



Fellowship in Challenging Times: Proceed or Postpone?

Poster No.: C-21442

Congress: ECR24

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Disclosures:

Dr. Uliana Pidvalna: Nothing to disclose

Keywords: Professional issues, CT, Education, eLearning, Education and training

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Purpose or Learning Objective:

It remains unknown if there has ever been a period in human history free of challenges and hard times.

A Google search brings up about **6.78 billion** results for "war", showing how common it has been.

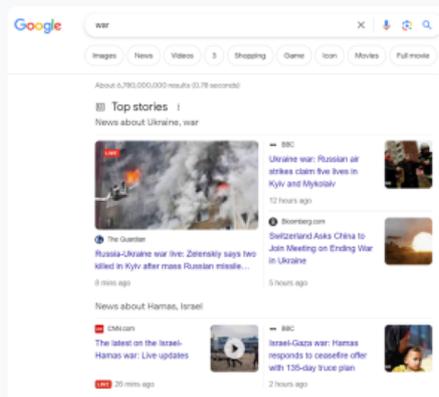


Fig 1: The term "war" yields approximately 6.78 billion search results on Google.

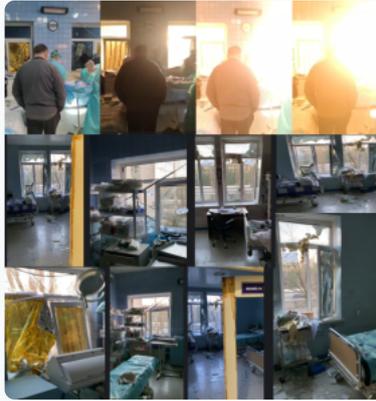


Fig 2: On-going war in Ukraine. Destroyed hospitals in the East of Ukraine, Winter 2023-2024. Data from colleagues, serving at the military hospitals.

Both academic sources and AI tools struggle to provide data confirming lasting peaceful periods in world history. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that humanity will likely **face challenges** in the **future**.

The purpose of this poster is to encourage radiologists worldwide to proceed with their academic activities based on my experience during the war.

Methods or Background:

Radiological societies offer a variety of **fellowship programs** that provide hands-on **experience** and **mentorship**, fostering expertise and collaboration within the field.

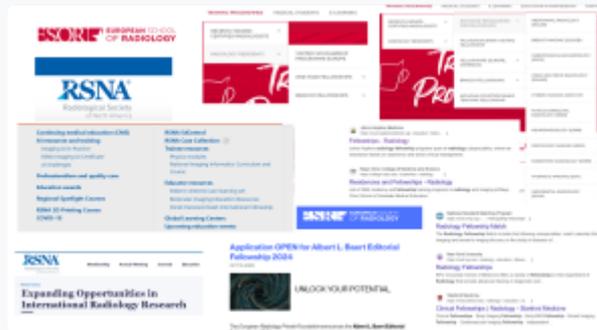


Fig 3: Radiological societies offer a range of fellowship programs designed to provide practical experience and mentorship, nurturing proficiency and collaboration.

However, in today's hectic world, there may appear to be numerous **obstacles** to undertaking fellowship programs.

My **story** focuses on how to conduct a **fellowship under rocket attacks**.

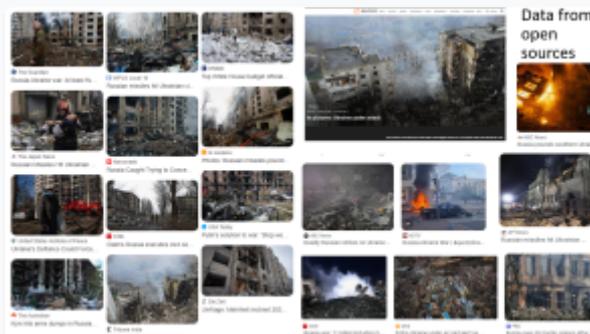


Fig 4: Ukraine is under rocket attacks. Data from open sources.

Results or Findings:

War disrupts the normal course of life. Nevertheless, it's possible **to learn** how to navigate these circumstances and keep making scientific progress.

During wartime, under a pressing need to address issues related to **solving critical problems**, it is crucial to hold the immense value of science.

In 2022, I had hoped for a year of scientific growth. I successfully applied to the **European Radiology Review Fellowship**, which provides the preservation of knowledge and a sense of belonging to the global scientific community.

Little did I know that instead of advancing my career, I would be **plunged into** a harrowing **battle for survival**, a fate shared by countless Ukrainians.

During the wartime in 2022-2023, I performed European Radiology Review Fellowship, 2022 by the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and Introduction to Research for International Young Academics (IRIYA), 2023 by the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA).

Amidst the chaos and challenges that surround us, I've encountered numerous obstacles in my academic career. However, from these trials, I've gleaned **valuable lessons** that I wish to share.

Here's a breakdown of the **obstacles** I've faced and the solutions I've **devised**:

1. Rocket Attacks: In the midst of uncertainty, I learned to print out manuscripts immediately upon accepting an invitation. You never know when a rocket might be launched, so having a hard copy prepared beforehand is crucial. Additionally, I found that the first few hours in the basement are the most productive, even if it means spending extended periods there.



Fig 5: Results of rockets attacks on the hospitals. East of Ukraine, 2023. Data from colleagues, serving at the military hospitals.

2. Blackouts: To overcome power outages, I began making notes on manuscripts and preparing a concise "roadmap" of my review to save my laptop battery. Power banks became my lifeline during blackouts, ensuring that I could continue working without interruption.

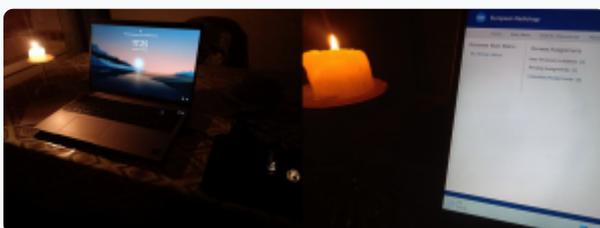


Fig 6: Performing review in the time of blackouts. Autumn, 2022.

- 3. Limited Internet Access:** In situations where Wi-Fi and mobile signals were weak, I prioritized downloading necessary materials as soon as possible. Procrastination in downloading led to delays in my work.
- 4. Email Communication:** Recognizing that people may be unaware of my situation, I adopted a policy of immediate response to emails, even if it meant sending a simple message rather than waiting to craft a more polished response.
- 5. Travel Challenges:** Travelling to conferences and events became challenging due to the lack of flights in Ukraine. Accepting the reality of long waits at border crossings and enduring uncomfortable conditions became a part of the journey.
- 6. Deadlines:** Understanding the constraints imposed by the aforementioned challenges, I learned the importance of submitting reviews and other materials well in advance of deadlines. This not only ensures timely completion but also upholds the professionalism of representing my country on an international platform.

What have I learned from these experiences?

As a member of various medical teams, including the EURA and ESR Teams, and as a participant in the IRIYA program, I've realized the significance of being a voice for my community amidst adversity. These roles have provided me with opportunities to contribute to the global medical community, advocate for truth, and continue my personal and professional growth.



Fig 7: European Radiology Review Fellowship Meetings.

Without proceeding with fellowships, it would be impossible to invite valuable speakers to the Ukrainian Radiological Congress in 2023.



Fig 8: The special session “European Radiology - Essential for writing and publishing in a top radiology journal” at the Ukrainian Radiological Congress in 2023, with Prof. Yves Menu, Dr. Rossano Girometti, Dr. Jose M. Garcia Santos, Dr. Osman Ocal, European Radiology Team.

Scientific research and fellowships are a beacon of **hope** during the war. They demonstrate that the human drive to explore and understand the world persists even in the darkest times.

This hope serves as a source of inspiration for future generations of radiologists.

Conclusion:

Conducting scientific work, in particular fellowships, during wartime is a testament to the indomitable **spirit of inquiry and discovery**.

References:

No

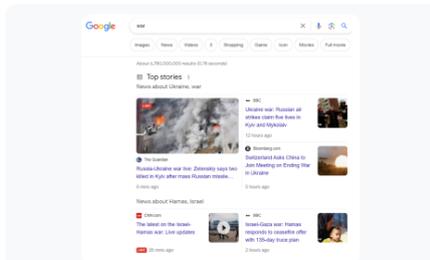


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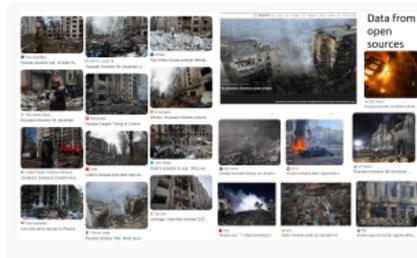


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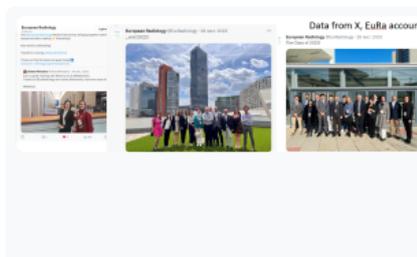


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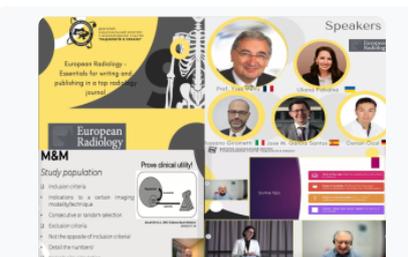


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