

UKRAINIAN PHYSICIANS ON THE WAY TO SELF-GOVERNMENT



Professional self-governance of the medical professions is of great importance to the successful modernization of national health care in Ukraine. Unfortunately, the need for medical self-government has not yet become a priority for most physicians. A lack of clear concepts and unreasonable fears are typical for professional medical associations. Therefore, the Ukrainian Medical Association (hereafter UMA) remains the main promoter of this issue. The UMA has initiated several draft laws on medical self-government in Ukraine (VKarpuk, 2008, R. Ilyk, 2014). In the course of early elections to the Verkhovna Rada (2014), most political forces supported the introduction of medical self-government in Ukraine. After the election of the new Verkhovna Rada, this was recorded in the coalition agreement in the declarations of the President and the Government. On 1 July 2015, UMA organized thematic committee hearings on ways to introduce medical self-government in Ukraine. The UMA Board invited foreign speakers to this event, including Otmar Kloiber, Secretary General of the World

Medical Association, Maciej Gamankiyevich, President of the Polish Medical Chamber.

In September 2015, the Ukrainian Medical Assembly held in Odessa supported the initiative of UMA to unite the main public organisations of doctors through the creation of a civil platform for the introduction of medical self-government. On 23 November 2015 the National Medical Council of Ukraine (NMCU) was founded, which includes more than 40 national-level medical organisations. During 2016-2017, several thematic meetings of the Council were held, with the participation of deputies of Verkhovna Rada, Olga Bohomolets and Oleg Musii.

Unfortunately, the differences in the perceptions of what Ukrainian medical self-government should look like could not be fully overcome. At the heart of these differences is that in most countries of the world dentists are a separate profession, and accordingly they have their own self-government. In post-Soviet countries dentists are physicians. For doctors of dentistry there are two questions: whether they have the right to self-government, and if they have one, is it expedient to implement it. Or is it better to be included in the general medical self-governing organization?

Another issue is a certain amount of confrontation between general practitioners and specialist doctors, which is not unique. The specificity of Ukraine is that general practice is a young medical specialty that still needs to be established in the general health system and seeks to ensure its rights in the medical association are securely protected.

Unfortunately, these important needs have not been sufficiently taken into account in the draft law 5617 (O. Musiy), which is based on the model of a self-governing organization traditional for European countries. Indeed, the pendulum swung to the other side and in the bill 5617-1 (O. Bogomolets), a completely different, unprecedented construction was proposed: an umbrella organization for three separate self-governing medical chambers (specialist doctors, dental doctors and general practitioners practising family medicine), a confederation of three separate self-governing organizations.

In search of a compromise alternative, the Board of UMA decided to set up a special expert group and involve experts from Germany and Poland in it. Thus, a project on international expert support for the introduction of medical self-government in Ukraine was launched.

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Ukrainian Medical Association

The main task of the project at the initial stage was the expertise of the aforementioned bills. The first working session of the international expert group was devoted to this goal. It took place on 1-2 June 2017 in the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine (with the participation of experts from Germany, Poland and Ukraine).

For the comparison of the aforementioned bills, the Polish Law on Medical Chambers (Ustawa ob izbach Lekarskich) (1989) was used. Subject to separate consideration were the questions of the structure and organization of medical self-government, because, in this part fundamental differences were found.

As the result of this work, a consolidated version of the draft law appeared. This edition was considered and approved by the XVII Congress of the UMA (29 September 2017, Kamyanets-Podilskyi), after which it became the subject of consideration at two meetings of NMCU.

In February 2018, following the final agreement of the position, NMCU appealed to deputies of Verhovna Rada with a proposal to submit a consolidated version of the bill. On 6 April 2018, this edition was registered by a group of deputies (No. 8250). Therefore, the main task now is to ensure that this bill is considered by the Verkhovna Rada and becomes a valid law in Ukraine.

In this situation, it is extremely important for Ukrainian doctors that our European colleagues further support us in promotion and implementation of medical self-government in Ukraine. In the interests of our potency, our future, and the wellbeing of our patients we must preserve our diversity and be united at the same time.

MD Oleg Musii, UMA President, MP

MD Mykola Tyshchuk, UMA board chairman

Prof. Irina Mazur, President of Ukrainian Dentists Association

MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MWIA) –

A GLOBAL NETWORK OF MEDICAL WOMEN



MWIA recently became an associated organization of CPME at the last General Assembly in Brussels. We are pleased to have the opportunity to introduce MWIA in this newsletter!

MWIA is an association of medical women doctors and students from six continents. Founded in 1919, MWIA is one of the oldest professional international bodies. It is non-sectarian and non-profit making and serves as an international non-governmental organization (NGO). The current president is Prof. Dr. Dr. Bettina Pfeleiderer from Germany (2016-2019). The theme of this triennium is "Medical women - ambassadors of change!"

- **MWIA has an important global political voice and influence on issues of interest to medical women** e.g. work-life balance, maternity leave, career progression, fighting discrimination and mentoring of young medical doctors and students. We campaign and stand up for women's rights.