

*We invite specialists in the field of maternal and child healthcare and parent organizations to join OMNI-HCMC. The main goal of our alliance is to mitigate the impact of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, in particular on children with developmental disabilities. The main task to achieve this goal is to establish contact with families in need and link them with care-providers.*

**NEWS - WORTH KNOWING – WORTH USING – WORTH JOINING!**

### EPIDEMIC OF SPINA BIFIDA IN UKRAINE AND LACK OF PREVENTION

Long-term research of OMNI-Net has shown [an epidemic of neural tube defects in Ukraine](#), the frequency of spina bifida in Ukraine is the highest in continental Europe. OMNI-Net is among the first promoters of [legislation mandating folic acid fortification of flour in Ukraine](#) – a public health measure proven to be effective, affordable, and conducive to reduce NTD by at least 50 percent. Ukraine should join more than 80 other countries, such as Argentina, Canada, and United States, among others, who have fortified flour with folic acid for decades. The voluntary use of folic acid by women of reproductive age is proven to be ineffective, including in Ukraine.

### INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

[“A call for a global action to reduce the prevalence of Neural Tube Defects worldwide”.](#)



The International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus plays a leading role in the submission of a proposal of a resolution to the World Health Assembly calling for a worldwide food fortification with vitamin B9 (folic acid). Likewise, the Global Alliance for the Prevention of Spina Bifida (mainly sponsored by worldwide neurosurgeons) also contributes its advocacy to this end. Furthermore, **Rotary Clubs** from many countries, such as India, Ethiopia, United States, among others, also add their endorsement to this advocacy.

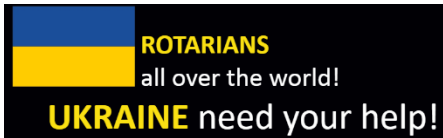
### OMNI-NET – UKRAINE – INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION for SPINA BIFIDA (IFSBH) ROTARY INTERNATIONAL – ROTARY UKRAINE



Drs. W. Wertelecki, Sylvia Roozen, Ms. S. Uribe, and M. Gavryliv

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (June 4-8, 2022, Houston, Texas, USA). STRATEGIC MEETING “International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus” (Dr. Sylvia Roozen) – Rotary International (Ms. S. Uribe and others) – Rotary Ukraine (M. Gavryliv) – and OMNI-Net Ukraine (Dr. W. Wertelecki).**

Topic – Proposal for cooperation between IFSBH and Rotary International regarding prevention of spina bifida and its initiation in Ukraine. Ukrainian representative of Rotary Mr. M. Gavryliv informed that there has been created a medical crisis committee of Rotary District 2232, the medical coordinator of which is Dr. **Olga Paliychuk** ...



... appealing to the many Rotary clubs who have already demonstrated their support for Ukraine through their generous donation of more than \$15 million to The Rotary Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund ...

<https://rotary.org.ua/template/Main/index.html>

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-responds-ukraine-crisis>

<https://rotarymedford.org/category/rotary-international/ri-blog/>

<https://rotary7090.org/documents/en-ca/e2e76bda-ef8a-4f96-909d-e1df84fefbfd/1>

Rotary-Ukraine has established a medical crisis committee concerned with spina bifida epidemic in Ukraine. Its members include Dr. Olga Palychuk and prof. Roman Mitsoda, among others.

### Cooperation of OMNI-Net with the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IFSBH)

Two members of OMNI-Net along with representatives of spina bifida parental organization and a leading academic medical center from Kyiv will address participants in an international meeting, sponsored by IFSBH. We invite you to attend and [register](#).



## Ukraine

### Series of webinars “Spina Bifida – Hydrocephalus: Care and Prevention”.



2222 participants

1943 views of records (as of 16.08.2022)

[Series of 10 webinars](#) was organized by OMNI-Net in partnership with the “Association of Parents of Children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus “Syayvo Dukhu”.

### Individual online consultations for parents of children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus



In the framework of Multidisciplinary Support Program for children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus, first individual online consultations were held on July 19 and 20, organized by the “Association of Parents of Children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus “Syayvo Dukhu”, with the participation of physicians-scientists of Ternopil National Medical University prof. [Oksana Romanivna Boyarchuk](#), MD, and associate prof. [Kateryna Teodoziivna Hlushko](#), MD. For more information read [HERE](#)



Олена Кур'яна-Руденко  
Керівниця фонду



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Співласнивич фонду



Вадим Коцага  
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### Charity Organization “CHARITY FUND “CHILDREN WITHOUT BORDERS”

- organization of parents of children with the congenital anomaly of Spina Bifida The main goal is to help parents with diagnosis, comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation of children and adolescents with congenital spinal cord defects (Spina Bifida), spinal cord injuries, and neurogenic dysfunction of urinary bladder.

### **ROTARY UKRAINE – Spina Bifida Cooperation**

There are ongoing active dialogues regarding cooperation between Ukrainian specialists and Rotary Ukraine, which has created a medical crisis committee. Its coordinator, Dr. O. Paliychuk, [introduced this approach](#) during Rotary International Convention (June 4-8, 2022, Houston, Texas, USA). Among members of the medical crisis committee include prof. [R. Mitsoda](#) and Dr. [M. Iskiv](#). The outcome of these dialogues will be reported by Rotarians. OMNI-Net believes that [the significant funds, collected by Rotary International for Ukraine](#), will accelerate and spread aid to Ukrainian children, including children with spina bifida and other developmental disabilities.

### **PEDIATRIC SURGERY – UROLOGY – Kyiv – Dnipro - ... – ROTARY Ukraine**

The care of **Spina bifida** relies upon multidisciplinary clinical and social services. Existing humanitarian assistance and healthcare programs do not always address the complex needs of such patients, their parents, and siblings. Furthermore, clinicians, among other providers, also require assistance.

In addition to dialogues at **Rotary International Convention** and with **Rotary Ukraine**, Ukrainian clinicians and parent support groups are negotiating with international colleagues from the EU and the International Federation for Spina Bifida. Their intention is to implement cooperation agreements on care and prevention of spina bifida. Among other urgent needs, the need of bladder catheters and cerebral shunts is critical.

Please address Drs. [V.Honchar](#) and [A. Obertynskyi](#).



**[Spina Bifida](#) - I.B.I.S. – International Birth Defects Information System ([ibis-birthdefects.org](#)).**

A website of OMNI-Net about genetic counselling, rehabilitation and prevention of congenital anomalies, genetic and developmental disorders.



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