

## OBITUARY



**Professor Andrii Tkachenko** (b 1971 q1994 died 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021)

Andrii Tkachenko, who has died aged 51, rose from being a medical student at UMSU, Ukrainian Medical State University, to become Assistant Professor (Docent) in 2005 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the NMAPE, Shupyk National Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Education, Ukraine and made extraordinary contributions to perinatal medicine and medical education.

He held a professorial post in the national Academy of postgraduate education in Ukraine. The role also encompassed managing for Medical Reforms of the International Charity Fund in Ukraine and both acting as a Director and Co-founding of the NMAPE Center for Medical Simulation in Training.

Born on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1971, Andrii grew up in Kyiv, Ukraine. He had wanted to be doctor from a young age. He graduated as a physician in 1994 and after completing postgraduate training, he started his specialist practice as an obstetrician and gynaecologist in the same hospital where he was born. His area of interest was obstetrics and perinatal medicine. In 1998 he became a member of his national society - The Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Ukraine (AOGU). He fostered connections throughout Europe, creating partnerships between various organisations. In 2007, he was the Secretary General of the Ukrainian Association of Perinatal Medicine and a member of several International Scientific Societies and Editorial Boards. He led the German and Swiss international Ukrainian program in obstetrics, neonatology and perinatal medicine and in 2012, he was the chief of the AOGU committee for international cooperation. He represented Ukraine in Europe and beyond through his involvement in EBCOG and FIGO. He constantly fought for improving care of women and their babies in Ukraine, by bringing along the experts from across the globe to share their knowledge and skills.

Andrii believed in working beyond boundaries and building relationships with organisations to improve reproductive care and education. In 2008, he joined the EBCOG and soon became an integral part of the EBCOG family. He represented Ukraine in the EBCOG council, bringing the full support of AOGU with the involvement of Professor Valerii Zaporozhan and Professor Vyacheslav Kaminsky. In 2017, he was elected as one of the executive members in the EBCOG board representing the Eastern Europe.

He was a member of the Standards of Care and Position Statements Working Group since 2018 and a member of the Standing Committee on Training Recognition, where he played a major and active role in hospital recognition for training and assessment.

He was a member of the scientific committee for congresses, chaired several sessions, and spearheaded sanction of unconditional educational grants for young trainees from Ukraine to attend the European congress in Paris and Athens.

Andrii made a prodigious contribution to medical education. At home, he was leading simulation-based training and curriculum development at his institution. Beyond his national boundary he had the daunting task of working with UEMS to quality assure European accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (EACCME). He was widely praised for his quality of work and was regarded highly at the UEMS. His meticulous work in this field had seen many high-quality educational events in various society meetings. His absence leaves a void that can never be filled.

Andrii had a great sense of humour, he liked walking and admired the natural beauty of his motherland. He loved music and enjoyed singing in a band. We have fond memories of his singing.

Andrii was a visionary leader, a good friend and colleague, but above all one of the kindest souls who have touched all our hearts. He was in good health until he suddenly passed away on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2021. He leaves his wife Natalia and his son Oleksii.

*22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021*

*EBCOG Officers*