



## UKRAINIAN HEALTH SCIENTISTS TRAIN IN OTTAWA

*Development and International Technical Cooperation Program with Ukraine -- Immunization Assistance, by V.W. Yarosh, Microbiologist, Health Canada*

The breakup of the Soviet Union and the emergence of independent states has resulted in social disruption, with major effects on the health care system. A Canadian mission to Ukraine identified the health sector as a potential collaborative area with the strengthening of the regulatory program for vaccines, blood and blood products as a priority. In Ukraine, the vaccination program is seriously jeopardized by the lack of vaccine production, lack of a national regulatory and quality control authority and deficiencies in the storage, distribution and administration of vaccines.

The Ministry of Health of Ukraine is presently in the process of organizing a national regulatory agency which will be responsible for the assessment of safety and quality of all domestic and imported vaccines and other immunobiological preparations. Expert microbiologists from Health Canada, Bureau of Biologics,

conducted a comprehensive assessment of the former manufacturing facilities, the proposed quality control facilities and laboratory personnel, which resulted in a collaborative project to strengthen the immunization program in Ukraine. The project is intended to assist in the formation of a national control authority for biological and technology transfer through training of scientific personnel in modern laboratory methodology, quality control procedures and good laboratory practices. This is to be accomplished through two training sessions of the scientists in Ottawa, visits to Canadian pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities and three follow-up visits of Canadian experts to Ukraine.

The first training/workshop phase took place in June, 1993, with the arrival in Ottawa of fourteen scientists/-bacteriologists, virologists and epidemiologists. These scientists were selected from various centres such as the Institute of Epidemiology (Kyiv), Academy of Science of Ukraine (Kyiv), and vaccine production facilities in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odessa. The participants underwent extensive hands-on laboratory training at the Bacterial and Viral Divisions of the Bureau of Biologics and orientation sessions at the Institute Armand Frappier BioVac Inc. in Montreal, the Connaught Laboratory Limited in Toronto, and the

Epidemiology Department of the Ontario Ministry of Health in Toronto.

Following this four-week training/workshop session, the scientists have acquired the theoretical and practical knowledge of modern vaccine testing procedures and the regulation and licensing of biological products. They are expected to apply this knowledge to the national quality control program in Ukraine. The visit also provided an opportunity for both sides to compare the cultural, social and economic differences between our two countries and to set up very valuable scientific and personal contacts for further cooperation.

The second phase of this project includes the training of a new group of Ukrainian scientists in the regulatory control of blood and blood products as soon as arrangements can be made. Both training sessions will be reinforced by three follow-up visits to Ukraine by the Canadian experts who will further assist in the organization of the Ukrainian quality control agency, identify problem areas for further training and evaluate the effectiveness of the scientific training in Canada.



*Participating Ukrainian scientists in Ottawa (author at left)*

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### KYIV RELAY & AUTOMATICS AMALGAMATION IS LOOKING FOR CANADIAN BUSINESS

Kyiv Relay and Automatics Amalgamation is located in Kyiv, Ukraine. Established in 1954 the firm is a major supplier of electrical and electronic equipment in Central Europe. It is a fully integrated facility staffed by 9000 employees including an engineering group of over 900 professionals. The plant produces a variety of products such as:

- Electronic and electromechanical timers
- Electromechanical and thermal relays
- Automatic control systems