

## A Visit to Moldova: An Update on Our Library's Partnership with the Scientific Medical Library of Moldova

By Donna Flake

This partnership is led by Donna Flake and Diane Darrow from the SEAHEC Medical Library in Wilmington, North Carolina. The North Carolina academic medical libraries and some of the North Carolina AHEC libraries also participate in this partnership.

Donna and Diane visited the Scientific Medical Library of the State Medical and Pharmaceutical University of Moldova in Chisinau, Moldova for ten days in June 2009.

They taught HINARI at the library to twenty-three health professionals including physicians, residents, medical students, medical school faculty members, medical librarians and representatives from the Ministry of Health. HINARI is an important program of the World Health Organization (WHO) which makes 6,200 medical journals available to health practitioners in the world's poorest countries. Moldova qualifies as one of the world's poorest countries. This HINARI class in Moldova was the first time it was taught in Europe. It has been taught in Vietnam and extensively in Africa. So in that regard, Donna and Diane were unofficial representatives of WHO.

Donna and Diane also taught some other classes during their time in Moldova. These classes were very

informative to all those who attended. The classes focused on the following:

- DynaMed (a point-of-care resource similar to UpToDate).
- STAT!Ref (database of 300 medical textbooks)
- Anatomy TV (database of anatomy images that move)
- Evaluating Medical Websites
- The Friends of the Library Program
- The Reference Interview
- Marketing the Medical Library
- Integrating the Library's Electronic Resources into the Electronic Medical Record

While in Moldova, Donna and Diane had several meetings with the university's President and several faculty members. They brainstormed how to improve the medical library and how to expand the partnership. One big accomplishment of this visit to Moldova is that the Moldovan medical university will develop a course which integrates HINARI and medical database instruction into the curriculum. Prior to their visit, the Moldovan librarians advertised their databases, but did not offer database classes to the doctors, residents, medical students, and faculty members. Another accomplishment is that the university's President has mandated that the medical library develop a library marketing plan. This appears to be a direct result of the course Donna and Diane taught on marketing the medical library.

Donna was also invited to a dinner at the home of the US Ambassador to Moldova. Unfortunately, Diane had to return home before this dinner. In attendance at the Ambassador's home was the Minister of Health, the President of the medical university and



Diane Darrow with Moldovan University Officials

others who have helped the medical library partnership.

Other accomplishments of the medical library partnership include sending 20,000 current medical books and journals to the Moldovan medical library. These books and journals were delivered in three shipments over a four year period of time. Another shipment of 140 boxes is making its way to Moldova. In May, Donna and Diane will travel to Greenville to collect the boxes at East Carolina University and then take them to Counterpart International in Goldsboro to be shipped to Moldova. The shipping process takes approximately 6 weeks, so these books and journals will arrive in June.

All books and journals were donated by health professionals in the southeastern North Carolina, the SEAHEC Medical Library, the AHEC library in Asheville, and the health sciences libraries at East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Donna thanks all who have donated these resources and would like to encourage those who have current materials to please remember to donate to this partnership. In addition to the books and journals provided by North Carolina libraries, all North Carolina medical school libraries and all AHEC libraries furnish electronic document delivery to the Moldovan medical library.

This partnership has been extremely successful— more than what Donna and Diane ever imagined and they each thank you for your support. 



MOLDOVA