



## War in Ukraine, one year after

*Seen from the inside, by a young EP specialist*



**Doctor Olena Ilchyshyna**  
*EHRA Young Ambassador for Ukraine*

**Q: Could you describe how the current situation in cardiology and electrophysiology are in your country?**

**A:** Unfortunately, today Ukrainian doctors as all Ukrainian people struggle with the difficulties. Difficulties they never could have imagined due to full scale invasion of Russian federation. Many hospitals have been destroyed and medical specialists as other people were obliged to leave their homes and even their country. The lack of financing and of equipment, medicines and qualified personnel as well as cardiovascular morbidity are increasing because of permanent stress, myocarditis and complications to get medical treatment in time making the situation in cardiology rather complicated. The same can be observed in electrophysiology: essential deficiency of pacemakers, defibrillators and other devices worsen the quality of health care at the moment. We are today unable to provide for all our needs. A separate category of our patients deserves special attention - our veterans who are mostly young men with severe injuries and comorbidity complications including myocardial infarction, arrhythmias, heart conduction disorders.

**Q: What would you currently need to improve care?**

**A:** Of course, we feel all the support and appreciate all the humanitarian help from abroad including drugs and medical equipment, but it is mostly distributed in places where direct military actions are operated. But in civil life we also feel the need for additional help.

In my opinion the most important shortage that we are currently experiencing is in devices: pacemakers, CRTP devices, defibrillators, ILRs, Holter ECG monitors for long-lasting recording.



**EHRA**  
European Heart  
Rhythm Association

**Q: How do you see the future of cardiology and electrophysiology in your country?**

A: I am pretty sure that the situation will change soon because our people stay strong and confident, we continue educating and training ourselves and moving forward towards a bright future. We continue to reform our medical system, medical education as well as carrying out scientific study programs. Life hasn't stopped. We just need time and support to improve patient care and achieve our goals.