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Review

New conceptual ideas in the *Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Sciences* (dedicated to the 125th anniversary since its foundation)

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2023 marks the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Medical Commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's publication, whose successor today is the journal Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Sciences (*Medical Sciences*, ISSN [2708-8634](#); eISSN [2708-8642](#)). Dr Eugen Ozarkevych, the founder and later the Chair of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's Medical Commission in Lviv, initiated the publication of the scientific and practical journal "Medical Collection" («Лікарський збірник») in 1898. The journal's primary purpose was to promulgate scientific achievements in the field of medicine in Ukrainian and to create Ukrainian medical terminology. This format allowed the reader to review scientific achievements in fundamental and clinical medicine, current medical problems, and new methods to in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of various diseases. Ukrainian professional medical terminology was presented in this journal for the first time. Throughout its existence, this oldest medical journal, *Medical Sciences*, remains faithful to its historical multidisciplinary orientation. During the information and Russian war on the territory of Ukraine, *Medical Sciences* serves as a national heritage of Ukraine. It is recognized by international partners and indexed in scientometric bibliographic databases such as Scopus, Copernicus, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and Google Scholar. As an Open Access Journal, it is read in 155 countries of the world.

Keywords: Shevchenko Scientific Society, Medical Commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Medical Bulletin, Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Collection. Medicine and Biology. New Series, Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Sciences.

Introduction

February 2023 marked the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Medical Commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's journal *Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Sciences* (*Medical Sciences*, ISSN [2708–8634](#); eISSN [2708–8642](#)), as a continuation of the publications “Medical Collection/Medizinische Sammelnschrift” and “Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Collection. Medicine and Biology. New Series.” Today, *Medical Sciences* is one of Ukraine's most important scientific and practical journals on fundamental and clinical medical sciences (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Cover page of *Medical Sciences*, 2023: 1(71) with collage 125 years of innovation, ©Ivan Dzis dedicated to the 125th anniversary of *Medical Sciences*

“This book is the first collection of purely medical works written in the Russian-Ukrainian language... because we had good will and we put in a lot of work,” with these words, Dr Eugen Ozarkevych, the founder and editor, released the first issue of the first Ukrainian medical and scientific journal in Lviv.

The journal was founded to promulgate knowledge in various fields of medicine, create Ukrainian medical terminology, and unite scientists conducting fundamental and clinical research and doctors involved in clinical practice [1]. This format allowed readers to review current medical problems and new methods to prevent, diagnose and treat various diseases. The traditions of the publication's topics have been preserved for over a century. At a time when publishers are establishing thematic journals, *Medical Sciences* abides by its historic multidisciplinary course. We are sincerely happy to have an opportunity to present the historical milestones of the development of the leading national scientific medical media resource in Ukraine, a forum for the global medical community for 125 years. (Table 1).

Table 1

Editors-in-Chief of the *Medical Sciences* journal, including the number of publications according to the journal archive until December 2022

Editor-in-Chief	Years	Number of publications
Eugen Ozarkevych	1898–1902	36
Roman Osinchuk	1954–1955; 1957–1961	U/A
Yaroslav Vojevidka	1956–1957	U/A
Toma Lapychak	1962–1966	U/A
Pavlo Djul	1967–2003	U/A
Yaroslav Hanitkevych	1991–1998	43
Yurij Havryluk	1999	9
Iryna Datsenko	2000–2008	206
Anna Rudnytska	2009	68
Zinoviya Slujunska	2009–2012	294
Lesya Mateshuk-Vatseba	2013–2014	137
Oksana Zayachkivska	2015–2022	492 (*133 in 2018–2022)

U/A – unavailable; *indexed by Scopus. Accessed at <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21101050072> on April 12, 2023.

Recognition of our achievements by our international partners is confirmed by the *Medical Sciences* journal being indexed by the scientometric bibliographic databases of Copernicus, Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Google Scholar, and since 2021 – Scopus. When preparing for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the 125th anniversary of the Journal, the Editorial Board implemented the [#ourorigin \(#нашівитоки\)](#) project. For the first time, scientists and doctors worldwide were granted free web access to the history of medical science development and its scientific heritage – the gold fund, Ukraine’s national property [2]. *Medical Sciences* journal has been publicly accessible in 155 world countries [3].

Foundation

In 1892, Oleksandr Barvinskyi, Oleksandr Konyskyi, and Volodymyr Antonovych initiated the adoption of a new Charter, and the Shevchenko Society was reorganized into a scientific institution – the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Society was functioning in three sections: historical-philosophical, philological, and mathematical-natural-medical. In 1898, Dr Eugen Ozarkevych initiated the creation of the first organization of Ukrainian doctors-scientists within the Mathematical-Natural-Medical Section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society – the Medical Commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (MC SSS). The first meeting of the MC SSS was held on February 15, 1898, in the Shevchenko Scientific Society’s office. It was attended by doctors Eugen Ozarkevych, Shchasnyi Selskyi, Sofiia Morachevska, Vasyl Hukeyvych, and medical students Yaroslav Hrushkevych, Orest Dzerovych, Oleksandr Hrabovskyi, Tadei Hrynevych, and Hryts Harmatii. Shchasnyi Selskyi was elected the Chair, Eugen Ozarkevych – the mayor, and Yaroslav Hrushkevych – the Commission’s secretary. The Medical Commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, set up during the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was the first scientific organization of Ukrainian doctors representing free scientific thought on Ukrainian lands. 37-year-old Dr Eugen Ozarkevych (1861–1916), a graduate of the Medical Faculty of the University of Vienna (now Austria), then the MC SSS Chair, initiated the foundation of their own scientific journal. Eugen Ozarkevych is a doctor of “all medical sciences,” as specified in his diploma, a brilliant clinician, and a scientist with a wide range of interests [4]. The first volume of the *Medical*

Collection was published in Lviv in 1898 as a separate issue of the Compendium of the Mathematical-Natural-Medical Section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Its authors were Ivan Horbachevskyi, Eugen Ozarkevych, Osyp Dakura, Marian Dolynskyi, Shchasnyi Selskyi, Yevhen Kobrynskyi, and Mykhailo Kos. The foundation of the *Medical Collection* in Lviv was motivated by the lack of Ukrainian medical journals in general. The newly created journal (Fig. 2) was an important event in Lviv [5].

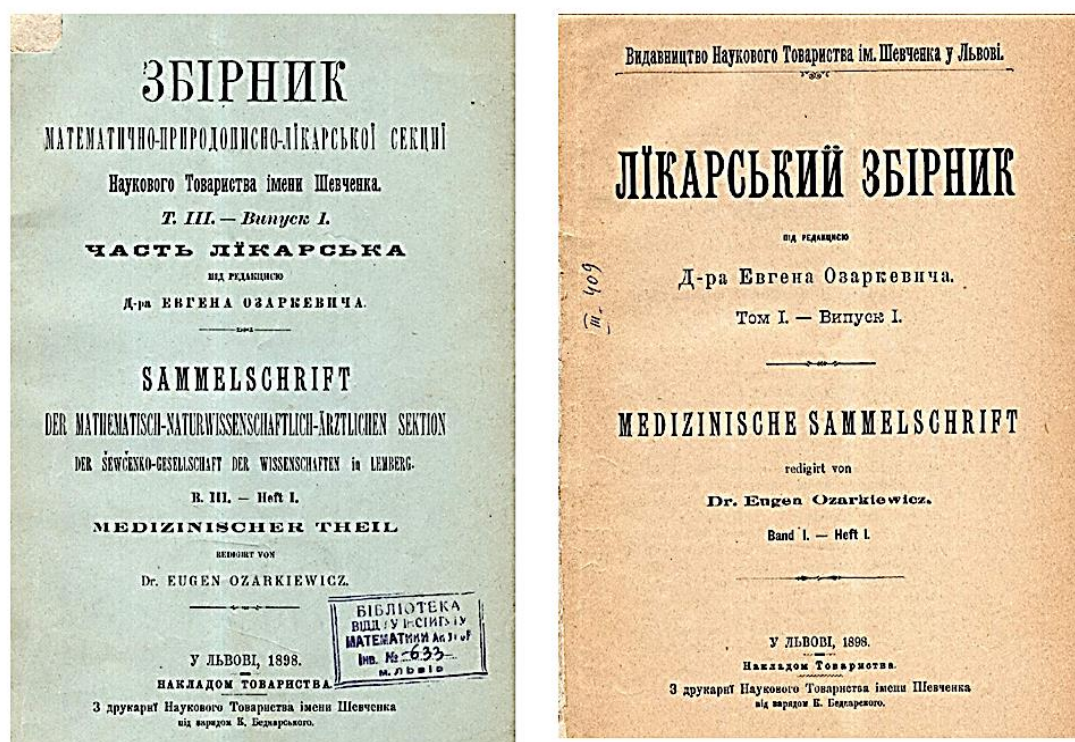


Figure 2. The first issue of the journal, as a separate issue of the Compendium of the Mathematical-Natural-Medical Section of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, dated 1898, was edited by Dr E. Ozarkevych and covered the following topics: the general method of extracting nucleic acid from organs (Professor Ivan Horbachevskyi, Prague); the effect of fever on the osmotic pressure of erythrocytes (Dr Sofiia Morachevska, Lviv); Robert Koch's experiments with new lymph (Tuberculin TR): immunization, serotherapy (Dr Osyp Dakura, Vienna); methods used during experiments with matter transformation (Dr Eugen Ozarkevych, Lviv); methods for treating prostate hypertrophy (Dr Teofil Hvozdettskyi). Additionally, works from Warsaw, Munich, Berlin and New York were published in it, and medical terminology was presented as a mini vocabulary (Dr Yakiv Nevestiuk)

Lviv was a special and important city for Eugen Ozarkevych, not least because it was where he spent half of his life. There, he completed his gymnasium (high school) education, enjoyed his early youth, and fulfilled his medical, scientific and organizational talent in adulthood. Contrary to the progressive well-developed European medicine and its highly organized European professional medical societies, Ukrainian medical literature and terminology were missing in Galicia, while the Ukrainian medical community was scattered. Therefore, creating a journal creation was a decisive step for gathering like-minded people and presenting scientific opinion and practical achievements of Ukrainian doctors and global scientists. Understanding the importance of continuous medical education, Dr E. Ozarkevych sought to unite the Ukrainian scientific and medical communities and create a resource for disseminating the latest medical knowledge and achievements of scientists and doctors among the Ukrainian and global scientific and medical community. The first Ukrainian scientific and practical journal has been contributing to shaping professional Ukrainian medical terminology since 1898 [1]. The journal published materials of research and observations of Ukrainian scientists and doctors, who shared the accomplishments of fundamental research and the experience from practical clinical activities.

Furthermore, for the first time, Dr Ozarkevych started publishing concise messages in Ukrainian about contemporary global medicine's latest attainments (Fig. 3). This meticulous joint work resulted in the first six journal issues appearing in 1898–1904.



Figure 3. Under the editorship of Dr Eugen Ozarkevych, journal founder, the second issue of the journal covered the following topics: Ueber Retroflexionsstreitfragen / Controversial Issues of Retroverted Uterus (Dr Shchasnyi Selskyi, Lviv), Untersuchungen über die Malaria / Experiments on Malarial Fever (Dr Eugen Ozarkevych, Lviv), Ueber die Bedeutung der postmortalen bakteriologischen Untersuchungen / On the Importance of Postmortem Bacteriological Experiments (Dr Ostap Dakura from Wilhelmina Hospital in Vienna-Ottakring) Ein Beitrag zur Uterusruptur / Causes of Uterus Rupture (Dr Adam Solovii, Lviv), Ueber die Behandlung des Uteruscarcinom mit Ext. chelidonii majoris / On the Treatment of Uterus Cancer Using Ext. Chelidonii Majoris (Dr. Marian Dolynskyi, Krakow). Scientific works on gonococcal infection, tuberculosis, paroxysmal hemoglobinuria, surgeries for back hump, use of formaldehyde in dentistry, and treatment of stomach ulcers were translated from German and published, with an extract of terms added in the end. Volume III. – Issue II of the *Medical Collection* was published in 1901

Despite being part of Austria-Hungary (pre WWI) or Poland (interwar years), Lviv, as Galicia's cultural and spiritual center, did not lose its Ukrainian identity; the best traditions of Ukrainian medical science were born and cherished here. The contemporary world medical community recognizes Dr Eugen Ozarkevych, a member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, as the founder of Ukrainian medical science and practical medicine, an excellent organizer, and a public and political figure in Galicia and across Ukraine. His medical and editorial talent was determined by the society of Bukovyna and Galicia, his upbringing in a highly educated Ukrainian family, education in Ukrainian Chernivtsi and Lviv grammar schools and at the Medical Faculty of the University of Vienna, clinical practice with Viennese professors, rules of academic ethics, and editorial independence. The newly created journal was being distributed in Galicia, the Dnieper region and even in the neighboring states where Ukrainian doctors worked. Dr Ozarkevych's editorial work was characterized by his ability to gather not only outstanding scientists or highly qualified doctors but also medical students and young doctors who continued his work in subsequent years. Dr Ozarkevych's editorial work presents an example of ascetic and sacrificial work for the sake of Ukrainian society in shaping the vision of Ukrainian science and medicine, which are the required attributes of any progressive world

community [6]. Regardless of historical circumstances, changes in the world's geopolitical map, wars, deportations, or emigration, Eugen Ozarkevych's students and like-minded people continued the journal's existence and development (Fig. 4, Tab. 1).

Timeline of *Medical Commission of Shevchenko Scientific Societies* journals since 1898

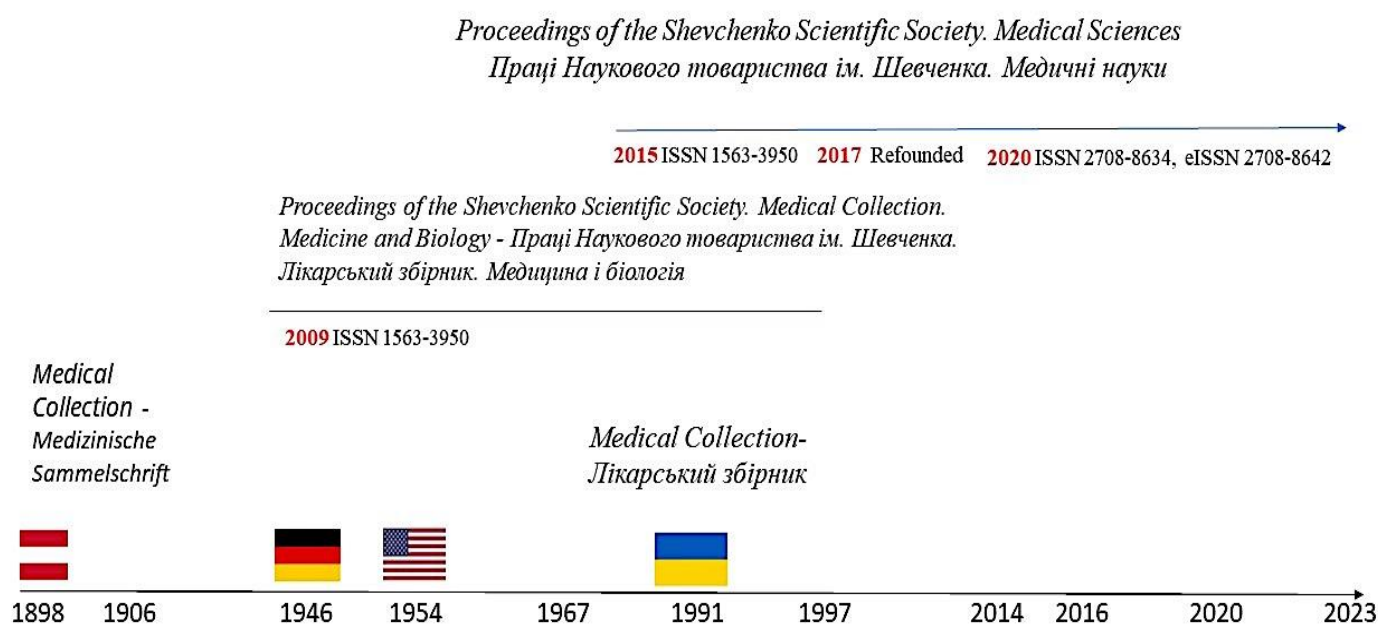


Figure 4. Historical stages of the development of the MC SSS's journal (ISSN [2708-8634](#); eISSN [2708-8642](#))

In 2018, the State Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine confirmed the high professional level of the publication and its importance for modern medical science (July 5, 2018), having registered it in the "B" category, and since 2022 (June 6, 2022) – in the "A" category of the list of scientific periodicals.

Relocation

The journal's activities were suspended in times of complicated historical circumstances and geopolitical changes after World War I, the interwar period, World War II and the post war years. Given these historical circumstances, MC SSS members practiced in secret. This group arranged a scientific and medical environment, which was later joined by leading figures of the Ukrainian community, who managed to continue the development of Ukrainian medical science in emigration and restored the journal's functioning in the format founded by Eugen Ozarkevych.

During the difficult post-war years after World War II, Professor Vasyl Pliushch (1902–1976), a graduate of Kyiv University [7], supported the initiative of Ukrainian doctors in Munich (Germany), including Roman Osinchuk (1902–1991), Yaroslav Vojevidka (1909–1981), former students and colleagues of Dr Ozarkevych, which concerned the revival of the scientific activities of Ukrainian doctors [8]. However, due to tragic geopolitical circumstances and the complexity of post-war life in the world, the publication of the *Proceedings of Shevchenko Scientific Society. Section Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Medicine* (New York, USA) resumed in the USA only in 1953 (Fig. 5), and *Medical Collection* publishing as *Medical Bulletin*. It became a scientific publication of the newly created public organization of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA).

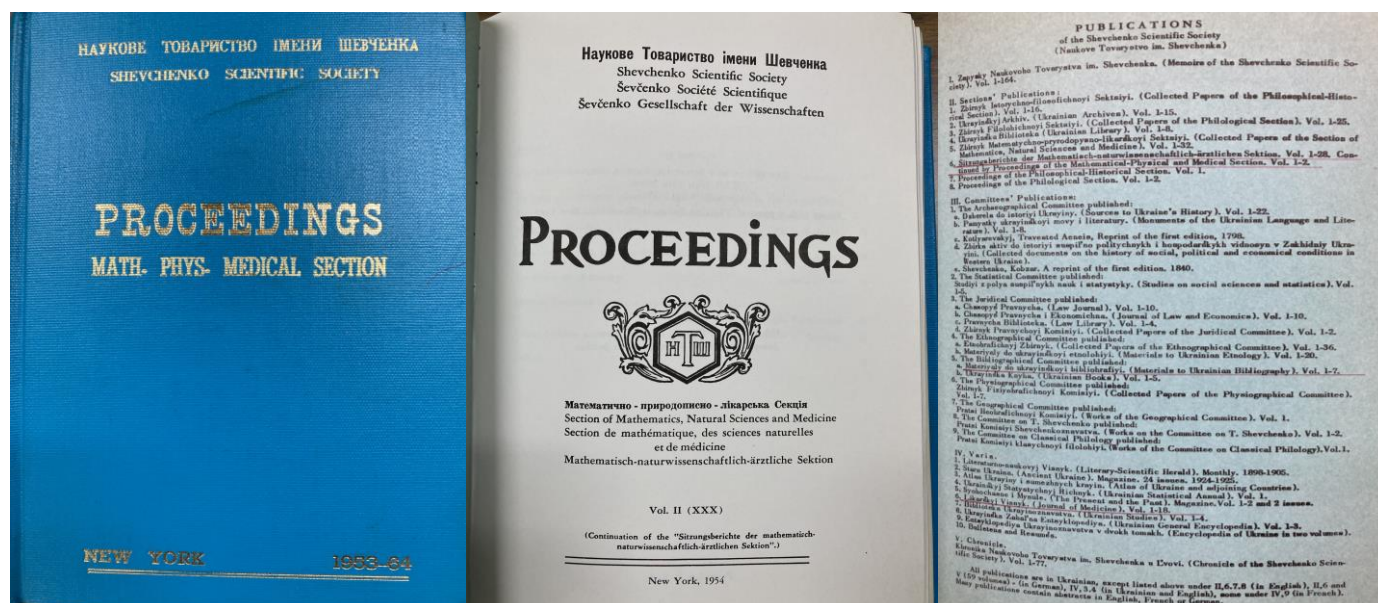


Figure 5. Cover pages of the *Proceedings of Shevchenko Scientific Society. Section Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Medicine (New York, USA)* from 1953-1964

The editorial board, consisting of newly-arrived Ukrainian emigrant doctors, continued the work of Eugen Ozarkevych's scientific and practical journal. In 1954–1955 and 1957–1961, 1966, annual issues were prepared under the editorship of Dr Roman Osinchuk, who studied medicine at the Secret Ukrainian University in Lviv and graduated from the Medical Faculty of Lviv University (Fig. 6).

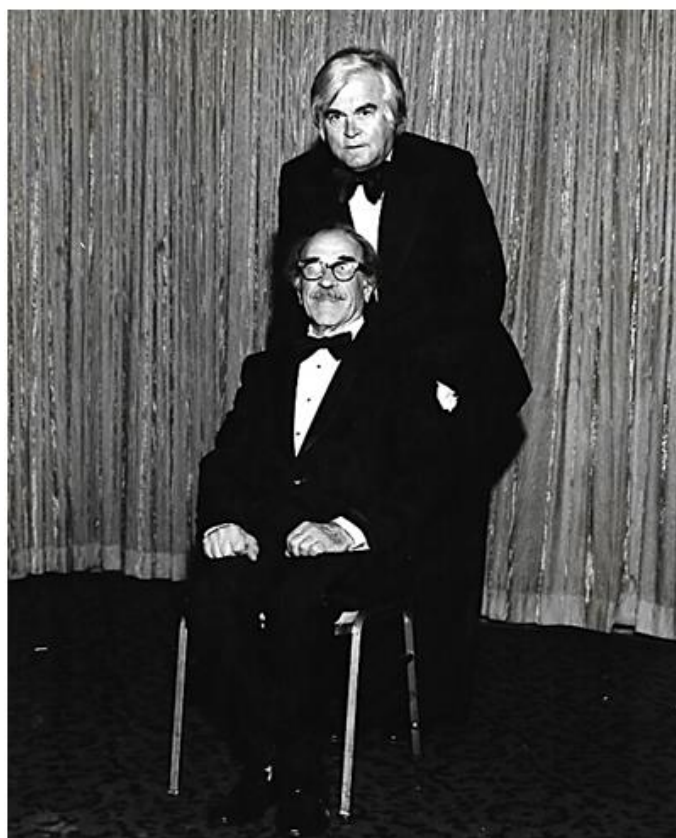


Figure 6. Dr Roman Osinchuk (in the 1st row) and Dr Achilles Chreptowsky (in the 2nd row) during the founding meeting of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), Chicago, 1954

Dr Osinchuk contributed to the revival of the scientific activity of doctors and medical professionals and initiated the creation of the first union of Ukrainian doctors on the American continent, where he was the president in 1950–1955. The main idea of the self-sacrificing work of the Shevchenko Scientific Society's active member, Dr R. Osinchuk, consisted in uniting the Ukrainian community in the USA to develop and present Ukrainian science to the world [9]. Roman Osinchuk devoted his entire life to the Ukrainian people's identity as equal to others in the international community and an approximation of Ukraine's independence as a state. The newly created publication, which followed the traditions of the *Medical Collection* journal, published the authors' works in Ukrainian and English, hence expanding the readership many times because after World War II, English, as a *lingua franca*, became a tool of scientific communication worldwide. Followers continued publishing the journal: Dr Yaroslav Vojevidka in 1956–1957, Dr Toma Lapychak (1914–1975) [10], a graduate of medical studies at the University of Kraków (1938) in 1962–1965, Dr Pavlo Dzul (1921–2015), a graduate of medical studies at the Lviv, Graz and Innsbruck Universities in 1967–2003 [11].

Tribute should be paid to Dr Achilles Chreptowsky (1920–1998), an active follower of Dr R. Osinchuk's ideas and long-time leader of the Ukrainian medical community, who studied medicine at the Universities of Vienna, Innsbruck, and Munich (1941–1948) and defended his doctoral thesis on the topic "Diagnosis of Internal Carotid Artery Aneurysm" (Munich, 1949). Later, he immigrated to the USA, where he nostrified his diploma, completed his internship and specialization, and practiced medicine until 1988 [12]. As an active member of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), Dr Chreptowsky (Fig. 6) initiated the unification of Ukrainian medical communities around the world and established contacts with Ukrainian doctors in the Soviet Union, organized the first meetings, congresses and the first four Congresses of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations WFUMA [13]. It seemed impossible to hold the III WFUMA Congress in Soviet times in 1990 (Kyiv and Lviv), but it became possible with Dr Chreptowsky's leadership skills and talent.

Dr A. Chreptowsky's advanced views, concern for Ukraine and self-sacrificing work helped restore the scientific publishing activity of the MC SSS during the collapse of the Soviet Union (Fig. 7).

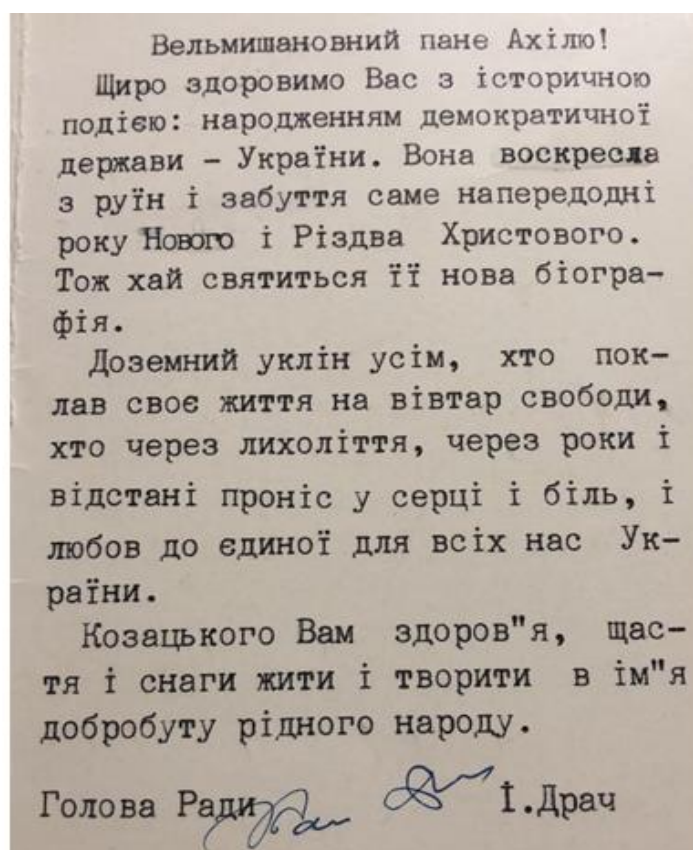


Figure 7. A letter of gratitude to Dr Achilles Chreptowsky from Ivan Drach (1936–2018), head of the People's Movement for the Reconstruction of Ukraine (1989–1992), Kyiv, 1991

After the WFUMA congress (Kyiv and Lviv, 1990), the grouping of the conscious Ukrainian medical community and the assertion of national symbols, the Ukrainian language, and the accomplishments of Ukrainian doctors and scientists became a prerequisite for the appearance of the first issue of the Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Collection. Medicine and Biology. New series (*Medical Collection*), Vol. I (1991) [14]. The editorial board consisting of a full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Professor Dr Yaroslav Hanitkevych (Chair) (born in 1929), a graduate of Lviv State Medical Institute (now Lviv Danylo Halytsky National Medical University of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, LNMU) [15]; Professor Dr Mykhailo Dubovyi (1908–1995), a graduate of the Medical Faculty of Lviv University [16]; full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, a graduate of the University of Prague; Professor Dr Mykhailo Podilchak (1919–1999) [17]; and a full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Associate Professor, Dr Anna Rudnytska (1924–2018), a graduate of the Faculty of Medicine of LNMU [18], aimed to continue the tradition of the publication of the MC SSS, founded by Eugen Ozarkevych and to worthily present the name of Ukrainian medical science to the world (Fig. 8).

Editors of Journal of the Medical Commission of Shevchenko Scientific Society



Figure 8. Editors-in-Chief of the MC SSS's journal for 125 years since its foundation

Independent Ukraine

Although the first issue of the journal *Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Collection. Medicine and Biology. New Series* was published in 1991, its next issue was released later. In 1994, the Medical Commission of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, and Pavlo Pundii prepared the *Ukrainian Doctors. Bibliographic Reference. Book 1. Lviv – Chicago* (Editor-in-Chief: Yaroslav Hanitkevych). The next issue of the *Medical Collection* was published in 1996 under the editorship of Professor Yaroslav Hanitkevych, the first chair of the restored Shevchenko Scientific Society's Medical Commission (1989–1998) (Fig.9). In the same year, the publication of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in Lviv, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, WFUMA, and Pavlo Pundii – *Ukrainian Doctors. Bibliographic Reference. Book 2. Lviv – Chicago* – was published (Editor-in-Chief: Yaroslav Hanitkevych). The journal became a source for the shaping of Ukrainian medical science, the introduction of professional medical terminology, reflected free communication of the Ukrainian medical community and contributed to the importance of Ukrainian identity.

An active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and a graduate of LNMU, Professor Mykhailo Pavlovskyi (1930–2013) worked closely with the Editorial Board of the

Journal *Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Collection. Medicine and Biology. New Series* [19]. Volume VI of this journal was edited in 1999 by Professor Dr Yuriy Havryluk (1960–2000), a graduate of Lviv National Medical University [20].

In 2003, Volume VII of the journal (Lviv – Chicago) was published under the editorship of Yuriy Havryluk, which was dedicated to the 80th anniversary of an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Dr Pavlo Pundii. In 2004, Professor MD Iryna Datsenko (1925–2006), an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Chair of the MC SSS (2000–2006), and a graduate of LNMU, became the journal's Editor-in-Chief. [21, 22]. Under Professor Iryna Datsenko's editorship, journal issues informed readers about the history of Ukrainian medical science and the results of scientific research by Ukrainian medical scientists.

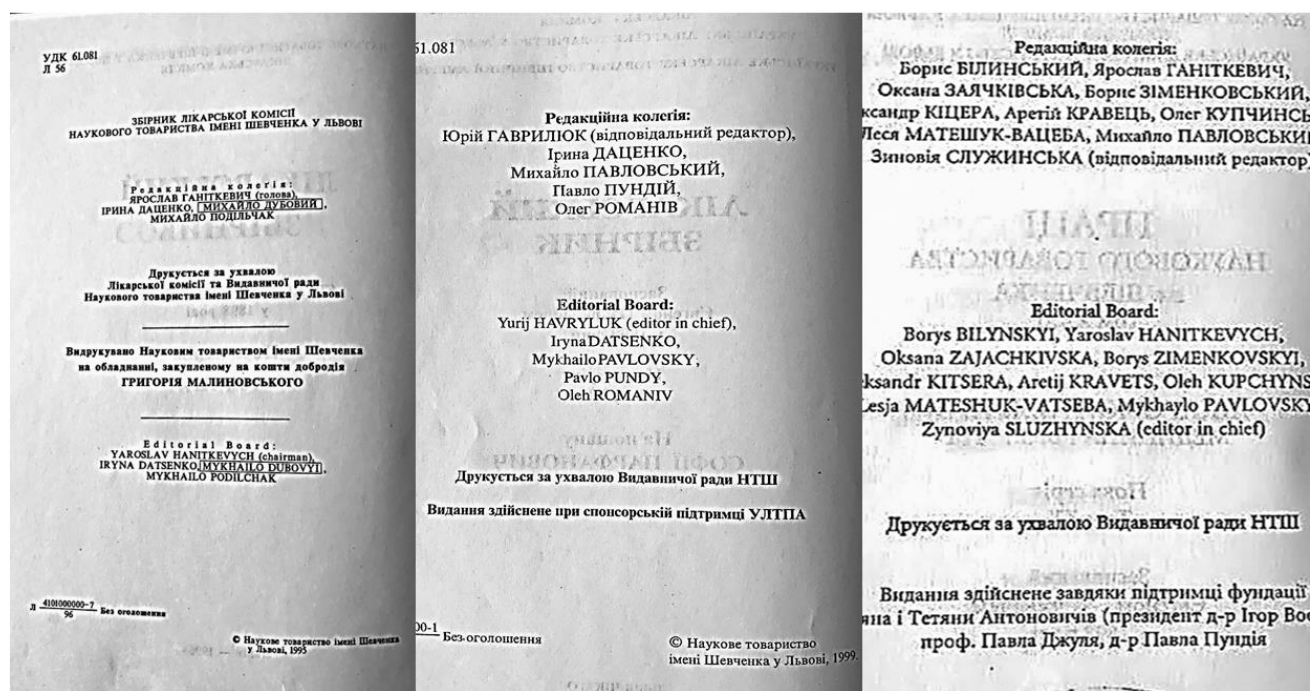


Figure 9. The composition of Editorial Boards in 1995 (left), 1999 (center) and 2014 (right)

In 2006, Professor MD Yarema Tomashevskyi (born in 1929), an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and a Lviv Medical University graduate, became the MC SSS Chair. Volume XVI of the journal *Medical Collection* was published in 2009, with Anna Rudnytska, an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, as the Editor-in-Chief of this volume. The journal was published in the first years of Ukraine's independence with the support from Hryhorii Malinovskyi, Omelian and Tetiana Antonovych Foundation (President – Dr Ihor Vojevidka), the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society Professor Pavlo Djul and his family, and an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society Dr Pavlo Pundii and his family, charitable donations from members of the MC SSS, and Mr Vasyl Pyshnyi from Dnipro.

In 2009, Associate Professor Zinoviya Slujunska (born in 1936), a graduate of the Faculty of Biology of Lviv Ivan Franko State University (now Lviv Ivan Franko National University), became the Chair of the MC SSS [23]. Zinoviya Slujunska was the Editor-in-Chief of Volumes XVII–XXI of the journal *Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Collection. Medicine and Biology. New Series*. The editorial board of specified journal volumes included Borys Bilynskyi, Yaroslav Hanitkevych, Oksana Zayachkivska, Borys Zimenkovskyi, Oleksandr Kitsera, Aretii Kravets, Oleh Kupchynskyi, Lesya Mateshuk-Vatseba, Mykhailo Pavlovskyi. The publication of materials dedicated to historical figures of Ukrainian medicine and fundamental and clinical research was an essential component of Zinoviya Slujunska's editorial work. Volume XXI was dedicated to the 140th anniversary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. It was published with support from Omelian and Tetiana Antonovych Foundation (President of the Foundation – Dr Ihor Vojevidka), Professor Pavlo Djul, and Dr Pavlo Pundii. In the indicated journal volumes, in addition to scientific

research devoted to the history of medicine development in Ukraine, literature reviews and original studies, other interesting sections included “Greetings and Anniversaries”, “Messages, Chronicles, Correspondence.”

An active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Professor, MD, Honored Professor of LNMU Lesya Mateshuk-Vatseba (born in 1957), a graduate of Lviv State Medical Institute (now Danylo Halytskyi LNMU) was the Chair of the MC SSS [24] in 2013–2014. Under her editorship, volumes XXII – XXV of the “Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Collection. Medicine and Biology. New Series” were published. The Editorial Board included Borys Bilynskyi, Yaroslav Hanitkevych, Ivan Hut, Olha Dzhura, Oksana Zayachkivska, Borys Zimenkovskyi, Oleksandr Kitsera, Oleh Kupchynskyi, Zinoviya Slujunska, Oleksandra Sluzhynska. Traditionally, volumes XXII–XXV of the journal contained review articles, original articles and reviews. Articles about the celebration of the 140th anniversary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society were important. In volume XXII of the journal, the section “Lectures” was first introduced, and the lecture “Clinical Anatomy of the University of Bern” was published. Volume XXIV was dedicated to Taras Shevchenko’s 200th anniversary. These volumes of the journal were published with support from Dr Ihor Vojevidka, President of the Omelian and Tetiana Antonovych Foundation (USA), Mister Vasyl Pyshnyi from Dnipro, and members of the MC SSS. The work of the Editorial Board and the Medical Commission chaired by Professor Mateshuk-Vatseba was characterized by the introduction of announcements of the most important forums organized by the Shevchenko Scientific Society’s Medical Commission, the traditional annual “Doctor’s Shevchenkiana” and joint meetings with students and young scientists, as well as the preparation for each publication of an English-language essay, which boosted interest in medical science among students, postgraduates, and young doctors. In 2014, volume XXV of the journal was included in the international scientometric indexing bibliographic database Index Copernicus for the first time. It was the first attempt to record the name of the Ukrainian scientific and practical journal in global medicine.

In 2015, the journal *Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Collection. Medicine and Biology. New Series* changed its name to “Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. Medical Sciences” (*Medical Sciences*). In 2015–2022, Professor Dr Oksana Zayachkivska (born in 1960), an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, a graduate of LNMU, and Chair of the MC SSS in 2015–2019, was the publication’s Editor-in-Chief [25]. Under her editorship, sixteen volumes of the journal *Medical Sciences* were prepared in a new format in compliance with the unified international rules and standards of scientific editing, indexing in Scopus started, and new journal sections were introduced, such as “Current News”, “Brief Communications”, “Clinical Guidelines,” others and video articles which scientific findings presented with visual media [26]. Under Professor Zayachkivska’s editorship, teamwork focused on joint results became an essential aspect of the activities of the Editorial Board and the Medical Commission, while the promotion of the achievements of Ukrainian scientists worldwide became the priority.

In times of global digital revolution

Due to the active stance of the MC SSS members and the understanding of the need for prompt access to scientific medical data and information related to healthcare, the website of the Medical Commission was created in 2016. In 2015–2019, the Editorial Board of the journal included Daryi Bidiuk, Roman Dutka, Borys Zimenkovskyi, Yurii Ivaniv, Oleksandr Kitsera, Yulian Kyiak, Vasyl Kovalyshyn, Zoriana Masna, Lesya Mateshuk-Vatseba, Ihor Trutiak, Oleksandr Filts, Natalia Sukhodolska, Uliana Pidvalna. Considering the importance of active information policy in the time of hybrid information warfare, the webpage of the *Medical Sciences* journal was hosted on this platform. This allowed increasing the journal audience through free access to *Medical Sciences’* online articles. Articles in Ukrainian or English are now accepted for review, world-renowned scientists were invited to the Editorial Board, and article review standards and ethical principles of the publication policy have been introduced, which are consistent with the principles of academic integrity in Ukraine and other countries of the world.

Since 2016, all articles have been indexed in the registration agency CrossRef with the assignment of digital DOI identifiers to each article (DOI: 10.25040/ntsh). In 2017, Lviv National Medical University and the Western Scientific Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine became publishers and co-founders of the *Medical Sciences* journal. Thanks to the efforts of Borys Zimenkovskyi, an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Academician of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, and Honored Professor of LNMU, the publication became technically perfect with numerous color illustrations [27]. The covers of each issue, designed by members of the Editorial Board Dr, MD Ivan Dzis and Associate Professor Dr Uliana Pidvalna, have become esthetic and topical. They reflect actual issues of the journal issue’s content. For instance, cover No. 1 in 2020 reflects the issue content dedicated to a global medical problem: the spread of the new severe disease COVID-19 (*Pandemic needs synergy*, ©Ivan Dzis) [28], No. 2 in 2020 – the importance of finding new

diagnostic, preventive and treatment strategies (*Life, ideas, innovations*, ©Uliana Pidvalna (idea)) [29], No. 1, 2022 – heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people in the full-scale war unleashed by the terrorist state (*Glory to Ukraine! We will defeat all enemies: from parasites to people*, ©Ivan Dzis) [30], No. 2, 2022 – medical problems of war consequences and faith in Ukraine's Victory in 2023 (*Light will defeat darkness*, ©Ivan Dzis) [31]. The cover of the jubilee issue (No. 1 in 2023) featured a collage dedicated to the 125th anniversary of *Medical Sciences* (125 years of innovation, ©Ivan Dzis) (Fig.1). The journal is being published with support from charitable contributions of members of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, funding from the National Medical University, UMANA grants and SUES (Support to Ukrainian editorial staff) initiative. In 2017, members of the journal's Editorial Board, Professor Oksana Zayachkivska, Professor Vassyl Lonchyna (born in 1949), who studied medicine at Wayne State University (Detroit), surgical training at Duke and Loyola Universities, a US Fulbright Scholar in Ukraine (2016–2017) and a Visiting Professor in Bioethics at the Ukrainian Catholic University [32], and Nadiya Kupynyak (born in 1986), PhD in Biology, launched the project *Science Medicine Arts Research Translational Lviv International Opportunity Network* – SMART LION. This project aimed to combine lectures and master classes by well-known experts and opinion leaders and world medicine by publishing research by young Ukrainian scientists, doctors and medical students in the format of annual international scientific and practical symposia. With support from LNMU, the city of Lviv (Mayor – Andriy Sadovyi) and Lviv Conference Bureau, six symposia (2017–2022) on current medical problems were held. Reports on their work and plenary reports were published in the journal [33–38], and video presentations of lectures were posted on YouTube.

Since 2019, the *Medical Sciences* journal has been hosted on the OJS (Open Journal System) platform, which provides *Crossref's Cited-by* service and supports the *Initiative for Open Citations*. This is a forum for disseminating professional information and knowledge not just from members of the Shevchenko Scientific Society but also from national and foreign authors. The publication of articles on current scientific and practical interdisciplinary medical problems dedicated to original research, and reviews of scientific literature on important issues and problems of fundamental and clinical medical sciences with own clinical cases, enabled the journal's indexation in leading national and international scientometric databases: V.I. Vernadskyi National Library of Ukraine, Open Ukrainian Citation Index (OUCI), Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Google Scholar, etc. The Editorial Board included Oleh Antonyshyn (Canada), Andrii Bazylevych, Rostyslav Bilyy, Volodymyr Vovk, Oksana Volod (USA), Nataliya Volodko, Nathalie Vergnolle (France), Victoria Garib (Austria), Roman Greg (UK), Ivan Gout (UK), Ines Drenjančević (Croatia), Radosław Zagózdzon (Poland), Anton Coenen (Netherlands), Maciej Kurpisz (Poland), Vassyl Lonchyna (USA), Włodzimierz Maslinski (Poland), Oleg Nadashkevich, Alla Nakonechna (UK), Tetyana Nehrych, Oksana Sulaieva, Serhiy Souchelnytskyi (Qatar), Tetiana Tatarchuk, Valentyna Chopyak, Andriy Cherkas (Germany), John Wallace (Canada), Ronnie Fass (USA), Nelson Fernandez (UK), Andriy Cybulsky (Canada), Myron Cybulsky (Canada), Orest Shevchyk (UK), Yaroslav Shparyk, Michael Yaremchuk (USA), Yuriy (George) Yaskiv (USA), Olena Zimba, Khrystyna Dydzhoieva. Publications dedicated to the new disease COVID-19 [39–43] and innovative research in cardiology, cardiac surgery, robotic surgery, bioethics, and changing research paradigm during pandemic [44–48] contributed to the popularization of the publication worldwide. Productive efforts of Valentina Chopyak (born in 1956), an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, Honored Professor of LNMU, Chair of the Medical Commission since 2020, journal's Editor-in-Chief since 2023 [15], Professor Nataliya Volodko (born in 1959), an active member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and responsible secretary of the journal, and Associate Professor Olena Zimba (born in 1980) contributed to *Medical Sciences* becoming an educational platform containing knowledge about modern principles of scientific editing for young scientists, doctors and editorial teams of other medical publications [49–55]. With the joint efforts of the Editorial Board, the journal was included for indexing in Scopus Elsevier, the international scientometric bibliographic database, in 2021. Currently, 133 articles have been indexed.

Development prospects

We are deeply grateful to our editors and reviewers who have contributed to the goal of the *Medical Sciences*, to our authors for choosing our journal to publish their best research, and to our dear readers for your continued interest. Despite the full-scale war in Ukraine waged by barbarians from the north-east, the difficult circumstances of wartime and the lack of round-the-clock power supply on the eve of its 125th anniversary, the *Medical Sciences* did not stop its activities. In the conditions of war, the teamwork of the Editorial Board focused on joint outcomes has retained the media component of the scientific medical front of the *Medical Sciences* journal. Through the heroic efforts of Associate Professor Anna Bekesevych, assistant to the Editor-in-Chief, and editorial manager Maria Liashenyk, issue No. 2 for 2022 was published and indexed in the international scientometric databases on time.

Continuing the traditions of several generations of Ukrainian scientists and doctors, the *Medical Sciences* journal has remained a leader among publications of practical importance for medical science and clinical work by highlighting the current problems in medicine since its foundation. Currently, the *Medical Sciences* journal disseminates evidence-based results and is of interest to scientists from Ukraine, Europe and the world, as it creates new knowledge for training doctors to be and improving practicing doctors.

Since 2022, the Editorial Board has included leading scientists of the international community in the field of medicine from 10 countries of the world (<https://mspsss.org.ua/index.php/journal/editorial-stuff>) (Fig. 10). The journal's future development is possible with sacrificial and committed work of all members of the Editorial Board.

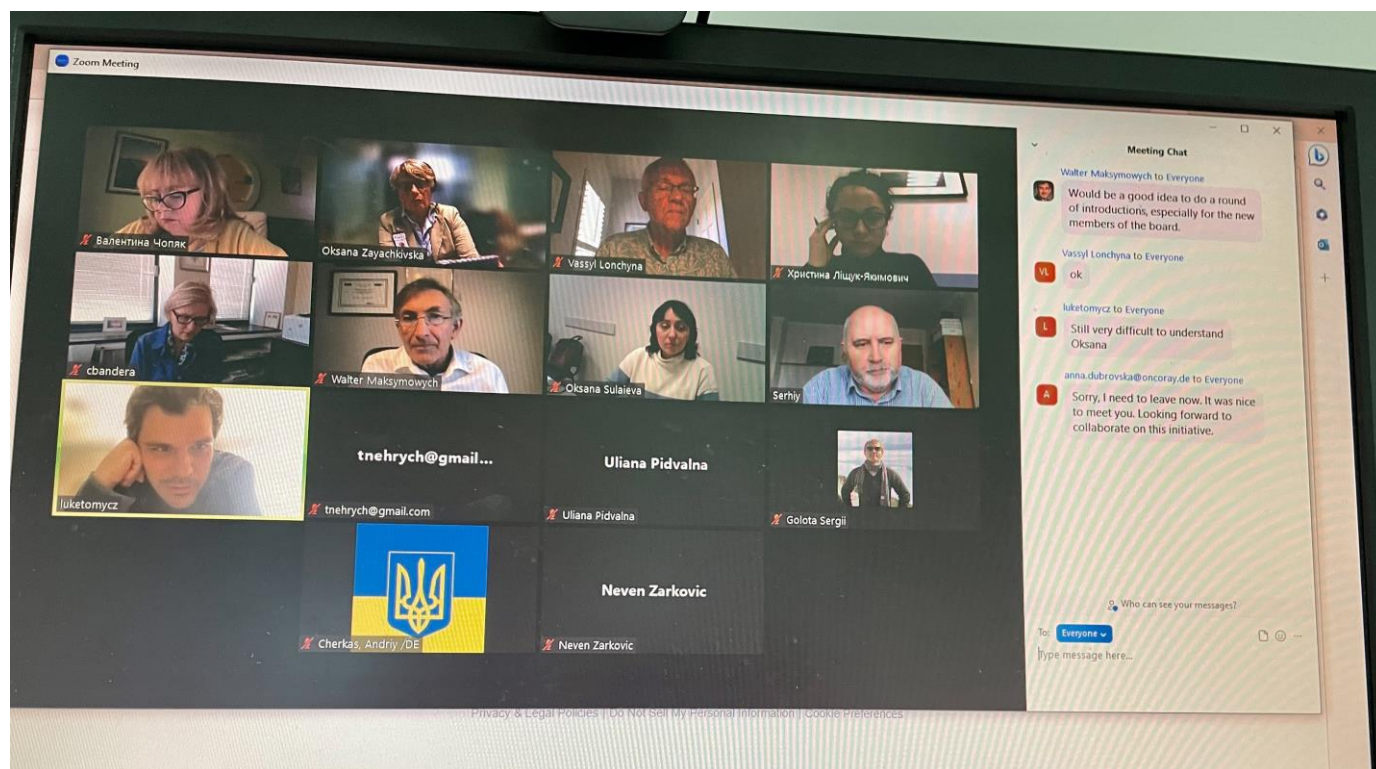


Figure 10. Discussing the prospects for developing the *Medical Sciences* journal during a networking online meeting of members of the journal's Editorial Board, April 2023

Today, the journal's goal is twofold: first, to consolidate a confident and attractive image of the journal in Ukraine and continue its development on the scientific map of the world, and second, to unite progressive scientific medical communities of the world to share experiences and help Ukraine during the full-scale war.

We are happy to celebrate the 125th anniversary of *Medical Sciences* – an incredible milestone in the history of the journal's development, with high-quality content, continued adherence to publishing principles based on the values of academic integrity, unimpeded access to content and equality in the global exchange of knowledge for the shaping of civil society and human progress.

In a time of war, we hope you will join us in this exceptional year and help celebrate the 125th anniversary of the *Medical Sciences* by publishing new ideas, concepts, and innovations to advance medical science.

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