

Victor Pinchuk Foundation Awards Major Grant to CCRDF

Chernihiv City Maternity Hospital First to Benefit

In a major initiative to improve the quality of health care in Ukraine, prominent businessman Victor Pinchuk recently presented the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund with a half million dollar grant to provide new technology for Ukrainian hospitals. The monies are designated for eight CCRDF partner hospitals that have demonstrated their commitment and ability to improve infant survival rates and raise the standard of care for children's hospitals and maternity centers around the country. Entitled "Kolysky Nadii," or "Cradles of Hope," the Pinchuk initiative seeks to modernize at least one targeted hospital in each of Ukraine's twenty-five provinces and in the Crimean Autonomous Republic within the next two years.



At the Chernihiv City Maternity Hospital, benefactor Victor Pinchuk listens with interest as Chief Doctor Olena Lytvynenko and neonatal specialist Dr. Oleksandr Hoshko explain the value and capabilities of new equipment and medical instruments installed by the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund.

tals we proposed for this partnership. We believe that this campaign can usher in a whole new era of philanthropy in Ukraine, where private foundations could play an increasingly important role in financing healthcare across the country."

The Pinchuk Foundation began its initiative with a seed grant of \$100,000 that was designated for the Chernihiv City Maternity Hospital in north central Ukraine. Mr. Pinchuk had heard of CCRDF's (continued on page 2)



Twins from Zaporizhya, Oleksandr and Ivan Shchuklin, received medical treatment in New Jersey for their genetic disorder.

Cause for Celebration Shchuklin Twins Turn Seven

For every child a birthday is special but for two twin boys from Zaporizhya, their seventh birthday is an amazing testament to their resiliency and one woman's determination to restore their health. The boys' life journey has been a challenging one—it is a miracle that they are still among us today. Both boys, Oleksandr and Ivan, suffer from a rare genetic immune deficiency syndrome, *agammaglobulinemia*, a medical condition where the body does not produce the antibodies needed to fight disease and infection. They have also been tested for and diagnosed with profound deafness.

Tragically, the boys' natural mother abandoned them after giving birth. It was hours before they were found and received medical aid, and it was months before they were adopted by a caring individual, a person they now refer to as *Mama*, Halya Shchuklin. Halya first noticed that the twins began developing medical problems six months after adoption. Shortly thereafter, Halya's husband left her once he realized the huge financial burden the twins' medication and treatment would involve. Halya and the twins were also abandoned by the rest of her family. Determined to fend for the children, Halya turned to the adoption agency that had failed to properly diagnose the boys' condition. Agency officials advised her to discard the twins to a local orphanage and exchange them for a new set of children. Horrified by the insensitive recommendation and blatant disregard for human life, Halya brought her case to Kateryna Yushchenko, the First Lady of Ukraine, begging for help. The First Lady contacted the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF).

After months of research to locate a medical institution that could (continued on page 3)

UMC and CCRDF Complete Programs in Kherson and Uzhorod



At the Chernivetsky City Maternity Hospital #2, neonatal director Dr. Svitlana Shapovalova watches over a newborn infant recovering with the help of a neonatal incubator donated by wireless telephone company UMC and CCRDF.

In July, the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF) completed the first phase of hospital improvements made possible by a generous grant from the Ukrainian Mobile Communications Company (UMC). On July 4, CCRDF and UMC held a joint press conference at the Uzhorod Central City Hospital in the far western province of Zakarpattia to mark the installation of a new ultrasound,

fetal heart monitors, infusion pumps, and a neonatal incubator in the hospital's maternity ward. This was followed on July 13 with a second press conference in the Kherson Regional Children's Hospital where CCRDF installed an advanced cardiac ultrasound to help (continued on page 2)

"CCRDF has a long history of working in Ukraine to support the victims of Chernobyl and is the most experienced and competent U.S. NGO (nongovernmental organization) working in this area."

As stated by

Gerald Oberdorfer, U.S. State Department, Humanitarian Director, Europe and Asia, in a letter to newly-appointed U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William B. Taylor



A little girl in the Pediatric Oncology Unit at the Rivnenska Regional Children's Hospital shows the strain of many days of chemotherapy as she battles her life-threatening illness. In the coming months, young leukemia patients like this child will have a better chance of recovery thanks to a long-awaited Fresenius blood cell separator. CCRDF was able to purchase the cell separator with the help of a generous grant from Philip Morris-Ukraine. Rivne was especially hard-hit by atomic fallout from Chernobyl. A gift of \$5,000 can provide twenty children per month with state-of-the-art blood work that can directly result in life-saving treatment. In the past year, CCRDF and Philip Morris have provided other cancer-fighting supplies and technology for children's hospitals in Kharkiv and Zhytomyr.

(PINCHUK, continued from page 1) successes at the Chernihiv City Maternity Hospital from former U.S. Ambassador John E. Herbst, a loyal supporter of the Fund who hosted two fundraisers for the Fund at his private residence in Kyiv in 2004 and 2005. CCRDF used the proceeds from these charity events to purchase state-of-the-art neonatal equipment that sharply reduced infant mortality at the Chernihiv Hospital. According to Dr. Oleksandr Hoshko, the director of the neonatal unit, not a single infant with a birth weight of one kilogram or higher has died at the hospital since 2004 when the Fund introduced Bear Cub 750 ventilators, pulse oximeters, and other advanced instruments.



Premature newborn twins Vadym and Maxym Buhay rest comfortably in the neonatal unit of the Chernihiv City Maternity Hospital after undergoing treatment on an advanced respirator supplied by CCRDF. (Photo by Corbin Gurkin)

CCRDF and the Pinchuk Foundation agreed to build on the successes of these previously donated neonatal instruments by purchasing additional equipment from a variety of European and North American sources. Within only half a month's time, the Fund purchased and installed a Dameca anesthesia machine from Denmark, Baby Dopplex fetal heart monitors from Great Britain, infusion pumps, and a neonatal incubator.

On June 1, the National Day of Child Protection in Ukraine, Victor Pinchuk joined his staff during a press conference held at the Chernihiv hospital. When speaking with local and national press he expressed his satisfaction with the caliber of equipment purchased by CCRDF and was impressed with the zeal and dedication of the Chernihiv doctors, including hospital director Dr. Olena Lytvynenko. During his tour of the maternity center, he saw the Dameca anesthesia machine in operation as surgeons performed a Caesarian section on a young patient, and he was pleased that among the first beneficiaries of his grant was a pair of premature twins who were delivered with the aid of the Baby Dopplex fetal heart monitors. In a personal letter to CCRDF Founders Dr. Zenon and Nadia Matkiwsky, Pinchuk stated, "During my visit to the Chernihiv Maternity Hospital, I was deeply impressed by the effectiveness and professionalism of your organization."

In July, the Victor Pinchuk Foundation issued two supplemental grants of \$200,000 each to enable CCRDF to purchase new equipment for several hospitals that serve some of the most Chernobyl-affected regions in Ukraine. Among these were the Ovruch District Hospital in Zhytomyr Oblast, the Volodymyrets District Maternity Hospital in northern Rivne Oblast, the Rivne Regional Children's Hospital, the Volynian Regional Children's Medical Center in Lutsk, and the Amosov Cardiac Surgery Institute in Kyiv. He also set aside a portion of these funds for creating a modern infant rehabilitation center at the Dnipropetrovsk City Children's Hospital #3 and the Poltava City Children's Hospital.

CCRDF has already begun expediting the purchase and delivery of medical equipment for these centers, and most of these improvements are expected to be completed by the end of this year. In April, the Fund also delivered its 32nd major medical airlift, which provided a large volume of hospital supplies and medication for several of these medical centers.

(UMC, continued from page 1) identify newborns and young children who suffer from congenital heart defects and other dangerous conditions requiring surgery.

"Both Kherson and Zakarpattia are important regions for our foundation," said CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma. "Kherson is located at the mouth of the Dniro River as it spills into the Black Sea, and it is a region which accumulates a great deal of toxic and hazardous materials from industrial polluters upstream. These can lead to birth defects and cancer. Similarly, many areas of Zakarpattia were contaminated with fuel, chemical, and nuclear stockpiles before the Soviet Army withdrew from this region in the early 1990s. We wanted to make sure that the regional hospitals in these cities were equipped with new technology that could help safeguard children who are at high risk for developing life-threatening illnesses."

Historically, both Kherson and the Zakarpattia region had been neglected by federal health authorities and had been shortchanged when national budgets were established to upgrade regional hospitals. With further government cutbacks, private and corporate donors, such as UMC and non-governmental charities such as CCRDF, are playing an increasingly important role in helping to finance public health improvements.



At the Kherson Regional Children's Hospital, Dr. Tamila Kozina explains the special features of the Acuson CV-70 Siemens cardiac ultrasound delivered by CCRDF and financed by a grant from UMC.

In June, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and its Chernobyl Recovery Project invited CCRDF to become a founding partner in the formation of a "Polissia Task Force" that is working to



develop a long-term strategic plan for the economic restoration and overhaul of health care services in the northern areas of Rivne province, which was one of the areas most severely contaminated by Chernobyl radiation. As part of this new initiative, the UNDP asked CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma to participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open a new polyclinic that will be serving the village of Tomashorod. This facility was financed by local donations and a generous grant from the Embassy of Japan in Kyiv. (Above, Dr. Paul Zamostyan of the UNDP, Oksana Zalipska, the director of Chernobyl programs for the Rivnenska Oblast Government Administration, and Alex Kuzma of CCRDF at the opening of the Tomashorod Clinic.) In early August, CCRDF rejoiced in the opening of a newly built maternity hospital in the district of Volodymyrets in northern Rivne, where CCRDF installed an anesthesia machine, fetal heart monitors, and other equipment that will dramatically improve the quality of obstetrical services for the nearly 1,000 mothers who deliver babies in this remote rural district each year. On July 11, CCRDF mobilized medical experts from Rivne, Kyiv, and Volodymyrets to begin the strategic planning process for the oblast. (Photo by Mykola Movchan)

"During my visit to the Chernihiv Maternity Hospital, I was deeply impressed by the effectiveness and professionalism of your organization."

As stated by
Victor Pinchuk in a personal letter to CCRDF Founders Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky dated June 2, 2006

Schoolchildren from the small town of Tomashorod greet visitors and health officials at the opening of a new polyclinic that was financed by the UNDP along with local farmers, small businessmen, and the Embassy of Japan.



During a press tour of the Kherson hospital, cardiologist Dr. Tamila Kozina explained the value of the Siemens Acuson CV-70 ultrasound, "Even within its first days in operation, this highly sophisticated instrument has already helped us to diagnose several children who were in urgent need of treatment for rare or asymptomatic conditions that could not be identified through conventional methods." Dr. Kozina had trained with some of Ukraine's leading cardiac surgeons and cardiologists, including renowned cardiac pioneer Dr. Ilya Yemets of the Amosov Institute. Prior to the arrival of the Siemens-Acuson unit, Dr. Kozina attended training in Lviv where a local hospital has been using an identical ultrasound model.

"Now we will be able to correct many of these cardiac or thoracic defects on site," said Dr. Kozina, "and others we will be able to refer to the Amosov Institute in Kyiv in a more timely fashion before these children can develop further complications or before their conditions become inoperable." This fall, CCRDF is planning its third national cardiac conference in Kyiv to help more doctors become adept at diagnosing and treating congenital defects.

CCRDF further bolstered the UMC grant with a large shipment of medication and hospital supplies to Uzhorod and Kherson as part of its 32nd major medical airlift last April marking the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Earlier this year, and last December, UMC and CCRDF celebrated the delivery of other advanced medical equipment to hospitals in Lviv, Chernivtsi, and Dnipropetrovsk. Altogether, UMC donated \$416,000 to CCRDF since 2005. "We have been very pleased with our successful partnership with CCRDF," said UMC's Director of Community Relations Yaryna Klyuchkovska.

The local media in Kherson and Uzhorod seemed duly impressed with the medical equipment featured during the July press conferences. Several journalists expressed amazement that such equipment was earmarked for their oblasts which are often bypassed or shortchanged by other humanitarian programs. UMC spokeswoman Viktoria Andrievska explained that her company is committed to providing quality nationwide wireless service to even the remotest corners of Ukraine, and similarly, its charitable initiatives are designed to reach needy cities across the country.

Mr. Kuzma stated that "Just as UMC's motto is 'Quality above all else,' our Fund is committed to providing the highest quality medical aid possible for the children of Ukraine."

CCRDF Distributes 20th Anniversary Airlift Cargo to Partner Hospitals



CCRDF Program Coordinator Marta Stecyk monitors the distribution of medicines, medical equipment, and hospital supplies which arrived at the Chernivtsi City Clinical Children's Hospital #1 as part of the 20th Anniversary Commemorative Airlift. On April 20, 2006, this 32nd airlift delivered \$2.8 million worth of humanitarian aid to CCRDF's partner hospitals in Boyarka, Chernivtsi, Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Lutsk, Rivne, and Uzhorod. As always, CCRDF guarantees and monitors the delivery of medical aid to our partner hospitals. Pictured with Ms. Stecyk is pediatric surgeon, Dr. Vitaliy Livchak.

"Physicians of Chernobyl" Host Conference

Between May 28 and June 2, the International Association "Physicians of Chernobyl" (IAPC) hosted a major international conference to summarize the health consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Renowned scientists and delegates from Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, Japan, Cuba, Great Britain, Germany, and the United States convened at the Ukrainian Ministry of Health in Kyiv to review a wide range of issues that needed extensive follow-up and elaboration in the wake of the official commemorations of the disaster's 20th Anniversary in April.

The conference was inspired and chaired by Dr. Angelina Nyagu, the President of the IAPC, a native of Moldova and highly respected



researcher at the National Institute of Radiation Medicine in Kyiv. Dr. Nyagu was deeply concerned about the lack of candor and withholding of critical information that characterized many previous conferences addressing the Chernobyl aftermath. Working together with Dr. Lyudmyla Porokhnyak, endocrine specialist Dr. Anatoly Cheban, and other venerable colleagues in the Chernobyl research community, Dr. Nyagu prepared an in-depth analysis of peer-reviewed research that provided new evidence of Chernobyl's effect on human health.

Among the invited presenters were CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, the former Ukrainian Minister of Health Dr. Andriy Serdiouk, the Director of the United Nations Development Program's Chernobyl Recovery Project Dr. Pavlo Zamostyan, and Dr. Tetiana Arabskaya, a leading researcher on reproductive health at the National Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynecology. Other speakers addressed the impact on Chernobyl liquidators and various populations living downwind from the destroyed reactor. Among the most persuasive evidence was a formerly classified report by officials at the Ministry of Internal Affairs who traced the long-term impact on police, security, and military personnel who served at the Chernobyl site at the height of the evacuation and disaster clean-up effort in 1986. The new report clearly showed a dramatic increase in cancers and oncological illnesses as well as permanent disability within this contingent of servicemen, most of whom were in their 20's at the time of the disaster. Other researchers showed microscopic and diagnostic slides that demonstrated radiation damage to the bone tissue, blood cells, and chromosomes of Chernobyl survivors and their children. Dr. Nyagu also presented her own research comparing the significantly higher rate of breast cancer among women living in radiation-contaminated villages in the Carpathian region of Romania as compared to Romanian women living in relatively clean zones.

Dr. Nyagu plans to publish the conference proceedings in the International Journal of Radiation Medicine which she edits along with a consortium of international experts. CCRDF is grateful for the opportunity to share our research, work, and successes in the field of medical aid and we congratulate Dr. Nyagu and her colleagues on a very insightful and historic conference.

International Press Highlights CCRDF & Chernobyl Aftermath

In the wake of the international commemorations of the Chernobyl 20th Anniversary, CCRDF spokespersons were interviewed by a variety of major news organizations from around the world. Journalists who attended the Chernobyl observances and environmental conferences in Kyiv wrote extensively about the disaster's long-term impact on the health of Ukrainian children, nuclear clean-up workers, and families who were either evacuated or continue to live in areas contaminated by radioactive fallout. The Fund was quoted in the respected German news magazine *Der Spiegel*, in the British newspapers, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*, and was featured in television news programs, radio broadcasts, and newspaper articles in Spain, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Australia, and Argentina.



Other press delegations visited our partner hospitals and orphanages and provided moving testimony about the birth defects, immune deficiencies, and rare forms of cancer that are often ignored in reports about the Chernobyl aftermath.

Our work also received extensive coverage in the Ukrainian media, on national television stations ICTV, CTB, Channel 5, 1+1, and Channel One, and in many publications. We commend the many news reporters who continue to monitor the long-term impact of the accident, and who are willing to delve into its many complexities.

CCRDF Founder Nadia Matkiwsky is swarmed by the national and international press eager to report on the facts about Chernobyl's health impact and Ukraine's medical infrastructure.

(SHCHUKLIN, continued from page 1) provide appropriate treatment and with the help of CCRDF's former In-country Director Mrs. Inya Bonacorsa Chehade, the twins were accepted for medical evaluation on a special humanitarian basis at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). Their treatment was sponsored in large part by the Maria Hulai-Lion Foundation whose donation made it possible to bring the children to America.

On July 7, the Shchuklin twins and their mother arrived at JFK International Airport aboard Aerosvit Airlines, the Ukrainian carrier that donated the twins' airline tickets. UMDNJ's Dr. Harumi Jyonouchi, an internationally recognized specialist in the field of genetics and immunology, diagnosed the twins' condition. After the boys' physical evaluation she remarked, "I wish I had seen these boys six years ago. These children have been totally medically neglected." In order to control their disorder, the twins had to continue their IV treatment, but it had to be administered using a medical product far superior to the low-grade gamma globulin they were administered in Ukraine. With the help of our sponsors, CCRDF was able to finance ten costly IV treatments for the boys which cost \$3,600 per treatment.

Charitable organizations were also vital in treating the boys. With the help of the Starkey Foundation and the boys' devoted audiologist, UMDNJ's Dr. Patricia Connelly, the boys were outfitted with two digital hearing aids. Thanks to the Donated Dental Service Program, the twins were able to undergo four hour dental operations to repair their badly damaged teeth. The Ronald McDonald House of New Brunswick, NJ, welcomed the Shchuklin family with open arms, accommodating them for an entire month. Numerous volunteers helped the Shchuklin family get accommodated and none shined more than Mrs. Zirka Klufas who spent thirty-seven days with the family, driving them to their medical appointments or grocery store, or simply spending time with the family. As CCRDF Founder Nadia Matkiwsky said, "Indeed a star has fallen from the skies. Zirka (the name means "star" in Ukrainian) has treated the Shchuklins with more respect, undivided attention, and unselfish motives than some members of Halya's own family. She truly lit up the lives of the Shchuklin family." CCRDF extends a very special thank you to Zirka for her loving heart and her humanitarian devotion that she showed to the twins and their mother.

And so, the Shchuklin family has grown – from two abandoned boys to a large adopted family that encompasses all the lives they've touched during their month-stay in America. But, unfortunately, this story doesn't end with the Shchuklin's departure to Ukraine. We still need to supply the twins with gamma globulin medication in the amount of \$3,600 per treatment. We ask our readers to help sponsor one more treatment for the twins by earmarking your donation: Shchuklin Twins. We, along with Oleksandr, Ivan, and Halya, thank you in advance for your contribution.

CCRDF extends its heart-felt thanks to the Maria Hulai-Lion Foundation, Houston artist Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak, and the Kirzecky Family for their generous financial support.



(L-R): CCRDF volunteer Mrs. Zorianna Klufas, CCRDF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Oleksandr Shchuklin, Maria Hulai-Lion Executive Director Volodymyr Maychenko, Halya Shchuklin, Maria Hulai-Lion Director Sergey Davidenko, Ivan Shchuklin, and a Ronald McDonald House volunteer.

Annual UOL Teenage Conference

Every summer, the youth of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (USA) meet in the rural outskirts of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for two weeks of spiritual renewal. There, at the All Saints Camp located in the picturesque village of Emlenton on the Allegheny River, the UOL (Ukrainian Orthodox League) Teenage Conference promotes the development of a stronger prayer life and a deeper commitment to public service. This year, the theme of the conference was "Pray Without Ceasing: Commemorating Chernobyl 1986-2006."

The camp, directed by Charissa Sheptak, invited CCRDF Director of Procurement Alexa Milanych as a guest lecturer to inform the teens about the catastrophe that occurred twenty years ago on April 26, 1986. After briefing the conference participants on Ukraine's historic role in the world, Ms. Milanych outlined the global impact of the Chernobyl explosion, and explained why it is important to raise awareness about the tragedy.

Ms. Milanych spoke about the events leading up to the explosion of Chernobyl and spoke specifically about the health impact that will continue to affect generations to come. "I was very impressed with the maturity of my audience," said Ms. Milanych and continued, "From their dress attire to their mannerisms to their thought-provoking questions, it is clear that the camp teaches spirituality, morality, and self-esteem."

Ms. Milanych expressed her gratitude to the many young Orthodox activists who have traveled as missionaries and aid workers to our partner orphanages in Ukraine. She also thanked the organizers, sponsors, and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church for supporting many meaningful and inspiring programs for youth both in the United States and overseas.



At the All Saints Camp in Emlenton, PA, UOL Teenage Conference Director Charissa Martin hands out the Chernobyl 20 bracelets to the youth to help them in their endeavor to spread awareness of the Chernobyl disaster and educate the public about its effects.

Leave a Living Legacy

As a wise but gloomy soul once stated, "The only sure thing in life is death and taxes." Few of us enjoy looking into the future beyond our passage into the next world, but we can all sweeten the thought by imagining new and creative ways of using our worldly goods to improve the lives of others. When we think of philanthropy, we often think of great benefactors like John Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie who created some of America's most valued institutions, but we forget that any individual with modest wealth can have a profound impact on the plight of those less fortunate. By consulting your attorney, your tax adviser, or financial planner, you can design a legacy that can save the lives of hundreds. Your posthumous gift can bring pride and solace to your family and friends. If you would like to leave a portion of your estate to the Children of Chernobyl, please call us at (973) 376-5140 to discuss how you would like to direct your gift. The consultation is free, the process is painless, but the results: profound and priceless. We invite you to leave a legacy that can bring life and hope to countless children.

CCRDF Publishes Book on Chernobyl Health Consequences

Earlier this year, the Kyiv Office of CCRDF published an updated bilingual summary of findings on the long term health consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The report was authored by Dr. Olha V. Horishna, Senior Scientific Fellow at the National Institute of Military Medicine and Director of the Public Center of Environmental Health.

In a hard-hitting 60-page volume, Dr. Horishna compiled some of the most compelling evidence of Chernobyl's insidious effect on the health and wellbeing of nuclear clean-up workers, Chernobyl evacuees, and mothers and children still living in areas contaminated by radioactive fallout. Entitled "Chernobyl's Long Shadow," ("Chernobyl remains with us" in its Ukrainian original), the summary outlines the peer-reviewed findings of leading researchers at the Institute of Radiation Health Medicine, and the National Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics, and Gynecology in Kyiv, as well as international studies.

Relying on the research of leading demographers, such as Dr. Mykola Omelianets, Dr. Horishna's book compares the death rates of Chernobyl clean-up workers to their working age peers in Ukraine, and notes that between 1995 and 2004, the mortality of liquidators due to oncological illnesses increased nearly threefold from 9.6% to over 25.2% while cancer-related deaths among the general population had remained stable at 9%. Dr. Omelianets predicts that at this rate, 44,000 extra cancer deaths could occur in Ukraine alone in the coming years – nearly 5 times more than the 9,000 excess cancer deaths worldwide forecast by the International Atomic Energy Agency in its optimistic report delivered to the United Nations in 2005.

Beyond the epidemic of childhood thyroid cancer that have been well documented by previous public health studies, Dr. Horishna examines other critical issues that were virtually ignored by the IAEA report, including immune deficiencies, genetic mutations, pregnancy complications and the damage to children's bone tissue.

She presents evidence of chromosomal aberrations in the so-called "grandchildren of Chernobyl" – the babies born to mothers who were themselves children at the time of the Chernobyl disaster. Joint studies between French and Ukrainian scientists as well as

Italian and Moldovan researchers found significant evidence of genetic damage. These corroborated an earlier study by Ukrainian and Israeli researchers showing that the children of Chernobyl clean-up workers suffer from chromosomal anomalies at a rate seven times higher than their siblings born prior to the accident. Internationally renowned geneticists such as Dr. Volodymyr Wertelecki from the University of South Alabama have reported an epidemic of spina bifida in newborn children in Ukraine, and the incidence of birth defects is especially pronounced in northern Rivne which was one of four provinces that bore the brunt of radioactive contamination.

Dr. Horishna's study also includes microscopic slides showing clear evidence of the impact of radioactive cesium on the bone tissue of stillborn fetuses. Cesium-137 mimics potassium and is readily absorbed into the placenta, cartilage and bone of children. Physicians at the National Institute of Pediatrics (NIPOG) have demonstrated that children exposed to radioactive cesium are much more likely to suffer from rare bone diseases such as osteo-malachia and osteopenia and osteofibrosis – illnesses that normally afflict only senior citizens.

A fourteen year monitoring program conducted jointly by NIPOG and the University of Bristol in Great Britain showed that 75% of Ukrainian women who were irradiated in childhood or adolescence could not conceive children. Researchers also found that both in the first and second

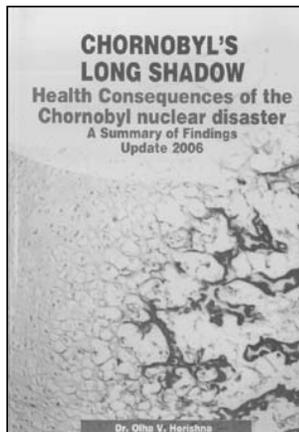
generation of nuclear survivors, there was a marked decrease in immunoglobulin-A, killer T-cells, and an imbalance between immuno-regulators (T-suppressors and T-helpers) that have a direct bearing on immunological disorders and the organism's ability to resist infections, toxic substances, and carcinogens.

"By limiting the scope of discussion to thyroid cancer alone, many international agencies are painting a very limited and distorted picture of Chernobyl's overall impact," says Dr. Horishna. "We are calling on the international research community to expand the scope of its research and to act responsibly and honestly in confronting the many aspects of this tragedy." In her recommendations, Dr. Horishna also urges health authorities to carry out comprehensive monitoring of thousands of residents who continue to live in contaminated territories. "Special attention needs to be devoted to the thousands of young women of child-bearing age who suffer from endocrine illnesses and those who underwent surgery for thyroid cancer and who continue to undergo thyroid hormone replacement therapy."

To obtain a copy of this compelling book, please send a separate check for \$14.95 along with your quarterly contribution.



Little Natasha from the Poltava City Children's Hospital is happy to have received a toy from a CCRDF representative after undergoing treatment for lymphosarcoma.



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