

Fourth National Christian Medical Conference for Young Medical Professionals

For more than four years, students and recent graduates of the medical professions have been meeting in association with the Christian Medical Association of Ukraine during national conferences held twice a year to bring a Christian perspective to the field of medicine. In addition there has been development of fellowships in most of the medical institutes attracting all who are studying medical professions. In the fellowships both academic and spiritual issues related to medicine are discussed. In addition they reach out to people in areas where there is limited access to medical care.



Between April 30th and May 2nd was held the Fourth National Christian Medical Conference for young medical professionals and students in picturesque Vinnitsa, Ukraine. The theme of the conference was "Global Issues of Medicine in the 21st Century and Role of the Church."

The conference was blessed with speakers from five countries representing different parts of the globe including those from Ukraine. From England associated with PRIME (Partners in International Medical

Education) came Emma Hayward-family physician and member of the Royal College of General Practice, Simon Ramsbotham, PhD. -- family physician and member of the Royal College of General Practice and Aaron Poppleton, who holds a bachelor's degree in pharmacology and physiology.

From Canada, long time supporters of this conference came Arthur and Marlis Friesen, both internists and members of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Marshall Brown - Doctor of Theological Sciences and former director of distance education at the Evangelical Seminary in Prague came from Czech Republic and Paul Nandreaan from Romania - regional representative of the World Medical Association in the Balkans. From the United States, but born in Pakistan came Sam Gill, who is a consultant in the field of health care administration and Jim Peipon – pediatrician, president of the Ukrainian Medical Outreach, Inc. and currently living in Ukraine.

The conference was attended by 250 students, young doctors and nurses. Presentations during the conference included many useful and interesting lectures, presentations and reports.

The event organized by Christian Medical Association of Ukraine in partnership with the Alliance of Christians Professionals of Ukraine and Christian information resources, UpGrade, Religious Information Service of Ukraine. Financial support for the event was contributed by the International Society "Friends of Mennonite Centre in Ukraine" and Ukraine Medical Outreach, Inc.



During the opening, the participants were welcomed by Pastor Anatoly Bonchuk of "House of the Gospel" who encouraged service of our medical profession to people and God. On the first day of the event, Arthur Friesen - invasive cardiologist, shared a lecture on "A Multilingual God in a Changing and Multicultural World." In his lecture "Why Christianity is so Important in the Fight Against Disease,"

Marshall Brown - theologian in Health Care International Christian Community discussed the role of the Trinity in the practice of medicine. Marshall Brown also called doctors to work in unity with the Father, to show the character of Christ, and in order that the fruit of the Spirit be evident in our actions to exalt and glorify God.



Before dinner on the first day, the youth joined in a heated discussion using the talk show format of "The Global Problem of the Third Millennium – Abortion." The question was asked, "What is the influence of the church and professional doctor?" Joining the debate were a gynecologist, medical experts from Poland, England, Canada and representatives of the Christian church.



The second day began with a report of the Chairman of the Alliance Christian Professionals Ukraine – Semikov Rostyslav, who spoke about the purpose and activities of this group. He encouraged Christian professionals to follow Jesus and serve people through their work in the medical, educational, informational, business fields.

An interesting report "Pharmacoeconomic Aspects of Breast Cancer" was presented by Mikhalchuk Vasily, Head of the TB dispensary in Rivne city.

After lunch, a series of master classes were held on various topics of medicine. Marlis Friesen, director of cardio-rehabilitation center, nephrologist, and associate professor of the University of British Columbia, conducted a workshop on "Rehabilitation of Patients with Angina." Professor Simon Ramsbotham illuminated the issue of how to motivate the patient to change. The Ukrainian oncologist, Orosy Pavel, discussed the "Diagnosis of Breast Cancer." These were just a few of the topics available to the participants to attend.



On the last day of the conference Jim Peipon, president of the Ukrainian Medical Outreach, spoke on the global issue of healthcare affordability in pediatric oncology. This was a timely topic considering the current economic crisis in the world. The problems of public health in Ukraine the risk factors and ways to overcome them, were addressed by Dr. Victor Biryukov, assistant professor of social medicine and medical management of Odessa National Medical University.





At the conference, we met a wonderful man Sam Gill. He was not only one of the sponsors but also shared how doctors from Ukraine could cooperate to improve the care of patients in Ukraine and also in his native Pakistan.

At the closing session Chairman of the Union of Christian doctors Transcarpathia – Dr. Orosy Pavel, presented final words of encouragement to participants. During the closing ceremony, expressions of thanks to the organizers of the conference and faculty were presented.

After the grand banquet for those who remained additional master classes were offered the master classes on several interesting topics, "Medical and Ethical Aspects of the Origin of Life and Family Planning, Assisted reproductive technology ," "Professional Growth in Medicine, using Research Materials, " " Depression, what is the danger?" and many others.

In addition to the spiritual and educational program the youth also talked, found new friends, and were able to visit the fountain show with lasers and music in the city center. Event organizers hope that multilateral international sharing of information, open communication with speakers, meeting new people will promote personal and spiritual development and professional growth of each participant, which in future will help in solving problems not only in health but also in other areas of our society.

We thank all the sponsors for their financial assistance in organizing the conference. May God bless you in a special way.

Special thanks to our PRIME friends, as our partners in organization of lectures.\

Sincerely yours,
the Organizing Committee of Ukraine CMA