travel Update

Now that the visas have arrived the last pieces of our travel plan are coming together. We plan to be in Kherson for histology training for a week before we move on to Chernihiv and Kyiv to make arrangements with some of our consignee hospitals. We will also be resupplying several hospitals with new immunohistochemistry antibodies and detection systems. During this time we will not be keeping up with email or other routine business so we ask for your patience until we return to Seattle.

## Why Russian Language Translations?

From time to time we are asked why our medical project produces texts in the Russian language when Ukrainian is the official language in Ukraine. First, AUMP produces materials in both languages as the availability of volunteer translators allow. We are fortunate to have translators in America, Russia and Ukraine and all of them do us a huge service for which we are very grateful. Without them all of our materials would still be in English only.

Our primary interest is in making American and "western" technology more readily available in Ukraine. We work in several locations across Ukraine and hear both Ukrainian and Russian spoken in the laboratories we visit. Because this is the case our goal is to produce our materials in all three languages. This allows our materials to be useful to the widest possible audience so that technicians and doctors are better able to do the best for their patients. Ultimately it is the patient we all work to serve.

## Operation Provide Hope Sealift

In the coming weeks and months AUMP will be packing and shipping its first container of donated equipment and supplies. The planning and preparations have been under for many months. Soon, however, it will be time to finalize our inventory, crate the larger equipment and finally load the container. For these last two tasks we will need help from anyone willing to lend a hand. The work will be done at our storage site in north Seattle over one or more weekends in November. As soon as everything is ready to load we will order a container to send it on its way.

If you are handy with saw and hammer or good with details, we need you to join us! This shipment will establish two western style histology laboratories and restock all of our participating hospitals with all manner of histology supplies. We also plan to ship a number of clinical laboratory items which will raise the total value of our shipment well over \$100,000. Thanks to Operation Provide Hope all we need to provide are the donations, crating and proper documentation. They will send the container to us, and from Seattle it will go all the way to our consignee hospital in Chernihiv at no cost to AUMP. This allows us to spend what cash we have for crating materials, electrical transformers and a fumigation certificate.

### Subscriptions to our Newsletter

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