

Heal Ukraine Group

August 2022 Newsletter



Six months have passed since Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This half-year mark came on August 24th, the same day as Ukraine's Independence Day, celebrating its 31st year since separating from the Soviet Union. Despite rising tensions amid this raging war, thousands of Ukrainians came to the streets of Kyiv with marks of Ukrainian pride. These celebrations continued across Europe, as many gathered and pledged unwavering support for Ukraine, whilst waving the country's national flag.

As Ukraine continues its fight for freedom and independence, we must do all we can to aid and encourage the country and its people.

The Heal Ukraine Group is a coalition of Boston-based healthcare professionals working to provide critically needed medical supplies, lifesaving intervention, and education directly and accountably to the frontlines, where rubble is dismantled and the search and treatment of survivors continues.

In collaboration with the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization GMKA (www.gmka.org), critically needed medical supplies and equipment are procured and delivered by surgeons on the frontlines directly to our Ukrainian colleagues. To date, the Heal Ukraine Group (HUG) (www.HealUkraineGroup.org) has supplied specialized surgical headlights, surgical instruments, electrosurgical units, and wound treatment materials, such as vacuum-assisted closure devices, to multiple hospitals across Ukraine. In addition, HUG has also worked with its supporters in Boston and with the Lake Country Medical Aid to Ukraine (www.lakecountryaid.org), a non-profit organization in Georgia, to raise significant funds to support these efforts.

Our work, detailed below could not have been completed without the full and generous support of philanthropy.

We must support Ukraine as it continues to face this growing humanitarian crisis.

Individual stories highlighting the accomplishments of the HUG team may be found below. The faces of Ukrainian patients and healthcare workers are blurred to protect their identities at this time of war.

First Responder Medical kits and Training

Recent achievements of the HUG team have been supported through donations of the Georgia Fundraiser, facilitated by Lake Country Aid. From this generous contribution, many requests from our Ukrainian colleagues have been fulfilled, with supplies reaching final destinations over the course of the past month. One specific effort to highlight is the distribution of first aid kits to four locations in Ukraine, and further followed training in the use of these medical supplies to Ukrainian paramedics and first responders. These medical kits include a number of variable trauma supplies- chest seals, tourniquets, and hemostatic dressings in a range of sizes, to best provide emergency care to patients. As Ukraine continues to face the mounting violence of the war and traumatic injuries increase, the education of trauma care and supply of trauma equipment is necessary to improve emergency response and treatment of the Ukrainian people.





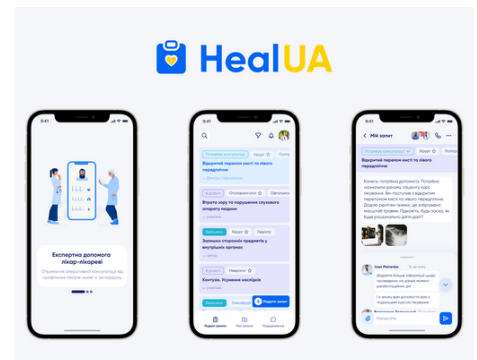
Coordinating the Delivery of Supplies to Ukraine

Despite the fatigue from the seven hour flight to London, Dr. Nataliia Serbyn remained focused with concern for the three gray duffle bags traveling with her to her final destination in Vienna. As she landed in Vienna, her worry soon subsided with the sight of these duffle bags, labeled with “Aid for Ukraine” stickers, at the baggage claim. Carrying these 45 lb bags, Dr. Serbyn met with Mykhailo, her high school friend, who would take the bags to their final destinations in Ukraine and coordinate distribution inside the country with fellow volunteers. These circumstances are not uncommon as several HUG group members, including Drs. Nelya and Serguei Melnitchouk, have recently traveled to Central or Eastern Europe- Poland, Austria, and Germany, to meet with registered volunteers, able to cross the border, and help in completing delivery of supplies to the correct locations in Ukraine. There are many challenges throughout the progress of delivery; flight delays, hour wait times at the Ukrainian border, and the looming uncertainty of safety whilst traveling in Ukraine. But volunteers are incredibly dedicated to their responsibilities, understanding that the timely and efficient delivery of needed supplies means another life saved. The latest delivery of supplies were collected and purchased with the efforts of HUG, GMKA, Health Tech without Borders (HTWB), and Lake Country Aid. Surgical supplies including clip appliers, magnifying loupes, portable laryngoscopes and ultrasounds, and first aid kits, were delivered to Kharkiv Oblast, Dnipro, Donets'ka Oblast, Kherson'ska/Mykolaivs'ka Oblast, and hospitals in Kyiv and Lviv. Arrival of supplies to final destinations are confirmed with photos and videos from thankful medical providers continuing their fight on the frontlines. These efforts would not be possible without the amazing work of volunteers, the personal travels of HUG members, and the charitable donations from our donors.



HealUA: Connecting Ukraine to their colleagues abroad

The war in Ukraine has placed Ukrainian physicians into unfamiliar situations, forced to face cases outside their medical training. In these unaccustomed circumstances, physicians are unable to provide quality care to patients. Now, through a collaboration between the international organization Global Medical Knowledge Alliance (GMKA) and Ukrainian startup studio Empat, **HealUA** is connecting Ukrainian physicians to their colleagues abroad. The mobile application posts the requests and questions of Ukrainian doctors in either Ukrainian or English, and practicing experts of leading institutions across the world can filter these queries in real time, and respond with their advice. GMKA is pursuing further efforts for in-app translation of these posts, so any physician may help in resolving requests. With this new platform, physicians on the frontlines are able to consult peer-to-peer with specialists on diagnoses and enhance decision-making for patients.





Delivery of Surgical Supplies to Dnipro

Over the past month, the HUG team continued to provide needed medical supplies and equipment to our Ukrainian colleagues. Recent responses, through Drs. Yana Pikman and Nataliia Serbyn of HUG, include the delivery of requested surgical loupes to Dnipro Regional Pediatric Hospital. Currently, the region has become a referral center for injured people from both the East and South regions of Ukraine, and is supporting about 300,000 refugees. The hospital has greatly expanded the number of patients, a majority pediatric, it is seeing, with many of them being victims of war. They are performing the highest number of reconstructive surgery than ever before. The medical director of the hospital expressed his gratitude for the surgical loupes, “Хирургические лупы, которые вы подарили нашей клинике, это то, о чем давно мечтали наши хирурги! Уже сегодня, благодаря Вам, используя эти бинокляры, наши хирурги прооперировали новорожденного ребенка... Еще раз огромная благодарность за вашу помощь! Если у Вас будет такая возможность, то нам нужны еще такие бинокляры.”

(translated quote)- “The surgical loupes that you presented to our clinic are what our surgeons have long dreamed of! Already today, thanks to you, using these binoculars, our surgeons have operated on a newborn child... Once again, many thanks for your help! If you have such an opportunity, then we need more such loupes.”



We are grateful for the many contributions donated through the Pavlo Gintov and Lake Country Aid Concert fundraisers.

Newsletter designed, written and compiled by Yasmina Berkat in collaboration with Drs. Poznansky, Melnitchouk, Pikman and Serbyn.

Support the People of Ukraine

Every donation, no matter what size, will help doctors in Ukraine treat their patients and save lives.

[**Donate**](#)

Thank you for considering a donation.

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