

Three Years of War in Ukraine and Still: Innovative Solutions, International Cooperation, Perspectives and Challenges - The Ophthalmic Hub 2024

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Figure A

The tireless determination of the Ukrainians to defend their freedom shines brighter than the darkness that war has brought to Ukraine. In this context, one can understand the determination of Prof. Oksana Vitovska, who with great success, and despite adverse circumstances, be it COVID or the Russian war of aggression, has held her “Ophthalmic Hub” congress every year since 2018.

The “Ophthalmic Hub” is an international scientific event. It brings together colleagues from all over the world to exchange experiences, discuss pressing issues and keep up-to-date in the latest advances in ophthalmology.

The history of the Ophthalmic Hub began back in 2018 and has evolved every year. In 2019, a joint symposium with international representatives of the ESCRS was held for the first time in Ukraine as part of the conference. Since its inception, the Ophthalmic Hub has developed into one of the most important ophthalmology events in Ukraine. In the first two years, the congress was held in a classic face-to-face format. With the onset of COVID, it converted into an online and later to a hybrid format.

Even with the start of the Russian war of aggression, the team, led by Prof. Vitovska, did not stop implementing and developing this educational program. Medical training is far too important, especially in times like these, which forge a completely different medical care. Despite ongoing bombings, the sixth edition of the Ophthalmic Hub took place in 2023. As a hybrid congress, it attracted a large national and international audience despite horrific conditions. This year’s hybrid congress (taking place on October 25 and 26, 2024 in Kyiv, Ukraine), promises to be another extraordinary event. The scientifically comprehensive program will once again be presented by renowned national and international speakers. The networking opportunities with colleagues and industry offer participants a unique, highly valuable training opportunity.

This year, too, the presentations will deal with ophthalmological topics in an interdisciplinary context. In addition to current ophthalmological topics, the conference program will also include lectures by experts from medical law, economics, neurology, neurosurgery, rheumatology and endocrinology.

The organizing committee, led by Prof. Vitovska, is staying true to their intention to offer participants something new at each congress. Based on a memorandum of cooperation, representatives of the MEOM Academy (Middle East Ophthalmology Meeting) will be guests this year. A very special new activity, the "EyeRing", is being organized for young doctors. It is an intellectual competition in which well-known scientists will ask questions which the young ophthalmologists must answer. The results will be included in a ranking and winners will be awarded.



Figure: Prof. Oksana Vitovska, National Medical University O.O. Bogomolec in Kyiv (Ukraine), Head of "Ukrainian Alliance of Ophthalmologists", Head of scientific conference "Ophthalmic Hub".

With its focus on scientific excellence and commitment to the advancement of ophthalmology, this congress is a must-have event for anyone interested in the latest developments and best practices in ophthalmology. The high-value level of the congress is confirmed by the fact that the "European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education" (EACCME) rewards participation with 15.5 points.

With this Ophthalmic Hub, which again takes place in most difficult times, Prof. Oksana Vitovska will once again make congress history in Kyiv. The courage and unshakable determination that characterizes the whole of Ukraine and Oksana Vitovska, should give us all strength and allow us to look forward to a peaceful Europe with confidence.

Registration and information about the hybrid congress: October 25/26, 2024, Kyiv (Ukraine), <https://www.ophthalmic-hub.com.ua/en>.

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