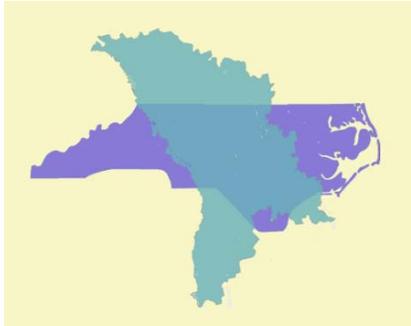




Our Work and Involvement in the North Carolina - Moldova State Partnership for Peace Program

The National Guard State Partnership Program links U.S. States with partner countries. The North Carolina - Moldova Partnership was formalized on April 22, 1999.

Exploration of UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health Involvement in the NC-Moldova State Partnership Program



Former U.S. Ambassador to Moldova Michael Kirby and N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall asked the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health to join the partnership to provide guidance in public health-related matters. Dean Barbara K. Rimer sent Brenda M. Motsinger, the school's director of special projects, to Moldova for a week in October 2007 to explore the public health issues and needs in Moldova and to identify possible opportunities for collaboration. To continue this exploration, in January 2008, the School hosted a NC-Moldova Health Summit, sponsored by the NC-Moldova Bilateral Affairs

Committee, which was attended by former Ambassador Kirby and the former Moldovan Minister of Health, Dr. Ion Ababii. In January 2010, the NC-Moldova Bilateral Agreement was renewed for a 3rd time and the UNC School's of public health and dentistry hosted a half-day meeting for a delegation of Moldovan Parliamentarians.

Improved Water, Sanitation, & Health Education for Moldovan Schools

During the January 2008 NC-Moldova Health Summit -hosted by the School, Ambassador Kirby suggested that students involved in Engineers Without Borders (EWB) work with Peace Corps volunteers on water and sanitation issues. This led to a proposal from EWB, followed by two video conferences, between the School and Moldova, and finally a reconnaissance visit in October 2008. The faculty advisor to EWB, Don Laura, PhD, and Dr. Phil Singer, PhD, both professors of environmental science and engineering, Eugenia Eng, PhD, professor of health behavior and health education and Kari Leech, a student leader in EWB, all visited Moldova to assess the water-sanitation-health education situation and prepare a formal proposal for the School's assistance. The proposed project intended to use students from the UNC chapter of EWB and graduate students from health behavior and health education to: 1) improve water and sanitation facilities in some of Moldova's 1,500+ elementary and secondary schools and 2) develop and implement an improved health education curriculum for Moldovan schools. The proposed project is part of a much larger effort, led by UNICEF. UNC's proposal targets a handful of schools with the same general goal as the UNICEF project but with additional efforts to build and strengthen local village and school capacities to ensure sustainability of the improvements. EWB students returned in summer 2009 to visit 23 elementary schools in the Gagauzia and Orhei regions of Moldova and made recommendations for site improvements and hygiene education.



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Training: Health Management and Quality of Care

In December of 2008, Dean Harris, JD, professor of health policy and management, spent one week in Moldova to give lectures at the Ministry of Health, School of Medicine and two major hospitals. His topics included quality of care, patient safety and medical errors, risk management, comparative health systems and health reform and ethical issues in a global perspective. In addition, he had several meetings with officials of the Ministry of Health who were working on projects such as a system for licensing physicians and a system for compensating patients for injuries. Professor Harris plans to provide advice and feedback to Ministry officials. In addition, he has been requested by Moldova's School of Public Health



to collaborate with them to providing distance education. Dr. Harris will return to Moldova in March 2010 to explore collaborations with Center for Health Policies and Studies (Centrul Pentru Politici Si Analize in Sanatate).

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Increasing Disaster Awareness in the Black Sea Area

Bill Gentry, director of the community preparedness and health policy program in the School's department of health policy and management, accompanied the North Carolina National Guard on a mission to promote regional cooperation and interoperability between Black Sea area nations. Gentry assisted in facilitating and evaluating a multi-national exercise program that included participants from Moldova, Ukraine, Romania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia and Turkey. The exercise program was designed to increase disaster awareness in the region by familiarizing participants with all aspects of managing a disaster -- from pre-disaster planning to response, recovery and mitigation. The scenario for the exercise was a natural disaster-based event conducted in a table-top format. The exercise was conducted over five days in Chisinau, Moldova.



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For general information about the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health's involvement in the North Carolina-Moldova State Partnership Program, please contact:



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