

The Moldovan –North Carolina Partnership

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In 2006 all the twelve North Carolina medical libraries began a partnership with the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova. This ongoing partnership is part of a bilateral agreement between the Governor of North Carolina and President Voronin of Moldova. North Carolina Secretary of State, Elaine Marshall, coordinates many programs between North Carolina and Moldova. This partnership is modeled on the Sister Library initiative of the Medical Library Association with the Medical Library of Latvia.

The Scientific Medical Library serves as the National Medical Library for Moldova. The library is part of the State Medical and Pharmaceutical University Nicolae Testemitanui which has 1,000 professors, 4,800 students, 1,800 residents, and 91 residency programs. There are 6 faculties within the university and they are: General Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Residency and Training Courses for Doctors. The library employs 62 staff members. The library owns 1,200,000 books and journals (almost all in Russian). The library's collection is spread over several locations at the university. The library has five reading rooms, two information centers, and three internet classrooms located in the student hostels. It also has branches located in the Psychiatric Hospital, the City Hospital, and in the School of Training for Nurses.

“This new program is fantastic and we appreciate it and value it. The partnership has made a tremendous difference to all of us at the medical school and we are sure this will contribute to the improvement of the system of medical education and health care in our country”. Comments by Dr. Nicolae Esanu, President of the State Medical and Pharmaceutical University.

Over 7,000 current medical books and journals were shipped from North Carolina medical libraries to the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova.

The 12 NC Medical Libraries of the Moldovan –NC Medical Library Partnership

1. Health sciences Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
2. Duke University Medical Center Library, Durham, NC
3. Laupus Health Sciences Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC
4. Coy C. Carpenter Library, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem
5. Coastal AHEC Medical Library, Wilmington, NC
6. Charlotte AHEC Library and Information Resource Center, Charlotte, NC
7. Northwest AHEC Libraries, Hickory, Salisbury, and Boone, NC
8. Mountain AHEC Health Sciences Library, Asheville, NC
9. Moses Cone Health System Library, Greensboro, NC
10. Area L AHEC Library /Information Center, Rocky Mount, NC
11. Wake AHEC Medical Library, Raleigh, NC
12. Southern Regional AHEC Information Access Center, Fayetteville, NC

In September 2006, Donna Flake and Diane Darrow, of the Coastal AHEC Medical Library in Wilmington, North Carolina, spent a week in Moldova organizing and further developing the partnership. Donna Flake taught the Moldovan librarians how to use several medical databases, as well as DOCLINE (the U.S. National Library of the Medicine document delivery program).

Partnerships in Health information, based in England, arranged for a study tour of medical libraries in Oxford, England for the Moldovan Libraries. They had extensive training on HINARI, and Cochrane Collaboration.

The Moldovan – NC Partnership arranged for two of the Moldovan Librarians to attend a study tour of six of the North Carolina Libraries. This trip was extremely valuable in furthering the partnership, establishing the bonds of friendship, and learning for the Moldovan Librarians.

The partnership encouraged two Moldovan librarians to apply for scholarships for the EAHIL conference in Romania. The Moldovan librarians obtained the scholarships, attended EAHIL, and now Silvia Ciubrei serves on the EAHIL Council. Furthermore, the Partnership helped to secure for the Moldovan Library a gracious and kind donation from four library vendors :(Ovid, Elsevier, EBSCO, and Stat! Ref) providing software including Ovid MEDLINE, Clin-e Guide, Stat Ref!, First Consult, MD Consult, and Dynamed.

The twelve North Carolina Medical Libraries are providing free document delivery to the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova.

This partnership has all the qualities to succeed into the future! These qualities are support of governments, personal friendships, and a large network of partners. We encourage other international medical library partnerships to develop and prosper. Other organizations are working to encourage international medical library partnerships. Four examples are: 1. Partnerships in Health Information, 2. The Nordic Group, 3. The Medical Library Association, and EAHIL. We strongly encourage the development of many more international medical library partnerships, eventually linking the entire earth.