

## **Activities of the Non-Governmental Organization of Belarusian Association of Physicians**

The Belarusian Association of Physicians was set up in 1992. As of February 1, 2017, the number of officially registered members of the association is about 9,000 persons, or about 25.0% of the total number of practicing physicians.

The main objective of the Belarusian Association of Physicians is collaboration and mutual understanding on the ground of professionalism, professional ethics and deontology.

The tasks that the association sets itself are development of the corporate solidarity, mutual assistance, protection of honour and dignity of colleagues, legal protection, assistance in vocational education and training of specialists.

On April 24, 2011 at the 7<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Congress of the Belarusian Association of Physicians D.SHEVTSOV was elected the Chairman of the Belarusian Association of Physicians. The Charter of the Association was amended to conform to the current legislation and registered with the Ministry of Justice on May 4, 2011.

In September 2011, the Belarusian Association of Physicians was admitted to the Southeast European Medical Forum.

The Belarusian Association of Physicians is the founder of the scientific and practical peer-reviewed journal "Medicine".

At the end of 2011 a new website of the association [www.beldoc.by](http://www.beldoc.by) was created for the colleagues to have an opportunity to learn a lot of interesting things, to keep abreast of the activities of the association, to ask questions and get expert help. We receive more than 3,000 messages per year to our website not only from Belarusian medical professionals, but also from our colleagues from the near abroad who have found employment in this country, and from the ordinary public.

The association has established an ethical commission headed by Professor V. KRYLOV. It deals with ethical issues arising among the colleagues and relationship with the managers of health care institutions.

The Chairman of the Belarusian Association of Physicians is a member of the Higher Attestation Commission of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus for assigning qualification grades to the public health officials.

The regional organizational structures of the Belarusian Association of Physicians have been set up in all regions and in Minsk. Our activities are aimed at the broad representation of the Belarusian medical community, including at the international level. Partnership and cooperation agreements have been signed with international associations: Lithuanian Physicians Association, Latvian Physicians Association, and Slovak Medical Chamber. In December 2016, a meeting with W. Montgomery, President of the Association of Physicians of the Bundestag, Vice-President of the European Association of Physicians, was held in Minsk. Based on the results of the dialogue, documents on the Belarusian Association of Physicians joining the WMA are being worked out.

As agreed with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus, the Belarusian Association of Physicians has launched a program to raise the professional level of

Belarusian physicians since the second half of 2013 by organizing and financing their participation in international scientific and educational programs and events.

In 2013, a set of International teleconferences between Belarus and Lithuania "Achievements and Problems of Modern Medicine" was held. It gave an opportunity to exchange views and opinions with colleagues from Kaunas Medical University, BSMU, BelMAPO, GoSMU and VSMU. We have conducted two space bridges on the problems of oncology and diseases of the digestive tract.

In the same year, a round table was held between the Belarusian Association of Physicians and the Association of International Pharmaceutical Manufacturers. The Belarusian Association of Physicians took part in the Parliamentary hearings that took place in the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus in December 2013. A report on the social aspects affecting the health of preschool and school children was presented.

In 2015, the Belarusian Association of Physicians took part in the International Scientific and Practical Symposium on the Rational Use of Medicines.

Every year the Belarusian Association of Physicians acts as an organizer and sponsor of various conferences and forums held in the Republic of Belarus for specialty physicians.

The Belarusian Association of Physicians takes an active part in the reform of the health care system of the Republic of Belarus. It provides an active assistance in improving the quality of medical care for the population, removing the workload and increasing the occupational prestige.

Chairman

D. SHEVTSOV