

European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and biology (EFSUMB): stop bloodshed in Ukraine

"Physicians should be apostles of peace and reconciliation"

Rudolf Virchow, 1869

77 years after the end of the Second World War, a new war is taking place in the heart of Europe. People are dying, families are torn apart, people flee, houses are destroyed, dreams of the future are shattered, old people relive horrors long past.

EFSUMB is a federation of medical scientific societies with 20,000 members in more than 30 European countries, promoting communication, understanding, and development of medical ultrasound in Europe. International scientific and medical societies not only have the task of exchanging scientific knowledge, to maintain high professional standards, and to educate. In times when nations fall back into archaic and dangerous patterns of behaviour, when hostility threatens to triumph over cooperation, they have a duty to speak up and to build bridges between people of different nations, cultures and values through dialogue, exchange of views and joint projects.

As physicians and ultrasound practitioners from various medical specialties and European countries including the Ukraine and Russia we are deeply worried on the terrible developments of the last days. We are very concerned about the safety of our colleagues in Ukraine and appeal to the belligerent parties not to endanger hospitals and other medical facilities. As members of the medical profession, we are committed to people's lives and health. It is a logical extension of our basic medical understanding and the preventive approach of medicine, that we oppose war with its senseless endangerment and destruction of human life. We therefore call on those politically responsible to halt their military operations and stop the bloodshed. We appeal to the governments of Russia and Ukraine to face up to their common responsibility and to extend their hands for understanding. We call on policymakers in Europe to seek the path to preventive, healthy politics. EFSUMB will do everything possible to continue on the path of peaceful and life-affirming cooperation in the interest of our patients throughout Europe.

Professor Dr. Christian Jensen

President EFSUMB

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