# King’s College London intensifies support for Ukraine health sector with new initiatives and international collaborations



King’s College London researchers, Professor Richard Sullivan and Dr Gemma Bowsher, recently reinforced their institution’s enduring collaboration with Ukrainian medical professionals through a visit to Lviv to participate in two significant conferences. Their involvement at the Global Medical Knowledge Alliance (GMKA) Quality and Safety Conference and the Women in Medicine Conference underscored King’s continued commitment to supporting Ukraine’s health sector amid ongoing conflict-related challenges. At the GMKA conference, they shared deep expertise in health system strengthening and cancer care delivery under conflict conditions, highlighting approaches to build resilient health services, ensure patient safety, and foster international collaboration in medical education and research. Meanwhile, at the Women in Medicine event, the duo engaged with Ukrainian clinicians and academics to discuss the critical role of women leaders in sustaining healthcare systems under severe pressure.

This visit builds upon years of cooperative efforts between King’s Centre for Conflict and Health Security and multiple Ukrainian institutions. Since the escalation of Russia’s full-scale invasion, Professor Sullivan and Dr Bowsher have collaborated closely with Ukrainian partners to assess the devastating impact of war on public health infrastructure and cancer care delivery. Their research has played a pivotal role in shaping international strategies that maintain oncology services in crisis-affected settings and has informed evolving policies designed to protect both health services and personnel operating under duress. Professor Sullivan, as Co-chair of the Centre, brings extensive experience in cancer control and health system reform in conflict zones worldwide, while Dr Bowsher's research focuses on strengthening health data systems and bolstering the resilience of healthcare professionals during wartime.

Beyond academic collaboration, King’s Health Partners (KHP) have taken practical steps to support Ukraine’s healthcare needs. One remarkable initiative is the Life Lines project, which facilitates the restoration and deployment of ambulances filled with critical medical supplies to war-torn regions, particularly supporting neonatal, children’s, and military field hospitals damaged by recent bombings. This project raises funds and garners medical supplies to sustain vital health services amid the ongoing conflict.

Additionally, KHP has mobilised its extensive supply chain resources to aid Ukraine by storing and dispatching clinical supplies, including personal protective equipment, bandages, sutures, and sanitisation materials. More than 200 pallets of such essential items have been delivered to hospitals, including those in frontline cities, reflecting a robust institutional commitment to immediate practical support on the ground. The partnership continues to focus on raising funds to procure further critical clinical supplies that frontline healthcare workers urgently require.

In a significant development reflecting the broader scope of King’s collaboration with Ukrainian institutions, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in January 2024 between King’s College London, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, and the Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry. This formal agreement aims to establish a Veteran Mental Health Centre of Excellence at Taras Shevchenko University. The centre will provide comprehensive rehabilitation and mental health services for war veterans and the wider Ukrainian society, addressing the profound psychological toll the conflict has inflicted on affected populations.

The UK’s wider support to Ukraine’s health sector is also visible through visits such as that by His Majesty The King to Imperial’s Centre for Injury Studies, which applies lessons learned from previous conflicts to assist injured service personnel from Ukraine. This highlights a strong, coordinated effort between research institutions to link scientific advances directly to humanitarian aid, ensuring that innovations in injury treatment and rehabilitation reach those wounded by the war.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian healthcare professionals continue to enhance their clinical skills through international networks like the Global Medical Knowledge Alliance. Sixty Ukrainian physicians recently completed an eight-week virtual Quality and Safety Course designed to fill critical gaps in Ukraine’s healthcare system. The course promoted high standards in clinical practice, focusing on clinical risk reduction, quality improvement initiatives, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols, and interdisciplinary collaboration. This programme involved instruction from experts at leading global medical institutions, including King’s College London, ensuring that Ukrainian practitioners gain access to cutting-edge knowledge and support.

Together, these efforts illustrate a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach combining education, research, practical support, and international partnerships, all aimed at strengthening Ukraine’s healthcare system and safeguarding its medical personnel against the ongoing challenges posed by conflict.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.miragenews.com/kings-researchers-strengthen-ties-with-1552484/), [[2]](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/kings-researchers-strengthen-ties-with-ukrainian-medical-community)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.miragenews.com/kings-researchers-strengthen-ties-with-1552484/), [[2]](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/kings-researchers-strengthen-ties-with-ukrainian-medical-community)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.kingshealthpartners.org/latest/launching-medical-life-lines-ukraine), [[4]](https://www.kingshealthpartners.org/latest/partnership-comes-together-support-ukraine)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.kingshealthpartners.org/latest/partnership-comes-together-support-ukraine), [[5]](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/memorandum-of-understanding-signed-to-develop-veteran-mental-health-centre-of-excellence-in-ukraine)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/261317/the-king-visits-imperials-centre-injury/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[7]](https://gmka.org/en/news/ukrayins-ki-likari-zavershili-onlayn-kurs-gmka-z-pokraschennya-yakosti-ta-bezpeki-v-meditsini/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.miragenews.com/kings-researchers-strengthen-ties-with-1552484/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/kings-researchers-strengthen-ties-with-ukrainian-medical-community> - King's College London researchers, Professor Richard Sullivan and Dr Gemma Bowsher, recently visited Lviv to participate in the Global Medical Knowledge Alliance (GMKA) Quality and Safety Conference and the Women in Medicine Conference. Their visit underscores King's long-standing collaboration with Ukrainian medical professionals and its commitment to supporting Ukraine's health sector amid ongoing challenges. At the GMKA conference, they shared expertise in health system strengthening and cancer care delivery in conflict-affected settings, focusing on building resilient health services, ensuring patient safety, and fostering international collaboration in medical education and research. At the Women in Medicine Conference, they engaged with Ukrainian clinicians and academics to explore the role of women leaders in sustaining healthcare systems under pressure. This visit builds on years of collaboration between the Centre for Conflict and Health Security and Ukrainian institutions, assessing the impact of conflict on public health infrastructure and cancer care delivery, shaping international strategies for maintaining oncology services during crises, and informing policy aimed at protecting health services and personnel. Professor Sullivan has extensive experience supporting cancer control and health system reform in conflict-affected regions worldwide, while Dr Bowsher focuses on strengthening health data systems and supporting the resilience of healthcare professionals in wartime conditions.
3. <https://www.kingshealthpartners.org/latest/launching-medical-life-lines-ukraine> - The King’s Health Partners (KHP) Life Lines project is supporting a group of London-based Ukrainian professionals who are restoring old ambulances, filling them with medical supplies, and driving them to war-torn Ukraine. This initiative helps deliver urgently needed medical supplies to support neonatal and children’s hospitals recently bombed and to military field hospitals. The project is supported by the KHP Life Lines project, which is helping to raise funds and obtain supplies to support this south London community organisation. Medical Life Lines Ukraine aims to provide a lifeline to Ukrainian hospitals in need.
4. <https://www.kingshealthpartners.org/latest/partnership-comes-together-support-ukraine> - King’s Health Partners (KHP) has mobilised its assets and expertise to support Ukraine. The partnership made available the Supply Chain Hub to hold donated clinical supplies, which were then delivered to hospitals in Ukraine, including cities on the front line. More than 200 pallets of clinical supplies have been delivered, including personal protective equipment, bandages, sutures, dressings, sanitisation materials, and other essential items. The focus is now on raising funding to purchase priority clinical supplies needed by clinical colleagues in Ukraine.
5. <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/memorandum-of-understanding-signed-to-develop-veteran-mental-health-centre-of-excellence-in-ukraine> - A Memorandum of Understanding between King’s College London, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, and the Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry (FGIF) was signed on 29 January 2024 to establish a partnership and collaborate in developing the Veteran Mental Health Centre of Excellence. This comprehensive rehabilitation service, based at Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv, will provide mental health services for war veterans and the wider society. The memorandum reflects an opportunity for both universities to develop a comprehensive rehabilitation service to provide mental health services for war veterans and the wider society.
6. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/261317/the-king-visits-imperials-centre-injury/> - His Majesty The King visited Imperial’s Centre for Injury Studies to highlight the UK’s support to injured service personnel in Ukraine and hear about the vital link between research and humanitarian efforts. The Centre for Injury Studies brings together teams of engineers, scientists, and clinicians to develop new ways of protecting against, diagnosing, treating, and rehabilitating patients following traumatic injuries. The King heard how Imperial applies lessons learned from previous conflicts, including in Afghanistan and Iraq, to support the wounded in Ukraine.
7. <https://gmka.org/en/news/ukrayins-ki-likari-zavershili-onlayn-kurs-gmka-z-pokraschennya-yakosti-ta-bezpeki-v-meditsini/> - Sixty Ukrainian physicians, including surgeons, anesthesiologists, oncologists, and other healthcare professionals, have completed the Global Medical Knowledge Alliance (GMKA) Quality and Safety Course. This eight-week virtual training program was designed to address critical gaps in Ukraine’s healthcare system and promote the adoption of high standards in clinical practice. The course focused on minimizing clinical risk, launching quality improvement initiatives, integrating Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) protocols, and enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration between specialties. Participants learned directly from experts at top medical institutions, including Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Sunnybrook Hospital, and King’s College London.