

GRM



**GLOBAL
RESPONSE
MEDICINE**

MAY/JUNE 2024

BRIDGING BORDERS OF CARE

2-Week Immersions at
Temple Burn Center &
Harborview Medical Center



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

SUMMARY

In 2023, Global Response Medicine (GRM) partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the EU Foreign Policy Initiative to launch a 12-month fellowship in emergency medicine, trauma surgery, and burn care for Ukrainian physicians providing acute care during the war. Supported by US clinicians who provided bedside training in Ukraine, the program culminated in a two-week immersion at leading US hospitals.

In May and June 2024, the burn care fellowship was divided into two rotations. The first group, comprising three doctors and two nurses from the Kyiv and Lviv Burn Centers, trained for two weeks at Temple University Hospital's Burn Center in Philadelphia under the mentorship of Dr. Lisa Rae. The second group, consisting of four doctors from the same centers, spent two weeks at Harborview Medical Center's Burn Department at Washington University in Seattle under the mentorship of Dr. Barclay T. Stewart.

Both groups immersed themselves in daily hospital activities at their respective burn centers and other departments, including Operating Rooms, the Emergency Department (ED), and the Trauma Bay. They observed various procedures and processes, and each day concluded with debriefs involving hospital staff and Dr. Taras Kushnir, the team lead present in both Philadelphia and Seattle.

The fellowship aimed to establish cooperation between major burn centers in Ukraine and the US, providing examples of best practices. The opportunity to discuss activities with leading US burn surgeons empowered Ukrainian colleagues to enhance the efficacy and effectiveness of their practices in their home facilities, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes and improved treatment capacity during the ongoing war.



PROGRAM DETAILS

Following a year of support for the burn centers in Kyiv, Lviv, and Dnipro, which included American specialists providing local training and discussions with hospital leadership in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, nine key stakeholders were selected for a two-week observation fellowship in burn care at Temple Burn Center and Harborview Medical Center in May-June 2024. The participants included surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and administrative staff directly involved in treating burn patients.

During the program, participants observed and discussed best practices, critical care protocols, and complex cases with leaders in burn care from the US. The fellows aimed to adapt these learnings to enhance practices within their respective hospital departments.

“Our group had the possibility not only to get acquainted with the US healthcare system but also to get involved in all treatment and clinical activities at Temple Burn Center. Special gratitude to the staff and supervisors who stayed with us, supported and motivated us through the rotation, and answered all our never-ending questions!
Dr. Anton Kovalenko”



During their time at Temple Burn Center, the fellows engaged in a structured learning experience mirroring US residency programs. They gained insights into holistic treatment strategies that integrate physical and mental health support, identifying key areas for enhancing Ukraine's burn care: evidence-based practices, technological innovations, and collaborative team dynamics. This experience provided practical models for improving patient care, staff development, and operational efficiency.

In the two-week period, the fellows observed the following activities and hospital practices, as organized by department:

Burn Center

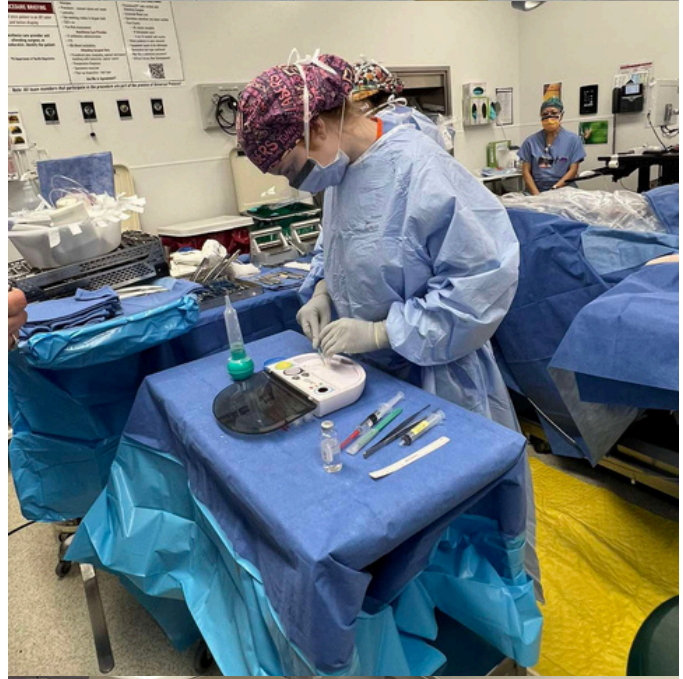
- Mental health support
- Quality control
- Wound care techniques

ED and Trauma Bay

- Delegation to junior doctors and students
- Evidence-based decision-making
- Supportive mentoring

Operating Rooms

- Advanced technologies (Re-cell and BTM)
- Laser technology for cosmetic restoration
- Team approach



At Harborview Medical Center, the fellows were impressed by innovative treatments, quality control measures, and resource management strategies. Their experience included visiting Samaritan Hospital, a rural hospital in Moses Lake, where they observed effective triage and transfer protocols. These insights provided practical knowledge for optimizing burn care across Ukraine's tiered medical system, from front-line stabilization points to specialized urban centers.

In the two-week period, the fellows observed the following activities and hospital practices, as organized by department:

Burn Center

- Frostbite treatment with thrombolysis
- Non-opioid pain management
- Quality control measures

ED and Trauma Bay

- Trauma stabilization procedures
- Multidisciplinary critical care management
- Rapid assessment protocols

Operating Rooms

- Advanced debridement techniques
- Early excision procedures
- Surgical hypothermia prevention

Rural Healthcare

- Adaptation of urban protocols
- Effective patient transfer strategies
- Resource optimization practices





We saw an efficient and accurate system of cooperation between medical facilities of different levels. An outstanding logistics system is organized under the leadership of Harborview Medical Center. I will advocate for introducing such an approach in Ukraine because it will significantly improve the speed and quality of medical care for each of our patients.

Dr. Vasyl Trunkvalter



CONCLUSION

By the end of the two-week immersion, the fellows were inspired to advocate for systemic changes, leveraging their newfound knowledge to enhance Ukraine's burn care capabilities and save more lives amidst ongoing conflict. Their experiences have ignited a commitment to integrating best practices, fostering collaboration, and streamlining care processes, aiming to improve patient outcomes and healthcare resilience across Ukraine's healthcare system.

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Their entire approach to treating burn patients has now changed, and they are determined to implement an evidence-based and efficient system in their own medical facility.

Dr. Taras Kushnir

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KEY OUTCOMES

Collaborative care models

Early nutrition protocols

Improve patient transfers

Innovative debridement

Mental health support

Mentorship

Establish electronic data systems and regular EMM conferences



We witnessed a highly qualified medical care system for severe burn patients from the inside. Now, we are able to adopt effective approaches to teamwork, triage, transportation, hospitalization, resuscitation, surgical treatment, rehabilitation, and patient support in our hospitals.

Dr. Ivanna Shchyhel

