

CHORNOBYL CHRONICLE

CHILDREN OF CHORNOBYL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND NEWSLETTER Winter 2006 Vol. XXXVII

Message from the President

February 14, 2007 will mark the 18th anniversary of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund's first medical shipment to the children in Ukraine.

Since that day, CCRDF has made noticeable changes and improvements in the infrastructure of the medical health care system in Ukraine. Specifically, CCRDF has paved the way for a reduction in infant mortality by providing state-of-the-art medical technology and medical training for physicians in the fields of medicine including: neonatology, pediatric cardiology and infant cardiac surgery, obstetrics and gynecology (perinatology), and onco-hematology. CCRDF has cultivated and continues to refine these medical programs thanks to the help of our devoted donors and corporate sponsors.

Members from the National Office and I recently returned from Ukraine where we completed a very successful infant cardiac surgery conference which focused on educating physicians on the treatment of cardiac birth defects. The conference was sanctioned by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and was attended by 320 pediatric cardiologists, infant cardiac surgeons, neonatologists, and intensivists. Unanimously, it was concluded by the conference participants that such high level teaching forums must continue in the future in order to provide Ukraine's physicians exposure to western medical technology and knowledge.

During this most recent trip to Ukraine, we also visited eight of our twenty-four partner hospitals located throughout Ukraine as well as one of our two orphanages. I am pleased to report that I have noticed great improvements in all institutions, but the need for help is still great. As Christmas draws nearer and the spirit of giving is more present than ever, I ask that you continue to contribute to the gift of life that we, collectively, have bestowed to hopeful mothers and children in Ukraine for the past eighteen years.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, allow me to thank you for your unwavering support of our mission. On behalf of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund Board of Directors and Staff, I wish you a merry Christmas and much good health and prosperity for the New Year!

Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky
President

Лист від Президента

14-го лютого 2007 року Фонд Допомоги та Розвитку Дітям Чорнобиля (ФДРДЧ) буде відзначати 18 річницю відколи в Україну, до дитячих лікарень, було доставлено перший гуманітарний вантаж з медичним обладнанням та медикаментами.

З моменту свого заснування ФДРДЧ вніс значні зміни та суттєво вдосконалив інфраструктуру системи охорони здоров'я в Україні. Зокрема, ФДРДЧ надав підстави для зниження дитячої смертності, доставивши до лікарень сучасне медичне неонатологічне обладнання та запровадивши медичні конференції та семінари для спеціалістів у сфері неонатології, дитячої кардіології та кардіохірургії новонароджених, педіатрії, акушерстві і гінекології (перинатології), та онкогематології. Завдяки щедрим благодійним внескам спонсорів та благодійників Фонд зміг продовжувати свої медичні програми.

Нещодавно я і моя команда повернулися з України, де ми з успіхом провели Всеукраїнський форум з дитячої кардіології та кардіохірургії, розглянувши проблеми діагностики та лікування вроджених вад серця. Конференцію було проведено за сприяння Міністерства Охорони Здоров'я України. У роботі форуму взяли участь 320 спеціалістів з усіх областей України: дитячих кардіологів та кардіохірургів, неонатологів, анестезіологів, та УЗД спеціалістів. Цей Форум надав підстави для проведення такого глибокоінформативного форуму у майбутньому для забезпечення українських фахівців знаннями та досвідом сучасної західної медицини.

Підчас цієї подорожі, ми мали нагоду відвідати десять з 24-ох наших партнерських лікарень по всій Україні, де я помітив суттєве покращення, але багато чого ще потрібно зробити, щоб зменшити дитячу смертність ще в більшому обсязі. З Різдвяними святами, просимо Вас зробити важливий внесок у майбутнє українських дітей.

Від імені Ради Директорів та Фонду Допомоги та Розвитку Дітям Чорнобиля, я дякую Вам і бажаю веселих Різдвяних і Новорічних свят Вам і Вашим родинам, щастя і добробуту у Новому році!

Др. Зенон Матківський, Президент



Christmas scene painted by Nelya Bilous, Age 13, Ukraine

CCRDF Holds Infant Cardiac Conference in Kyiv

On October 27-28, 2006, CCRDF and the Pediatric Cardio-Vascular Center of Kyiv organized a National Neonatal Forum titled "Treatment of Cardiac Birth Defects." The forum took place at the Pediatric Cardio-Vascular Center of Excellence for Cardiac Surgery that is a newly expanded facility located within Kyiv's OHMADYT (Regional Pediatric Clinical Hospital) complex. Based on the success of this forum and the First National Neonatal Forum held in April 2004, CCRDF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky expressed his intentions to turn the conference into an annual event. "It is vital for Ukrainian physicians to perfect the methods of treating cardiac birth defects."

Each year, between 5,000 and 6,000 children in Ukraine (continued on page 5)



Left to right: Cardiac Surgeon at the Amosov Institute Dr. Ihor Mokryk, Chairman of Pediatrics at University of Miami Dr. Steven Lipshultz, Cardiac Intensivist Dr. Steven Shultz (top), Professor Myhaylo Atamanyuk, M.D., Director of Neonatal and Pediatric Cardiology and Cardio Surgery Center Dr. Ilyya Yemets, CCRDF Administrator Nadia Matkiwsky, CCRDF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Director of Congenital Heart Surgery at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital Dr. Eliot Rosenkranz, Professor Myhaylo Zinkovsky, M.D.

Christmas Wish List

- Incubators
- Ventilators
- Fetal heart monitors
- Pulse oximeters
- Resuscitation tables
- Anesthesia machines
- Ultrasounds
- Electronic coagulators
- Aspirators
- Electronic scales
- Operating tables

Prof. and Mrs. Bakum's Donations Reach \$250,000

With a recent donation of \$22,000, Professor Volodymyr and Mrs. Oksana Bakum of the CCRDF Kherhonkson, NY, Chapter have contributed a total of a quarter of a million dollars to the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund's (CCRDF) medical programs.

Professor and Mrs. Bakum's involvement with the Fund began from the time of CCRDF's establishment as a non-profit organization in 1990. A decade later, in October 2000, with the funds donated by Prof. and Mrs. Bakum, CCRDF completely outfitted the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Volyn Regional Children's Medical Center (VRMC) and dedicated



Archival Photo, 2000: In the Matushevsky NICU, Prof. and Mrs. Bakum (center) examine an infant recovering in a neonatal incubator.

the NICU to Mrs. Bakum's grandmother, Dr. Vira Matushevsky, a physician who served the poor and took part in the movement for Ukrainian nationhood. Today, the NICU saves many premature infants who are born in need of life-saving equipment. The couple has also funded the purchase of essential ambulatory instruments and provided funds for the printing of medical textbooks and conferences.

Words of gratitude cannot express the appreciation from the CCRDF Board of Directors and Staff to Professor and Mrs. Bakum for their most generous financial support of our medical programs in Ukraine. We wish Prof. and Mrs. Bakum many years of health and happiness. May their goodness continue to provide hope to the children of Ukraine and may they shine as examples of unselfish and dedicated humanitarians.

CCRDF Bids Farewell to Alexander Kuzma



Alexander Kuzma

In September 2006, Mr. Alexander Kuzma chose to take a position with Aid to Artisans, a non-profit organization, located in Hartford, CT. Mr. Kuzma served as CCRDF's Executive Director for ten years and worked for the Fund since 1992.

Over the years, Mr. Kuzma has been instrumental in acquiring many grants, networking with many parishes and communities throughout America, but, above all, in becoming the spokesperson for children who suffer from the world's worst nuclear accident. His effervescent personality inspired countless individuals to contribute to the Fund as donors, volunteers, or workers. Many would agree with CCRDF Nadia Matkiwsky's statement, "People are Alex's passion – he lives and works to better their lives." Mr. Kuzma worked tirelessly to fulfill the Fund's mission. Although



Mr. Kuzma speaks at an airlift press conference.

he will be missed, the Board of Directors and CCRDF's staff wish him the best of successes in his new position. As a known and respected member of the CCRDF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, "Alexander Kuzma is a true humanitarian with deep convictions to make a positive difference in the lives of the Chernobyl children and to improve healthcare in Ukraine."

Kyiv Lions Club Sponsors Neonatal Equipment



In Kyiv on November 3, 2006, a press conference was held at the Pediatric Institute of Obstetrics and Gynecology (POG) where a modern neonatal respirator, a piece of life-saving equipment, was purchased by the Kyiv Lions Club and delivered by the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund (CCRDF). The state-of-the-art "Bear Cub 750" respirator will allow doctors to treat and save the lives of critically premature infants, those under 1 kilogram. The respirator will also provide respiratory support to all other infants in need.

Representing Kyiv Lions Club (KLC) at the November press conference were KLC President Ken Nachbar and KLC Vice President Paul Niland, both of whom are staunch supporters of CCRDF's mission. They were proud to note that the \$17,000 donation for the respirator was the largest donation ever made by the Kyiv Lions Club. Mr. Nachbar and Mr. Niland hope to inspire others to join the KLC brigade of volunteers and to set an example for charitable work to those less fortunate.

This is the second time CCRDF has worked together with the Kyiv Lions Club on a particular project. In 2005, CCRDF, with the financial support of Kyiv Lions Club, distributed the *Manual of Neonatal Care*, authored by Doctors John P. Cloherty and Ann R. Stark, which became the essential book not only of neonatologists, but of all doctors who work with newborns.

The Lions Club is the world's largest and most effective community service organization, with more than 1.4 million members worldwide. The Club in Kyiv is one of over 40,000 clubs in 200 countries around the world. The Kyiv Lions Club was registered in 2002 and, to date, has raised over \$130,000 for charities in Ukraine. Regardless of what language they speak, religion or politics they espouse, all Lions are dedicated to seeking out and helping those in need. Although their programs are continually changing to meet the new needs and greater demands, their mission has never wavered: "We Serve."

CCRDF thanks the Kyiv Lions Club for their continued support and contribution to save the future of Ukraine – the children.



A child is kept alive in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) thanks to the "NICU line," a collection of mandatory medical equipment, one of which is a respirator, needed to provide artificial ventilation to a critically ill patient.

3-го листопада 2006 року у Києві, в приміщенні Інституту Педіатрії, Акушерства, та Гінекології АМН України (ІПАГ) відбулася офіційна передача сучасного неонатального дихального апарату Bear Cub 750, закупленого за кошти Клубу Левів м. Києва і встановленого Фондом Допомоги та Розвитку Дітям Чорнобиля (ФДРДЧ). Встановлення такого апарату дозволить лікарям рятувати та виходжувати недоношених дітей з критичною вагою, тобто менше 1 кг, надавати дихальну підтримку всім дітям, які їй потребують, що призведе до зростання рівню виживаємості серед новонароджених та значно підвищить рівень їх здоров'я у майбутньому.

Представники Клубу Левів м. Києва, Президент Клубу Кен Накбар і Віцепрезидент Клубу Пол Ніланд є щирими прихильниками місії ФДРДЧ. Вони з гордістю зазначили, що благодійний внесок у розмірі 17 000 доларів США на закупівлю дихального апарату був найбільшим внеском за часів існування Клубу Левів м. Києва. Пан Накбар і пан Ніланд сподіваються залучити до роботи Клубу Левів м. Києва якомога більше волонтерів, щоб надавати допомогу тим, хто їй потребує.

Вже вдруге ФДРДЧ спільно з Клубом Левів м. Києва співпрацюють у цьому напрямку. У 2005 році, ФДРДЧ за фінансовою підтримкою Клубу Левів м. Києва видав «Посібник з неонатології» під редакцією докторів Джона Клоерті та Енна Старка, який став настільною книгою не тільки лікарів-неонатологів, а й усіх лікарів, які працюють з новонародженими.

ФДРДЧ пишасться своєю співпрацею з такою благодійною організацією як Клуб Левів м. Києва. Клуб Левів – найбільша та найефективніша громадська організація у світі, членами якої є понад 1.4 мільйони людей по всьому світі. Київський клуб – один з 40 000 клубів з 200 країн, було засновано у 2002 році. На теперішній час Клуб Левів м. Києва зібрав 130 000 доларів США на благодійну діяльність в Україні. Незважаючи на мовні, релігійні та політичні відмінності між членами клубу, усіх левів об'єднує одне – допомагати тим, кому це потрібно.

Фонд Допомоги та Розвитку Дітям Чорнобиля широко дякує Клубу Левів м. Києва за їх підтримку та внесок у збереження нашого майбутнього – дітей України.



Presentation of the check in the amount of 85,850 hryvnia (\$17,000) to the POG Institute. Left to right: CCRDF Founders Nadia and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, Kyiv Lions Club (KLC) member Rolf Ramseyer, POG Director Yuriy Antipkin, KLC President Ken Nachbar, KLC Vice President Paul Niland, KLC member Tanya Chyckhan, and KLC member Wolfhank Homernik

Lutsk

The Volynian Regional Children's Hospital has been CCRDF's partner hospital for over fifteen years. The hospital is located about 200 miles west of Kyiv in one of the most contaminated regions in Ukraine. As a result, doctors see many cases of birth defects, specifically spina bifida and various types of cancers.



Head Neonatologist Dr. Oksana Tsoiko explains the condition of the infant placed in the CCRDF donated incubator.

Despite that fact, this hospital stands amongst the most developed in the nation thanks to the diligence of its progressive hospital administration and the financial support provided by devoted individuals, namely Prof. and Mrs. Bakum, and charitable organizations such as CCRDF and the Victor Pinchuk Foundation. In addition to developed neonatal, pediatric, and surgical wings, this CCRDF partner hospital specializes in the fields of reproduction, endoscopy, and ophthalmology.



The service area of the hospital is just one of the many progressive steps that CCRDF partner hospitals are taking to ensure effective and efficient use of donated medical equipment.



One new ambulance purchased and the other rebuilt at the Volyn Regional Children's Hospital thanks to the aid provided by Prof. and Mrs. Bakum. Prof. Volodymyr Bakum (left) is pictured with Dr. Valeriy Rutsky (second from left) and his team of doctors.



Sonographer Dr. Olena Sosnovska demonstrates how to use the Sonoline G60 S Ultrasound which was recently procured by CCRDF and sponsored by the Victor Pinchuk Foundation. Dr. Sosnovska sees approximately fifteen women per day and diagnoses about three defects per month.

Evaluating CCRDF Partner Hospitals



A mother is pictured with her child at the Chernivtsi City Children's Clinical Hospital.

An integral part of CCRDF's medical programs is visiting our partner hospitals to monitor the donated equipment. In the first weeks of November, CCRDF Founders Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky and Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch traveled over 1,200 miles to visit eight of our twenty-four partner hospitals. As they visited each hospital, they were pleased to observe the progress, but noted that much medical equipment is still needed [see wish list, page 1]. Doctors thanked CCRDF for its steadfast support and for the delivery of new and quality medical equipment. They extended their thanks to CCRDF constituents for providing the medical needs.

Rivne

The Rivne Regional Children's Hospital has been enhanced with medical equipment from various sponsors, including Philip Morris and the Victor Pinchuk Foundation, who work through CCRDF to



The newborn rests in a life-saving incubator.

ensure that their grants are appropriately used to purchase needed equipment for the hospital.

Most recently, the hospital's ambulance was furnished with modern medical equipment, including a ventilator, a transport incubator, a respirator, a pulse oximeter, infusion pumps, and a heart monitor. A Fresenius cell separator, funded by Philip Morris, will diagnose and combat pediatric oncological cases. The neonatal wing is in need of additional equipment to accommodate for a growing patient population. Head Neonatologist Dr. Oleksander Shevchuk noted, "If we were to receive two new complete NICU lines, my team and I would be most appreciative of the donation."



Thanks to CCRDF and Victor Pinchuk's "Cradles of Hope" initiative, children in the Rivne oblast can be treated with urgent care.

Volodymyrets

Volodymyrets Central Regional Hospital is one of CCRDF's newest partner hospitals. The small town of Volodymyrets is located about 50 miles south of the Belorussian border, the country most directly affected by the Chernobyl disaster. Due to the location in the severely contaminated zone, women in the region deliver children with various forms of birth defects and anomalies, both men and women suffer from increased levels of sterility, children increasingly suffer from oncology diseases, endocrine pathologies, and blood diseases, and suppressed immune systems plague the general population of Volodymyrets.

The perinatal center of Volodymyrets delivers over 1,000 children per year; the average number of children in a household is between 6-10 children. Due to the growing population of the



Thanks to the watchful eye of neonatologist Dr. Serhiy Buravskiy and the donated NICU equipment, infants have a chance to survive and become productive citizens of Ukraine.



This mother gave birth to a healthy baby, one of 866 children born in Volodymyrets over the past 9 months in 2006, as compared to 776 births born over 9 months in 2005.



A view of the newly renovated OR at the Volodymyrets Central Regional Hospital with the donated anesthesia machine in the background.

small town, Head Doctor Heorhiy Lebedyuk and the Head Neonatologist Dr. Serhiy Buravskiy of the newly renovated perinatal center, were most grateful to receive life-saving medical equipment, specifically a fetal heart monitor, a neonatal incubator, a portable ultrasound, an anesthesia machine, two phototherapy lamps, two infusion pumps, and two ambu bags, from CCRDF as part of the "Cradles of Hope" initiative of the

Victor Pinchuk Foundation. CCRDF Director of Procurement Alexa Milanytch was pleased to meet with the progressive collective of doctors, the hospital administrators, and the supportive local government officials, and commented, "I was glad to see everyone in the community working together for the benefit of the youngest citizens of Ukraine. In this town, you get a sense that everyone is helping and participating in raising their newborn neighbors. This is an exemplary charitable step that should be recognized and enacted by more individuals in Ukraine."



Premature infants are most in need of respiratory assistance, as their lungs are one of the last organs to develop in the womb.

which was organized by hospital administrators and local government health officials to acknowledge the impact of CCRDF's work in the Bukovyna region.

The Chernivtsi City Children's Hospital, run under the direction of Head Doctor Serhiy Storozhyk, specializes in five fields of medicine including surgery, pediatrics, nephrology, endocrinology, and ultrasound diagnostics. The hospital's seventy doctors treat over 8,000 children per year. The hospital has been a partner hospital of CCRDF's since 2003, coincidentally the year designated as the "Health Awareness Year" in Chernivtsi since "03" is the number dialed to call for emergency medical care. During its three-year partnership with the hospital, CCRDF has delivered an Accuson ultrasound and laparoscope, equipment valued at \$70,000.

In 2003, CCRDF also adopted the Chernivtsi City Maternity Center #2 as a partner hospital thanks to the financial support provided by the three Andriuk brothers in memory of their parents, Col. Basil and Mrs. Martha Andriuk. According to Dr. Svitlana Tkachyk, Assistant Chief Doctor of the hospital, this hospital is witness to the



Founders Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky meet with the health administrator of the Chernivtsi Oblast

health effects of Chornobyl. Women are increasing-

ly delivering children with genetic mutations and many newborns suffer from birth defects. However, due to the medical equipment funded by the Andriuk family and corporate sponsor UMC and provided by CCRDF, Dr. Tkachyk and her team of doctors have improved their ability to diagnose birth defects and correct them as early as possible. Approximately 2,500 children are delivered yearly in the Chernivtsi City Maternity Center #2.



The fetal heart monitor provided by CCRDF detects an unborn baby's heartbeat and can alert doctors of any problematic cardiac conditions.



CCRDF Alexa Milanytch views the ultrasound machine which is used to detect any abnormalities during pregnancy.

Chernivtsi

Two of CCRDF's partner hospitals are located in the Bukovyna region of Ukraine in the city Chernivtsi. In 2008, the city of Chernivtsi will celebrate 600 years since its founding, the Chernivtsi City Children's Hospital will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and the population will celebrate the grand opening of a newly constructed five-story children's hospital built to enhance the capacity of the Chernivtsi City Children's Hospital. The erection of the new hospital was made possible through the persistent efforts of the local government and the hospital administration. During CCRDF's trip to the Chernivtsi area, Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky and Ms. Milanytch spoke at a press conference



Captured in the photo above is a new mother's first glimpse of her child.

Ivano-Frankivsk



The newborn rests on the infant warmer while the CCRDF staff meets with the hospital administrators to follow-up on the most recent delivery of equipment.

CCRDF has two partner hospitals in Ivano-Frankivsk: the **Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Perinatal Center** under the direction of Dr. Ivan Kindyak and the **Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Children's Clinical Hospital** under the direction of Dr. Radoslaw Kortubash. The obstetricians in the Perinatal Center deliver approximately 2,500 children per year and work closely with the Children's Hospital in transporting stable newborns from the Perinatal Hospital for further observation. The neonatal intensive care unit at the Children's Hospital, with the capacity to monitor twelve neonates at one time, has been newly renovated.

Both hospitals are able to better save lives with the help of donated state-of-

the-art medical equipment from CCRDF including two ventilators, two infusion pumps, an incubator, two infant warmers, three pulse oximeters, a blood pressure monitor, a portable and stationary ultrasound, two blood gas analyzers, and three aspirators, totaling \$142,505.



Head Doctor Ivan Kindyak explains the value of the incubator, respirator, pulse oximeter, and monitor. Thanks to CCRDF, the premature infant has a chance to survive.

Zaluchya

One of CCRDF's orphanages, Zaluchya, is located between the cities of Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi in the southwest region of Ukraine. Both this orphanage and the Znamyanka orphanage are supported by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and the church's spiritual, nurturing, and financial contributions have made a remarkable difference in the lives of the orphans and their home.

The orphanage is home to over 120 orphans all of whom suffer from mental illnesses and physical handicaps. When approaching the orphanage, squeals of joy and happiness greet the visitors. The liveliness can be attributed to the orphans' caretakers and their dedicated therapist, Zoreslava, who works closely with the orphans to develop their mobile and language skills. Throughout the orphanage,



A caretaker tends to a child's need.

evidence of the annual missionary trips are visible. Walls are cheerfully painted, shelves are stocked with games, and the playpens allow for the youngest orphans to play safely.

Many physical changes have taken place at the orphanage compound. The new heating system, the kitchen, the sophisticated bath tub, the tiled floors and walls, all contribute to the improved standard of living at the orphanage. Even the barn animals donated in 2005 through a grant from Heifer International Ukraine are thriving. CCRDF Administrator Nadia Matkiwsky remarked, "I was so impressed with the changes made over the past few years. It's truly extraordinary what the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has been able to accomplish."

The orphanage is in need of an industrial dryer, a new roof on the barn, exhaust fans, and would also like to have a small chapel on their property. To contribute to the orphanage's wish list, please designate your donation accordingly.



Alexa Milanytch and Nadia Matkiwsky enjoy meeting resident orphans.

(CONFERENCE, cont. from pg. 1) are born with congenital heart defects, making cardiovascular illness the leading cause of infant mortality in Ukraine. Accomplishments in modern pediatric cardiac surgery have made it possible to ensure that these patients live long and healthy lives; up to 95% of neonates who receive surgical operations during the early stages of their cardiac disease survive into adulthood. However, approximately 2,000 infants born with congenital heart defects do not have access to the life-saving surgery and either die within their first months of life or become life-long cardiac invalids. According to a comprehensive research study conducted by Dr. Ilya Yemets, Head of the Pediatric Cardio-Vascular Center and Chief Cardiac Surgeon of Ukraine, without the initial diagnosis of congenital heart defects and timely surgical correction, 50% die within their first month of life and 30% of infants die before their first year. For this reason, there is an urgent need to focus on improving the early diagnosis of congenital heart defects.

On October 27, the National Neonatal Forum, sanctioned by Ukraine's Ministry of Health, was officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Healthcare of Ukraine Dr. Y. Haydayev, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Sheila Gwaltney, and CCRDF President Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky. More than 320 neonatologists, pediatric anesthesiologists, pediatricians, pediatric cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, and specialists of ultrasound diagnostics from all the regions of Ukraine participated in the conference. They gathered to discuss the status of the medical and surgical care of children with cardiac birth defects in Ukraine, priorities concerning the early diagnostics of congenital heart disease, pre and post operative management, and the benefits of prenatal diagnosis.

During the conference, experts in the field of cardiovascular birth defects, renowned cardiologists and cardiac surgeons from the United States provided Ukrainian doctors with the opportunity to learn and discuss current techniques in cardiac surgery as practiced in the United States. Among the American lecturers were Dr. Steven E. Lipshultz, Professor and Chairman of Department of Pediatrics, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health, Professor of Medicine (Oncology) at Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami; Dr. Steven E. Schultz, Director, Pediatric Cardiac Critical Care Holtz Children's Hospital, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Division of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Miami School of Medicine; and Dr. Eliot R. Rosenkranz, Director of Congenital Heart Surgery, Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Miami. The importance of a team approach in treating newborn cardiac patients was stressed in most presentations during the conference. "A well-balanced team approach is commonplace practice in the United States and I believe it would benefit the medical system in Ukraine if doctors increasingly exercised the team approach,"



The conference facilitated an exchange of ideas and allowed Ukrainian physicians to speak with the American cardiac surgeons.

stated Dr. Matkiwsky.

Dr. Matkiwsky concluded, "According to the Children's Pediatric Centers in Zhytomyr and Rivne, the increase of cardiac defects is due, in large part, to the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe. In light of Ukraine's economic deficiency, the state's efforts are not enough to provide care to those suffering from the harmful health effects caused by Chernobyl. For this reason, we must do our best to provide advanced training and modern medical assistance to Ukraine in order to do our part to help raise a healthy Ukrainian nation."



Physicians during the "question and answer" period stimulated discussions with the lecturers.



U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Sheila Gwaltney



A young cardiac patient recuperates from open-heart surgery performed by Dr. Ilya Yemets, Head of the Pediatric Cardio-Vascular Center in Kyiv and Chief Cardiac Surgeon of Ukraine.

• медичної школи (Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine) університету Маямі, Др. Стівен Е. Шульц – Директор департаменту реанімації та інтенсивної терапії новонароджених медичної школи університету Маямі, Др. Еліот Р. Розенкранц – Директор департаменту хірургії вроджених вад серця медичної школи університету Маямі, виступили з доповідями про нові можливості у відділенні реанімації та інтенсивної терапії для хворих з вадами серця, про значення перинатальної діагностики, а також доопераційної та післяопераційної інтенсивної терапії у дітей з вродженими вадами серця. Др. Ємець виступив з доповіддю про стан кардіохірургії немовлят в Україні, зазначивши, що на сьогодні ВВС залишаються в Україні однією з домінуючих причин дитячої смертності. «Якби ми в перші тижні чи місяці життя виправили в крихітному серці вади, то дитина б виросла здоровою, - переконаний Ілля Миколайович. – Досягнення сучасної дитячої кардіохірургії, за умови вчасно проведених хірургічних корекцій, дають змогу врятувати 95% прооперованих. Вони можуть жити повноцінним життям, мати сім'ю, тобто бути абсолютно здоровими людьми».



Dr. Eliot Rosenkranz with translator Dr. Mykhaylo Atamanyuk (right) speaks about methods and results of aortic valve repair and replacement in children during the National Neonatal Forum.

ФДРДЧ проводить Конференцію

Київ, 27-28 жовтня 2006 року, у Науково-практичному медичному центрі дитячої кардіології та кардіохірургії відбувся Всеукраїнський форум «Актуальні питання лікування вроджених вад серця». Ця конференція з дитячої кардіології та кардіохірургії, організована Фондом Допомоги та Розвитку Дітям Чорнобиля (ФДРДЧ) та Науково-практичним медичним центром дитячої кардіології та кардіохірургії за сприяння Міністерства охорони здоров'я України,

стала другою міжнародною конференцією, де були розглянуті питання діагностики, медикаментозного і хірургічного лікування вроджених вад серця, а також підходи до надання кардіохірургічної допомоги дітям з вродженими вадами серця.

Актуальність Форуму підтверджується тим фактом, що тільки в Україні щорічно народжується 5000 до 6000 дітей з різноманітними вадами серця, 3000 з яких потребують термінового хірургічного лікування по життєвим показникам відразу після народження. Кожен рік 2000 дітей помирають, так і не дочекавшись медичної допомоги. Якщо до цих цифер додати і статистику інших країн, то стає очевидним факт важливості питання у світовому масштабі. За словами Др. Іллі М. Ємця, Директора Науково-практичного медичного центру дитячої кардіології та кардіохірургії МОЗ України, Головного кардіохірурга МОЗ України, «вроджена вада серця (ВВС) становить 25% від кількості всіх вад, які зустрічаються при народженні. Без хірургічного втручання 30% дітей із ВВС вмирають у віці до року, 50% - у віці до місяця; однак рання діагностика і проведення операції рятує життя дитині і забезпечує його нормальну тривалість і повну працездатність у 95% випадків».

Під час урочистого відкриття Форуму з офіційною промовою виступили почесні гості: Заступник Міністра Охорони Здоров'я України – Ю.О.Гайдаєв, заступник Посла США в Україні Шили Гволтні, і Президент та Засновник ФДРДЧ Доктор Zenon Matkiwsky.

У роботі форуму взяли участь 320 спеціалістів з усіх областей України в галузях кардіохірургії, кардіології, анестезіології та інтенсивної терапії, неонатології та педіатрії, та функціональної діагностики. Вже вдруже за останні роки фахівці, причетні до вирішення проблеми вроджених вад серцево-судинної системи, зібралися під одним дахом, щоб обговорити стан перинатальної та неонатальної діагностики вроджених вад серця у новонароджених, створення в Україні ефективної системи надання медичної і хірургічної допомоги дітям з ВВС.

Під час роботи форуму провідні спеціалісти з США, Др. Стівен Е. Ліпшульц - Професор і Голова Департаменту педіатрії, Професор медицини (Онкології)

університету Маямі, Др. Стівен Е. Шульц – Директор департаменту реанімації та інтенсивної терапії новонароджених медичної школи університету Маямі, Др. Еліот Р. Розенкранц - Директор департаменту хірургії вроджених вад серця медичної школи університету Маямі, виступили з доповідями про нові можливості у відділенні реанімації та інтенсивної терапії для хворих з вадами серця, про значення перинатальної діагностики, а також доопераційної та післяопераційної інтенсивної терапії у дітей з вродженими вадами серця. Др. Ємець виступив з доповіддю про стан кардіохірургії немовлят в Україні, зазначивши, що на сьогодні ВВС залишаються в Україні однією з домінуючих причин дитячої смертності. «Якби ми в перші тижні чи місяці життя виправили в крихітному серці вади, то дитина б виросла здоровою, - переконаний Ілля Миколайович. – Досягнення сучасної дитячої кардіохірургії, за умови вчасно проведених хірургічних корекцій, дають змогу врятувати 95% прооперованих. Вони можуть жити повноцінним життям, мати сім'ю, тобто бути абсолютно здоровими людьми».

«За дослідженнями, причиною зростання серцево-судинних захворювань стала Чорнобильська катастрофа. На жаль, зусилля держави подолати її наслідки, не є достатніми. Прикро, але економічна та соціальна нестабільність завдає найбільшої шкоди тим, хто найменш захищений і потребує нашої допомоги», - говорить Доктор Матківський. «І тому, ми повинні зробити все можливе, щоб надати таку сучасну висококваліфіковану медичну допомогу, щоб діти України увійшли у доросле життя повністю здоровими людьми».

Student Volunteers at the Amosov Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery



Natalia Molodecky (left) observes an operation at the Amosov Institute.

In the summer of 2005, Natalia Molodecky of Canada had the opportunity to volunteer in the Pediatrics Department at the Amosov Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery located in Kyiv. With the helpful and welcoming assistance of the staff, Miss Molodecky was permitted to observe operations and ask questions about the surgical procedures and objectives of each case. "The staff was very forthcoming with information and provided me with books and manuals to help me acquire a greater understanding of various defects and the procedures to help remedy them," said Miss Molodecky.

Witnessing, first hand, the incredible suffering of young children was particularly difficult for the young Canadian. She also noticed the basic lack of resources in the hospital. "Amosov [Hospital] is one of the best hospitals in Ukraine, however, it lacks much needed equipment and resources.... In a top hospital in Ukraine's capital is poorly equipped, the inadequate supply at poor hospitals in small villages is unimaginable." Miss Molodecky delivered a package of instruments and supplies to the hospital. She had asked for this donation from the doctors at Mt. Sinai Surgical Skill Center, an institution affiliated with the University of Toronto, where she had worked during summers on research projects and on preparation of cadaver tissue for medical students.

Miss Molodecky concluded, "This experience opened my eyes to problems faced in developing countries such as Ukraine, and how crucial it is for developed, first world countries to provide resources and assistance."

Natalia Molodecky, 22, is a fourth year science student at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. She anticipates enrolling in medical school and pursuing a medical career. Miss Molodecky wishes to thank those who made the summer experience possible for her, namely her aunt Oksana Bakum and former CCRDF Executive Director Alexander Kuzma, and hopes to return to Amosov Hospital when she can offer more skilled help and resources.

Leave a Living Legacy

A Wachovia advertisement stated, "Wealth often takes on a different meaning over time. It becomes more about opportunities than money." Over the past eighteen years, mindful individuals have shown that they can make a difference in the life of child. We here, at CCRDF, invite you to make more of your money – to invest it into the future of Ukraine. 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.

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CCRDF thanks you for your continued support and we look forward to hearing from you!

Year in Review – 2006 – Remembering Chernobyl 20



(Below) *Jan.-April, 2006* -- CCRDF prepares to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Chernobyl with press conferences in Washington, DC and in Kyiv, an international conference in Ukraine, and with an airlift that delivered \$2.8 million worth of humanitarian aid to our partner hospitals

Jan.-Dec., 2006 - CCRDF Chapters and friends organize commemorative Chernobyl events in their local areas. Above, Rochester remembers Chernobyl victims at a service organized by Chapter President Lesia Telega.



July-August, 2006 - CCRDF sponsors the medical evaluation of Ivan and Alexander Shchuklin, twin boys suffering from a genetic immune disorder. The boys are in need of medicine to improve their immune system.



(Above) *August, 2006* -- The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA sends youth missionaries to orphanages Znamyanka and Zaluchya. Read about their annual mission trip in the spring 2007 edition of the newsletter.

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