



## **CRB/AAB/ABB Statement of Support for Ukraine**

In the face of the unprecedented military aggression by the governments of Russia and Belarus towards the country of Ukraine and its people, the College of Reproductive Biology (CRB), the American Association of Bioanalysts (AAB), and the American Board of Bioanalysis (ABB) express their full support, empathy, and solidarity towards our friends, colleagues, and the people of Ukraine.

Well-documented indiscriminate bombing of the residential areas and medical facilities by the Russian troops has resulted in many civilian deaths, including women and children.

As reproductive health professionals, we are extremely concerned about a reproductive medical emergency in Ukraine.

Reproductive healthcare providers are unable to care for their patients during this crisis, resulting in crushed dreams and hopes of parenting for many.

It has been reported that scores of surrogate mothers are trapped by the fighting as their due dates approach. The newborns are being cared for in makeshift bomb shelters under appalling conditions, with many intended parents unable to travel to Ukraine.

We are aware of the heroic efforts by our Ukrainian colleagues to transfer thousands of precious and often irreplaceable frozen embryos, oocytes, and sperm samples to a secure location in Poland and wish to offer support to them where possible.

CRB, AAB, and ABB also share the outrage of many academic and medical institutions condemning this war. As the bombing of Ukrainian cities continues, we are horrified to learn that a perinatal center and maternity hospital have been attacked. Such atrocities undermine every academic and ethical principle on which the CRB, AAB, and ABB stand. It leaves us no choice but to disassociate the CRB, AAB, and ABB from any government/military-sponsored institutions in Russia and Belarus. We have asked that our board members not accept speaking arrangements or consulting opportunities in Russia and Belarus at least for the duration of this crisis. We trust that our colleagues in Russia and Belarus who condemn this war will understand and support the position the CRB, AAB, and ABB have taken.

We stand in solidarity with friends, colleagues, families, and patients impacted by this terrible humanitarian tragedy. We add our voices to the international plea to stop this war and respect democracy and international humanitarian law.

CRB, AAB, and ABB are currently looking into reliable avenues of financial support for our reproductive colleagues. We will update you as we have information, should you choose to support efforts in Ukraine financially.

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