EMSTC Opens Professional Doors to Ambulance Pediatrician

As a child, Oleg Zinevich dreamed of becoming a doctor and he worked steadily toward that goal. But, after graduating from the Chernovtsi Medical Institute and completing a pediatric internship at the Kiev Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education, Oleg says he “began to work for the 15th Kiev Ambulance Substation and found that I lacked sufficient practical skills in emergency care and was very concerned with that discovery. Luckily, some physicians with whom I work told me about the Kiev EM STC, which they said had all the necessary resources to polish one’s skills.”

Unable to obtain the necessary class admittance voucher from the Central Ambulance Station, but eager to attend a course at the Center, Oleg visited the EM STC to meet its Director, Mikhail Natsyuk, who eventually permitted him to join an already formed group. “I was very surprised at what I found there because it was different from my previous educational experiences,” recalls Oleg. “First of all, the teaching methodology was very clear and the trainers were very skilled. Then, during the training, I was expected to practice the knowledge I learned on mannequins designed to copy the human body to the maximum extent possible. I was also impressed with the audiovisual equipment used to show films describing how to provide care in emergency situations.” Inspired by the classes and the greater potential for providing care to those in need, an enthusiastic Oleg says he “remained in the classroom after the classes ended to practice and polish all the algorithms.” “The algorithms are very important,” he explains, “because they helped me know exactly how much time I should spend on any given manipulation, and, as an ambulance physician, time is often my most precious resource.”

Oleg’s dedication did not go unnoticed by his trainers. After completing the training program, he was offered the opportunity to become a trainer at the Center, an offer he immediately accepted. Since this is not a full-time position, Oleg continues to work at the 15th Ambulance Substation as a member of the pediatric team, which allows him to practice the skills he teaches every day.

“During my training in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, organized by AIHA for new EMSTC trainers, I practiced his teaching skills by instructing children in emergency medicine techniques. Since that time, Oleg has also accepted a position as pediatrician for the Aspern Children’s Charitable Foundation, which takes care of street children. At the Foundation, Oleg provides medical care to the homeless children and teaches them emergency medicine. “These kids often find themselves in difficult situations, including those where emergency care is needed. There is a good chance that the knowledge I impart can help them save a human life, making all the time I spend doing this worthwhile,” he says. Talking about his life now, Oleg says: “Even though I have virtually no personal time, I’m happy that my life is what it is. Thanks to the Kiev EM STC, I have achieved maximum success in professional terms and am deeply satisfied with my work in moral terms.”