

# Information about the Institute of Family Medicine in Ukraine

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The article presents the history of establishment, results of activity and role of the Institute of Family Medicine at Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education in the development and implementation of family medicine in Ukraine.

*Key words.* Institute of Family Medicine, primary care, Ukraine.

Institute of Family Medicine was established in 2009 as a part of Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (NMAPE) by reorganizing the faculty «General practice – family medicine». By the order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine from 07.06.2010 № 466 the Institute of Family Medicine was entrusted with the following functions:

- organization and implementation of qualitative and effective system of vocational training in «General practice – family medicine»;
- coordination of researches in family medicine;
- scientific and methodological support of implementation of family medicine in primary health care in Ukraine and formation of the strategic direction of its development.

The first director of the Institute was Prof. Lysenko G (02.07.1947–09.10.2013) who is considered today the founder of family medicine in Ukraine and created one of the strongest academic schools of family medicine in Ukraine. Thanks to efforts of Prof. Lysenko G in 1996 the first department of family medicine at Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education was established and headed by him, the Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine was founded in 1997, which became a member of the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (WONCA) in 1999 and joined the European region territorially. Prof. Lysenko G was elected the first president of Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine and since that time the major historical events of family medicine have taken place for his assistance.

The first professional scientific journal «Family Medicine» was created in Ukraine in 1999, he became its editor; the first

faculty «General practice – family medicine» in Ukraine was created in 2005 at Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, he was elected its dean. In 2009 the faculty was reorganized into the Institute of Family Medicine. The academic and scientific specialty «General practice – family medicine» was approved with the assistance of Prof. Lysenko G. in Ukraine in 2010, and the first specialized academic council for protection of scientific thesis, defence of PhD dissertations in field of general practice – family medicine was created and open, Prof. Lysenko G was appointed to be its chairman, the first dissertation in field of family medicine was defended by his supervision. The name and scientific achievements of Prof. Lysenko GI are well known and appreciated in Ukraine and abroad.

Since 2014 Prof. Shekera O. was elected as the director of the institute. The ruling body of the Institute of Family Medicine is its own Academic Council, which have meetings every month.

The Institute of Family Medicine consists of: the scientific organizational department (which includes three sectors: teaching, research and analytical); 13 departments, 8 of which are strongholds of postgraduate education in their direction. It employs the teaching staff of 114 teachers: 1 academician, 32 professors, 35 doctors of science, 68 PhDs, 46 associate professors.

The Institute conducts postgraduate training in the specialty «General practice – family medicine». There are several kinds of training – internship, master's degree, residency, postgraduate courses of specialization, postgraduate research certification, continuing education and courses of thematic improvement. The departments constantly update the curriculum according to the international standards and recommendations of Wonca to improve the quality of education.

Since 1995 to date there are several ways to prepare family physicians in Ukraine: 2-year internship curriculum which provides 50% of full-time and 50% of distance learning; 6-month courses of respecialization (including part-time or continuous); 1-month courses of improvement qualification, courses of the-



**Academic Council Meeting of Institute of Family Medicine (on the picture: the head – prof Shekera O, the vice head – ass. prof. Tkachenko V and the secretary – Busygina O)**



matic improvement. Thematic improvement courses in various aspects of family medicine are held to ensure the continuous training of family doctors. Their topics cover the full range of disciplines needed for the practical work of the family doctor, and constantly expand. The advanced training with the elements of distance learning and modern computer technology (more than 20 topics) is implemented. In addition, the departments of the institute provides the training of specialists in other fields, more than 2,600 postgraduate students and qualified doctors in 16 specialties are trained during the whole year, including foreigners. The different educational techniques are used during education such as lectures, workshops, work in small groups, brain storm, case-oriented or problem-oriented education.

The main problem of training of family doctors in the stage of health care reformation today is the need to provide enough quantity of family doctors to cover affordable primary health care for Ukrainian population (46 million) for a fairly short time since 2011 to 2020. There are about 14 thousands of working general practitioners in Ukraine according to the statistic data up to date, the target is about 30 thousands of working general practitioners. This is the reason why the Ministry of Health directed the retraining of district therapists and pediatricians at short courses of respecialisation, but the quality of education and practical skills are insufficient. The improvement of the quality of education in the stage of low funding and economical crisis is possible by further training of certified specialists during the advanced training courses, thematical courses of postgraduate continuing education and the use of new educational technologies and forms, distance learning.

In order to improve the quality of training of family doctors the Institute of Family Medicine has 61 clinical sites, including 33 – inpatient clinics, 10 clinics, 3 specialized family medicine centers, 12 centers of general practice and family medicine. Their employees consult annually over 80 thousand patients and provide more than 1.5 thousand surgeries. The interdepartmental educational and training center of the institute helps to improve the family doctors' practical skills. The center is equipped with the instruments, tools and mannequins for practicing skills.

The institute conducts also special training for trainers in working place stage. A handbook for trainers in family medicine was issued in 2014. Institute of Family Medicine keeps publishing and updates manuals and textbooks for family doctors. In 2010–2015 the textbook «Standards of practical skills for general practitioners» edited by Professor V. Voronenko and Professor G. Lysenko, 8 textbooks, 14 manuals 7 monographs, handbooks, brochures were issued. Since 2014 the series of guidebooks in Family Medicine, edited by Professor V. Voronenko, Professor O. Shekera, have begun publishing.

The exclusive project of distance continuing education in journals is conducted every month. The scientific workshops on topical issues of family medicine and teleconference are held to improve the results of reformation of primary health care based on family medicine.

Since 2010 when new scientific and research specialty «General practice – family medicine» and PhD course was opened, an expert problematic professional commission in «General practice – family medicine» started to work to consider the research plan-



The interdepartmental educational and training centre of Institute of Family Medicine

ning, the approval of final and interim reports of research, planning and completion of theses. Departments of Family Medicine began to conduct researches in various issues of family medicine, including the study of risk factors and developing prevention programs of most common diseases in general practice. Up to



The most popular journals of Institute of Family Medicine



### International activity of Institute of Family Medicine – WONCA meetings and conferences

date more than 15 PhD thesis in «General practice – family medicine» and 2 thesis for the highest scientific degree in Ukraine – Doctor of medical science in «General practice – family medicine» (Tkachenko V, Matuha L) have been defended.

The Institute is editor of 17 scientific journals, among them are: «Ukrainian Medical Journal», «Emergency medicine» «Family Medicine», «Surgery of Ukraine», «Collected Works of employees of NMAPE» «Modern Pediatrics», «Diabetes, obesity, metabolic syndrome», «Public health», «Eastern European Neurology journal» and others, that promotes rapid publication of scientific articles of postgraduate students and employees of departments of the Institute.

In addition, the Institute started the publication of informational and analytical bulletin «Family Medicine» since 2013, The publication highlights collected as a result of information of department of family medicine issues, including the following sections: review of legislation documents in the field of imple-

### Информация об Институте семейной медицины в Украине

**В.И. Ткаченко, О.Г. Шекера**

В статье представлены данные о создании, объемах деятельности и роли Института семейной медицины Национальной медицинской академии последипломного образования имени П.Л. Шупика в развитии и внедрении семейной медицины в Украине.

**Ключевые слова:** *Институт семейной медицины, первичная помощь, Украина.*

mentation family medicine in primary health care; background information about departments of «General practice – family medicine», which conduct the undergraduate and postgraduate educational courses; information about researches, teaching and publishing in family medicine and primary care; publications on topical issues in Ukrainian and international media; scheduled conferences in family medicine and primary care in Ukraine and abroad; international cooperation in primary care and family medicine.

The staff of the Institution of Family Medicine was involved in improving the legislative documents of Ukraine towards family medicine and training regulations, national guidelines and protocols. There are about 100 national protocols in management of common diseases and syndromes in primary care are developed and approved.

After the announcement on 19th May as World Day of Family doctor by World WONCA in 2010, the proposal to establish professional holiday «Day of Family Medicine» in Ukraine was sent to government for celebration each year at 19th May. The celebration of this day in Ukraine was initiated and started by the institute since 2015.

The Institute conducted the cooperation with the Royal Scottish College of Family Medicine (2008–2010), the Institute of Nivelles (Netherlands, 2008–2010). The Institute of Family Medicine with the Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine is actively involved in international partnerships for development and implementation of family medicine. The representatives of Wonca Council, Europe Council of Vasco da Gama Movement, Euract, Equip, Council of Ukrainian Association of Family Medicine and Ukrainian youth movement of family doctors are employers of the institute (Shekera O, Tkachenko V, Khimion L, Matuha L, Sadovnik I). Every year our colleagues take participation in international conferences, meetings, courses.

The reformation of Health System of Ukraine on the principles of family medicine for 25 years, more active especially in the last 3–5 years, showed some positive results, but at the same time determined the existence of quality problems in medical education and training. The activity conducted by the Institute of Family Medicine of Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education takes great role in quality improvement of general practice and primary care in Ukraine. The expansion of international contacts and collaboration with foreign partners will strengthen the implementation of the best practices and experience.

### Інформація про Інститут сімейної медицини в Україні

**В.І. Ткаченко, О.Г. Шекера**

У статті наведені дані щодо створення, обсягів діяльності і ролі Інституту сімейної медицини Національної медичної академії післядипломної освіти імені П.Л. Шупика у розвитку та впровадженні сімейної медицини в Україні.

**Ключові слова:** *Інститут сімейної медицини, первинна допомога, Україна.*

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