



## Visit of the Swedish delegation to Ukraine and launch of the *Spinalis handbook*

October, 2024

*Kyiv Regional Clinical Hospital*

The event is multi-format, with an overview of the rehabilitation department, a presentation of the handbook and a panel discussion.

### Goals

- To present the Ukrainian adaptation of the Spinalis handbook – *SPINALIS. A new page of life with spinal cord injury*
- Initiate partnerships between the two countries in the field of rehabilitation
- Sign the memorandum on the International Medical Partnership between Spinalis Foundation and Rivne regional hospital for war veterans
- To present and disseminate the translated Spinalis handbook during the 1st National SCI Conference in Ukraine (14th - 16th Nov)

### Speakers

- *Olena Zelenska*, First Lady of Ukraine
- *Viktor Liashko*, Minister of Health of Ukraine
- Ministry from Sweden (to be specified later on)
- *Claes Hultling*, professor, M.D., PhD, co-author of the SPINALIS handbook
- *Martin Åberg*, Ambassador of Sweden to Ukraine

### Other participants

- Representatives of Swedish companies
- Representatives together with the Ministry of Health of Sweden
- Representatives of Business Sweden
- Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Health (to be specified)
- Mr. *Erik Hammarskjöld* Assistant to Mr. Hultling
- *Max Petzold*, University of Gothenburg
- *Bohdan Minenko*, *Taras Yermakov*, representatives of CF "Mindy", which implements the project on the construction of mobile rehabilitation modules
- Deputy head of the Kyiv regional military administration / head of the Kyiv regional administration (to be specified)
- *Ulyana Pcholkina*, public figure, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the NGO "Active Rehabilitation Group"
- Team of the Coordination Center for Mental Health of Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and NGO Barrier-free
- Medical facilities that work with people with SCI (to be specified) + media and interpreters



## Press Release

# Launch of the Ukrainian Edition of the Spinalis Handbook

Kyiv, October 2024

A high-level Swedish delegation, featuring prominent figures from industry, politics, and academia, will visit Ukraine in October. During this visit, Professor *Claes Hultling* will launch the Ukrainian version of the Spinalis handbook in a ceremony alongside Ukraine's First Lady, *Olena Zelenska*.

The delegation includes companies actively supporting the Ukrainian government in its defense against the Russian invasion, many of which are contributing innovative healthcare solutions.

Professor *Claes Hultling*, who has lived with a spinal cord injury since 1984, founded the Spinalis Foundation in 1991. Over the years, he has been instrumental in setting up spinal cord injury units in Gaborone, Botswana, and Windhoek, Namibia, and is working to establish a similar unit in Lusaka, Zambia.

The war in Ukraine has led to more than 1,000 individuals sustaining spinal cord injuries, creating an urgent need for high-quality rehabilitation and properly trained medical staff. The Spinalis handbook, a comprehensive yet accessible guide, aims to address this need. Initially, 2,000 copies will be distributed through various channels, with a digital version also available to broaden its reach.

Professor *Hultling* has been engaged in spinal cord injury care for over 42 years, primarily at the Department of Neurology at Karolinska University Hospital in Solna. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Spinalis Foundation. Karolinska University Hospital has already received many injured soldiers from the war in Ukraine for specialized care.

The initiative to translate the Spinalis handbook into Ukrainian was taken by First Lady *Olena Zelenska* during her visit to Sweden in June 2023, where she met with Professor *Hultling* at Aleris Rehab Station and Spinalis in Frösundavik, Stockholm.