Hello Everyone,

Happy fall and welcome!

We are happy to have you here at the University of Washington preparing for your career in healthcare.

I am reaching out to invite you and gauge your interest in working to combat vaccine hesitancy in Ukrainian and Russian communities in our state. I partner with WA Department of Health in this work, because of my nursing expertise and cultural background. We continue to seek members and allies of FSU communities from our state and local communities. Here in Washington, we have high numbers of Ukrainian and Russian immigrants and refugees who are part of our greater community. The most recent data from WA DOH shows that COVID vaccination in these communities remains very low (4-7%). Last year, we created a Listserv of Health Science students, recent grads, and faculty to help support this effort. We would like to invite you to join our efforts as well and welcome could utilize your health professional, language, and cultural skills. There are still **significant barriers** to COVID vaccination in these communities and we are working on specific initiatives:

1. If you are interested in joining the Listserv, please respond and let us know your professional track and/or language skills possessed.
2. We are in **desperate** need of connection to Ukrainian speaking health providers from our communities to help support the education campaign and specifically would be interested in featuring one of those providers in a COVID education video or audio interview or podcast- if you are in health care and have those language skills or know of anyone who does and would be willing to participate- **please reach out to me!**
3. I also wanted to share the current “COVID Vaccine Toolkit” of resources to support this community – all resources can be shared/distributed broadly <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C0sn0vYLnOIXNz8O9ex9rz3aql-A6tUg>
4. Also, please utilize and share this FREE CE course module with colleagues interacting with these communities in their work <https://immunitycommunitywa.org/courses/fostering-covid-19-vaccine-confidence-in-russian-and-ukrainian-speaking-communities/>
5. Lastly, one of our FSU Community Workgroup members, Dr. Andrey Shuvarikov, will be conducting outreach to faith-based communities throughout WA state this fall and will be seeking volunteers with a health science background who speak Russian or Ukrainian to outreach with him in person to these communities.

We are in a very timely state of our pandemic crisis right now and need all the help we can get.

Please reach out with any questions, ideas, or comments.

With appreciation,

DigSigcyhant2

**Tamara Cyhan Cunitz, MN, RN** *(she/her)*

***FSU Community Outreach Group***

Lecturer

Clinical Liaison- NEPQR HRSA Grant

Child, Family and Population Health Nursing

University of Washington School of Nursing

Seattle, WA

[cyhant@uw.edu](mailto:cyhant@uw.edu)