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SEAHEC Solidifies International Library Partnership with the Scientific Medical Library of the Republic of Moldova

By Lindsay SmithInternational Partnerships, Moldova, Robert M. Fales Health Sciences Library

SEAHEC (South East Area Health Education Center) is proud to announce it has signed an international library partnership with the Scientific Medical Library of the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Republic of Moldova. Silvia Ciubrei, Deputy Director of the Scientific Medical Library in Moldova in Eastern Europe, Dr. Joseph Pino, SEAHEC CEO, and Donna Flake, SEAHEC Library Director signed the partnership during Ciubrei's visit to Wilmington earlier this summer.

SEAHEC's Fales Health Sciences Library, under the direction of Donna Flake, has partnered with medical library Scientific Medical Library of Moldova since 2006. The library partnership is part of a larger international partnership began by the then NC Governor and the President of Moldova in 1999. Since then, many projects arose including exchanges of physicians and dentists, and medical texts. The library partnership with Moldova has included all the NC AHEC Libraries, as well as the medical libraries at Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, Wake Forrest, and East Carolina University.

"The county of Moldova has only one Medical Library, which until our partnership, had limited and outdated Russian medical texts. Over the years SEAHEC and its North Carolina partners have sent 75,000 current print medical and nursing books and journals in addition to electronic transmission of journal articles from the NC medical libraries to Moldova," said Flake.

In May, with Ciubrei in attendance, the SEAHEC Library held a reception celebrating the partnership. She presented Flake with the prestigious Medal of the State University of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Republic of Moldova in recognition of her outstanding leadership with the Moldova-NC Medical Library Partnership.

The Republic of Moldova was established in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union. It is located between Romania to the west and Ukraine to the north,

east, and south. The nation is governed by a 101 seat parliament that elects the nation's president. Like many former Soviet Union states, Moldova is working to transition from Russian run hospitals into modern healthcare.

"We are delighted to participate in this partnership which has vastly improved access to medical information in Moldova, and thus improved healthcare for the Moldova citizens," added Flake.

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