

2016

# UKRAINE PAEDIATRIC FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

## IMPACT REPORT

### MEET ANASTASIJA.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, SICKKIDS IS GIVING HOPE TO CRITICALLY ILL CHILDREN IN UKRAINE.

**T**wo years ago, doctors discovered Anastasija had a malignant tumour in her brain. She required urgent surgery, one which Ukrainian doctors did not have the paediatric surgical expertise to perform. With the support of Dr. James Rutka, Program Director of the Ukraine Paediatric Fellowship Program and neurosurgeon at SickKids, her surgery was a success. Children like Anastasija have a greater chance for survival thanks to improved access to care through the Ukraine Paediatric Fellowship Program. It is better equipping doctors to treat children who require advanced surgical techniques, and building capacity through clinical consultations, surgical guidance, and educational trips led by SickKids medical experts.

This Program was made possible thanks to the commitment and vision of Children of Chernobyl Canadian Fund (CCCF), Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), SickKids and many members of the Ukrainian-Canadian community. Thanks to your generosity, children in Ukraine are benefiting from improved care.

**SickKids**



**Children of  
Chernobyl  
Canadian Fund**  
unlocking the door to  
their future





**ABOVE: Ukraine Paediatric Fellowship Program graduates and local medical staff with Dr. James Rutka at Lviv City Children's Clinical Hospital in June 2016.**

## SICKKIDS ADVISORY TRIPS TO UKRAINE

Your generous contributions have enabled two SickKids advisory trips to Ukraine in the past year. The October 2015 advisory trip team included **Dr. Myroslava Romach**, Medical Director of the Ukraine Paediatric Fellowship Program, **Dr. Walid Farhat**, SickKids urologist, **Dr. Frank Papanikolaou**, SickKids urologist, and **Dr. Andrea Andrade**, a paediatric neurologist from London Health Sciences Centre. Together, Drs. Farhat and Papanikolaou oversaw 13 urology operations and 30 clinical consults, including an extravesicular ureterocystoneostomy on a 7-month-old boy, the first time doctors at Lviv City Children's Clinical Hospital (LCCCH) had ever participated in the complex operation. Drs. Farhat and Papanikolaou also delivered six lectures to approximately 90 medical staff during a full day conference at LCCCH entitled "Urgent Problems of Children's Urology."

Dr. Andrade consulted on 30 complex cases of children with epilepsy, reviewed 15 neonatal EEGs, and discussed surgical interventions and ways to better record seizure activity using video monitoring with staff of the neurology service. A number of lectures were also given on the trip by Dr. Romach, focusing on perinatal mental health and infant neurodevelopment.

**BELOW: Dr. Myroslava Romach and Dr. Oleh Romanchuk, child psychiatrist, following a two-day workshop at the Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, in June 2016.**



The June 2016 advisory trip team included, **Dr. Romach, Dr. Rutka, Dr. Andrade**, and **Dr. Eric Bouffet**, haematologist/oncologist at SickKids, Director of SickKids Brain Tumour Program, and current President of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology. The medical advisory team provided consultation, surgery supervision, and lectures at LCCCH, Romodanov Neurosurgical Institute in Kyiv, Western Ukraine Specialized Hospital in Lviv, and The National Cancer Institute in Kyiv. They also delivered lectures at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv on perinatal mental health and at the Danylo Halitsky Medical University on paediatric neurology. We are also proud to announce that we have added another collaborating partner, Odessa Regional Children's Hospital.

## UKRAINIAN FELLOWS AT SICKKIDS

This year, Dr. Andriy Smolanka, paediatric neurosurgeon from Uzhhorod Regional Center of Neurosurgery and Neurology and Dr. Olha Tychkivska, paediatric neurologist from LCCCH will arrive for one month of training at SickKids in fall 2016 and spring 2017 respectively. The additional funding for fellows is supporting the current tenure of Dr. Yuriy Kolivoshka, who competed and was chosen for a prestigious 18-month fellowship at SickKids.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

In May 2016, SickKids President and CEO, Dr. Mike Apkon, hosted Dr. Dymtro Kvit, Physician-in-Chief from LCCCH, for a week-long visit to learn about the best practices of hospital administration and emergency medicine.

In July 2016, Dr. Jacques Belik, SickKids neonatologist, went to Ukraine and met with fellow neonatologists at LCCCH to discuss procedures and protocols.



SICKKIDS HAS  
PARTNERED WITH  
**6**  
INSTITUTIONS IN  
UKRAINE

SINCE 2013,  
THE PROGRAM  
HAS ENROLLED

18

FELLOWS

COMPLETED

6

ADVISORY TRIPS  
TO UKRAINE

AND  
SUPPORTED

1

FULL  
FELLOWSHIP IN  
2016/2017



**“My colleagues and I are grateful to Dr. Farhat and Dr. Papanikolaou for their perfect master class. We learned a lot of new techniques that will help us in our professional activity. We are impressed by their abilities, skills, and knowledge.”**

**– Dr. Yuriy Kolivoshka, LCCCH**



**PATIENT CONSULTATIONS  
IN JUNE 2016:**

**68 NEUROSURGERY**

**48 NEUROLOGY**

**45 NEUROSURGERY-ONCOLOGY**

**THUS FAR, YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED  
SUPPLY UKRAINE HOSPITALS WITH:**

**8 SETS OF SURGICAL LOUPES**

**1 SET OF LAPAROSCOPIC SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS**

**2 SETS OF MICROSURGICAL INSTRUMENTS**

**1 NEUROLOGICAL ENDOSCOPE**

**2 OPERATING MICROSCOPES**

## YOUR SUPPORT

### LIFE-SAVING INVESTMENTS

**S**ince the inception of the Fellowship Program, we have focused on elevating paediatric medical training to build capacity and improve care for critically ill children in Ukraine. We are also equipping these bright minds with the tools they need to ensure the success of surgeries and clinical practice at local hospitals. Thanks to the generosity of the Temerty family, SickKids has been able to purchase significant equipment to advance the surgical care at Lviv City Children’s Clinical Hospital. Further, through the tremendous support of the Temerty family and the entire Ukrainian-Canadian community, the Ukraine Paediatric Fellowship Program Endowment Fund continues to enable us to make transformative investments in child health in Ukraine. Your investments have ensured the sustainability of the Program and will ultimately transform the future for patients and their families in Ukraine.

## BUILDING CAPACITY

### FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Thanks to your generosity, Ukrainian doctors are succeeding on an international scale

In 2014, Dr. Yuriy Kolivoshka, a paediatric general surgeon from Lviv, came to SickKids through the Ukraine Paediatric Fellowship Program as an observer for one month. What he saw, observing in the Division of General and Thoracic Surgery, inspired him to return home and work on his skills to compete for an 18-month surgical fellowship at SickKids, for which he was successful. Dr. Kolivoshka and his family arrived in Toronto in March 2016 to begin his surgical fellowship. A few months into his fellowship, Dr. Kolivoshka says he has already learned so much that he plans to share when he returns home.

**“I’m amazed by the training. The senior doctors really take the time to teach you the intricate details of complex surgeries.”**

Such learnings include the highly coordinated communication within SickKids around trauma, detailed elements of surgery not often taught in Ukraine and surgery simulations to learn new skills. In Ukraine, Dr. Kolivoshka is also an assistant in the Department of Paediatric Surgery at Lviv National Medical University teaching general surgery. The knowledge learned at SickKids will help him to better instruct his students to plan the best course of treatment and also to improve his own skill set and practice. “This fellowship is important because I have been given the opportunity to really participate in patient care,” says Dr. Kolivoshka. “Observing is just observing. You might see and remember a bit. But if you see and do, that is the best way to learn.”

**For more information please visit:  
[www.sickkidsfoundation.com/ukraine](http://www.sickkidsfoundation.com/ukraine)**



# THANK YOU.

**SickKids is dedicated to improving the** lives of children in Ukraine and our success depends on the generosity of donors like you. Your commitment to the Ukraine Paediatric Fellowship Program ensures that we can continue to offer the best possible health outcomes for children in Ukraine so they can live longer and healthier lives. Thank you for your remarkable generosity.

**If you have any questions regarding the information included in this report, please contact:**

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**SickKids Foundation is accredited under the Imagine Canada Standards Program,** demonstrating excellence in Board governance, financial accountability and transparency, fundraising practices, staff management, and volunteer involvement.