

Background

Ukraine has experienced a humanitarian crisis due to conflict, a neglected health service and declining population. There is a shortage of pathologists at < 20/million population compared to > 40/m in NW Europe. There is little pathology training and a lack of guidelines. In 2018 the RCPPath was asked to support pathology postgraduate training in Ukraine. Since 2022, war has had an impact on pathology services, displacing pathologists and increasing trauma related pathology requiring special expertise and resources.

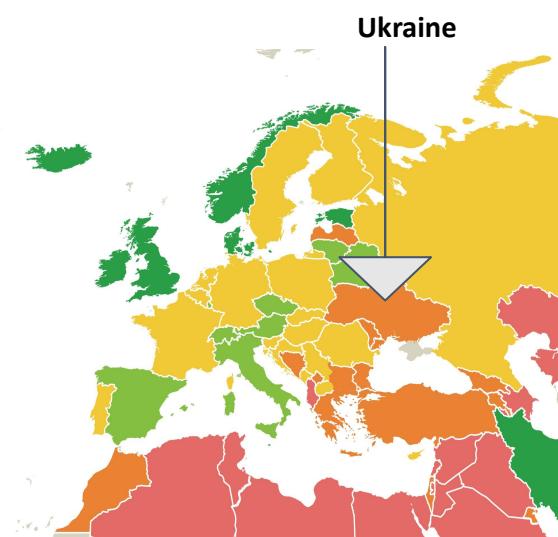
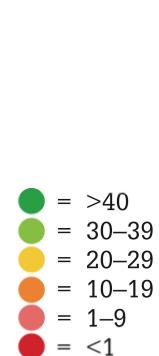
Achievements

- Memorandum of Understanding was agreed in 2019 between the RCPPath and Shupyk National Healthcare University of Ukraine to support educational collaboration, academic and professional development and exchange of scientific and medical knowledge.
- Virtual events: The College provided speakers for a conference 'Modern aspects of clinical pathology' with the Shupyk Healthcare University of Ukraine and an event on 'Modern approaches to diagnostics in the COVID-19 era'. In 2022, a virtual one day symposium by pathologists from Europe and Canada supporting Ukraine was presented by the College.
- Resources for Ukrainian pathologists are available on the College website: Information for Refugee Pathologists in the UK, public health considerations for preventing infectious diseases during the war with Russia, GMC Registration information, a welcome guide and homes for Ukrainians arriving in the UK.
- Current clinical laboratories in Ukraine are functioning despite the war, staff training is provided by use of webinars and equipment is being upgraded.

Conclusion

The Royal College of Pathologists is collaborating successfully with the Shupyk Healthcare University of Ukraine to provide postgraduate pathology education, training and ongoing professional development for Ukrainian pathology staff. Other institutions involved include the European Federation of Laboratory Medicine, Karolinska Institute (Sweden) and the Immunological Research Institute (USA).

This project illustrates how international collaboration between societies and professionals is able to tackle a pathology workforce shortage.

Images

1. RCPPath country advisors Mark Howard and Olga Wise and Ukrainian pathologists during visit to Vinnytsia in 2018.
2. Map of pathologists per million in Europe, arrow pointing to Ukraine which has 10-19 pathologists per million people.
3. The Royal College building lit up in the colours of the Ukrainian flag in a show of support after the 2022 invasion.
4. The Shupyk National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education in the capital city Kyiv.
5. Underground critical care unit with near patient blood testing laboratory in Eastern Ukraine battlefield.