

# BIPAI

Baylor International  
Pediatric AIDS Initiative  
Constanta, Romania

Annual Report  
2013



# Our Vision

To live in a stigma free community, able to stop transmission of serious illness, such as HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted infections.

# Our Mission

To help the community develop efficient services for the prevention and care of infectious diseases.

The Foundation's purpose is to create a healthier community, where infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections can be stopped or prevented. In this respect, the Foundation will work with the community in order to optimize prevention, care, treatment and control over the transmission, prevention and risk reduction of these infections.

The current main objectives are the following:

- ★ Prevention of infectious diseases (HIV, hepatitis B and C, tuberculosis and STIs)
- ★ Testing and screening services for HIV, hepatitis B and C, TB and STIs
- ★ Direct treatment for conditions related to the above diagnosis in Baylor medical offices (TB office, OB. GYN office, dental office)
- ★ Ensuring access to other government sustained treatments for infectious diseases through public- private partnerships or private- private partnerships
- ★ Operational research for improving the quality of services provided by the Centre of Excellence.

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## Celebrating 15 Years in Romania



Michael B. Mizwa

In 1998, Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative launched its first effort to fund a center of excellence for children living with HIV. We officially opened our doors in 2000 and today continue to grow to meet the health needs of our patients and their families throughout Constanta county.

Today, the children of yesterday are young adults with full lives. Our services have expanded to meet the needs of both HIV-positive children and HIV-positive adults and their children.

Among the many proud accomplishments of our team in Constanta, we recognize:

- ★ Successful funding and preparation for the launch of a national drug distribution project in partnership with AmeriCares and Chevron Romania
- ★ Establishment of a five-year partnership with AbbVie Foundation to expand care services delivered at the center for patients with hepatitis C
- ★ The addition of vital services in family planning and primary cardiology screening
- ★ Surpassing the threshold of 30,000 persons voluntarily counseled and tested for HIV and viral hepatitis
- ★ Successfully received 10 shipments of medical supplies, pharmaceuticals and clothing from AmeriCares with a total value of almost \$5 million

As the oldest program in our network, BIPAI Romania has the oldest patient population. As a result, services developed in Romania paved the way for other countries as they also learn to help their HIV-positive teens become successful adults.

I commend the work of our Romania team and look ahead to many productive years of partnership in healing those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases.

*Michael B. Mizwa  
Chief Operating Officer  
Senior Vice President*

*Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative*

*Vice Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Baylor Black Sea Foundation*

## Dear friends of Baylor,

The 2013 Annual Report of the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation Romania is nothing else but a communication bridge between our team and readers. It is written as a testimony of the paths we crossed last year, so we can move closer to achieving our vision: to live in a stigma free community, able to stop transmission of serious illness, such as HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted infections. At the same time, it is important to weigh the degree we successfully fulfilled the promises we made to our patients and community.

I had the great opportunity to work for Baylor Romania since it first began, and I have witnessed the transformations brought to the HIV patients' lives by science, local and international partnerships as well as by good clinical practices.

It is a model which has been recognized as an HIV Centre of Excellence and presently – in close partnership with the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Constanta – allows the patient to receive HIV treatment and care along with many other medical and psychological services, which are absolutely essential, at the same location.

Over the years, thanks to the permanent support of Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital, the Baylor team learned best practices in a wide range of areas, from interacting with the patient to facilities management, from program monitoring and evaluation to financial management procedures.

I believe the American operations management model adapted at our Centre in Romania makes us different among the other local health organizations, and it is echoed in the quality of the services we provide to our patients.

On this occasion I would like to emphasize the work of the Baylor team, those who travel hundreds of miles in our county every day in order to visit our patients in their homes or in the hospitals, those who are daily at the Clinic – nurses, doctors, psychologists, and social workers. At the same time, I would like to insist on the contribution of those who are not in direct contact with our patients but still work so that the organization keeps the promises made to the community: the projects and fund raising teams and also the financial - administrative employees.

To each of them I want to thank and to be grateful they chose to spend an important part of their life in this organization.

More donors and funders chose to support our programs in 2013 compared to the previous years. I take this as a sign of appreciation towards our values – to deliver services in a way that is scientific, well documented and patient centered.

2014 represents a change for Baylor: it is the year when we start our 1st national program – in order to support the medical system, through donations of medicines. At the same time, it is a year when we will work more carefully on issues regarding the adherence at antiretroviral therapy and also the prophylaxis and treatment of TB. In addition, in 2014, we are preparing the expanded services for the patients with hepatitis C similar to the system we already have implemented for the HIV patients.

We hope that through our work next year we will be able to support not only the direct beneficiaries of Baylor, more than 10 thousand people annually, but also many other thousands of patients enrolled in the government medical system.



Ana-Maria Schweitzer

*Ana-Maria Schweitzer,  
Executive Director*

## About BIPAI Romania

The Romanian-American Children's Centre of Excellence (COE) or Centrul de Copii Romano-American was opened on April 6, 2001 and the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation was established in 2004. The COE was the result of a plan of Dr. Mark Kline to help the HIV-infected Romanian children he met in 1996 during his first trip to Romania. The COE became Europe's largest pediatric HIV/AIDS care and treatment center, which includes a state-of-the-art outpatient clinic, an inpatient observation unit, a laboratory, a pharmacy and specimen processing area, classrooms and a short-term treatment and observation unit.

In 2008, the Center was renamed the Baylor College of Medicine – Texas Children's Hospital – Abbott Fund – Constanta Infectious Diseases Hospital – Center of Excellence – Constanta or BIPAI Romania to reflect the growth in partnerships and services. The most mature of BIPAI's programs, Romania, opened the first COE and has the oldest patient population.

BIPAI Romania is part of the BIPAI Network based in Houston, Texas at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital. The Network includes 11 countries where BIPAI is working to expand access to family-centered HIV/AIDS services within Africa, North America and Eastern Europe.

Sustaining funds for the Centrul de Copii Romano-American come from Abbott Fund and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.

Currently, BIPAI Romania operates a clinical Center of Excellence in Constanta, three offices for rapid testing and counseling in Dobrogea county, (the country's first offices), a mobile lab for testing and a protected housing complex for vulnerable youth. BIPAI Romania is trying to minimize the impact of infectious diseases such as HIV infection, hepatitis, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections.

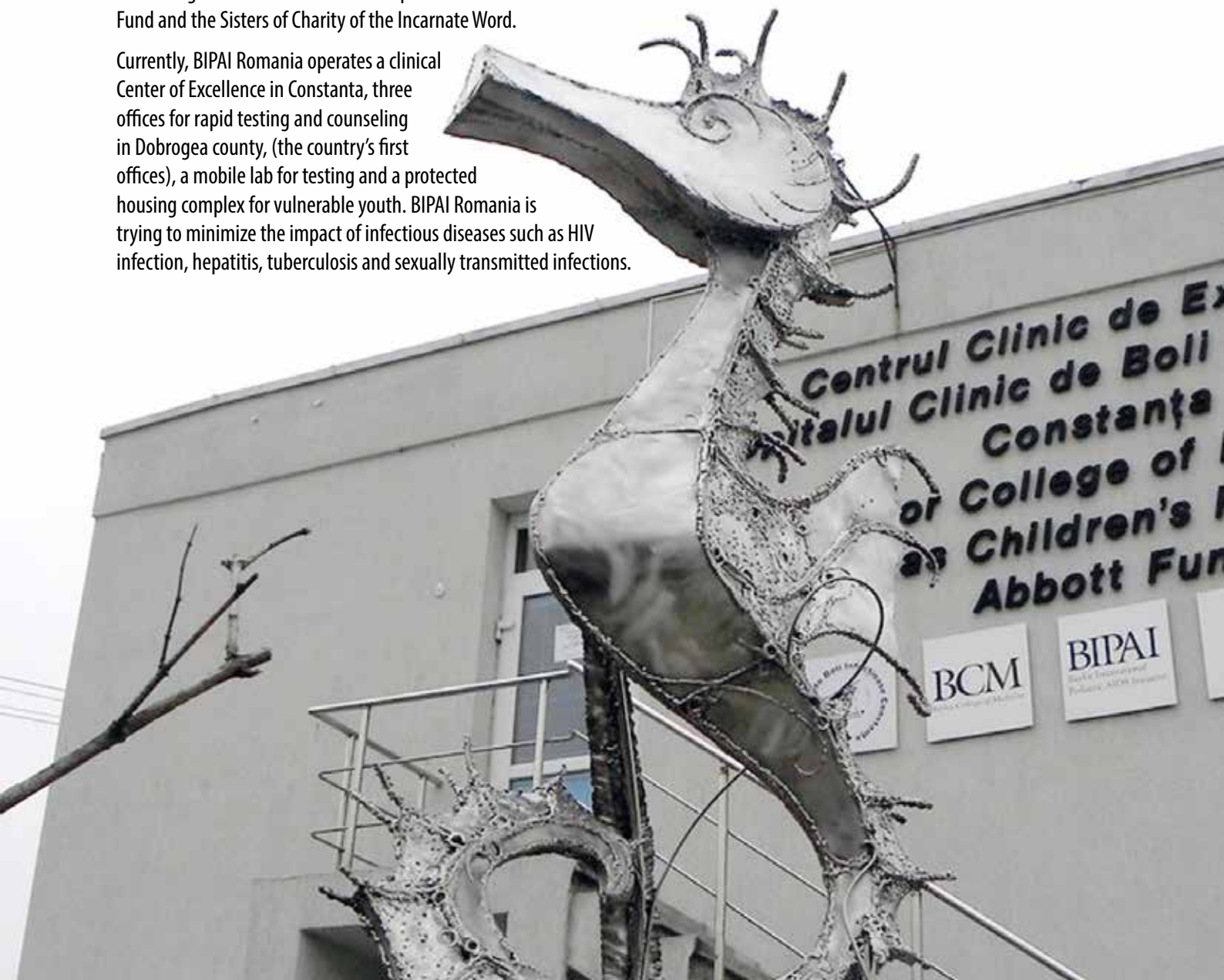
### ROMANIA at a glance

BIPAI Romania is headquartered in Constanta, Romania.

**Patients in care:** 979

**Locations:** 5

**Number of staff** 40



# Center of Excellence

The Centre of Excellence initially opened in Constanta 15 years ago. Since its inception, it has been offering medical services to the beneficiaries through various centers: at our obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN), dental, TB, and family planning offices to name a few.

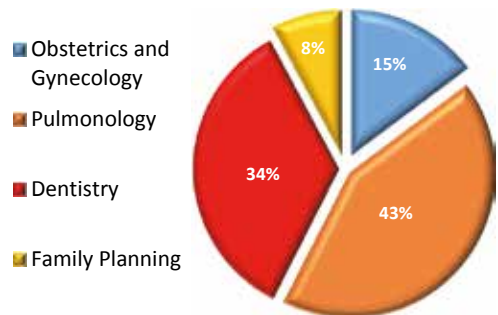
Beside these services, the psychosocial department offers counseling to those coming for testing, as well as support and counseling for those who are infected. This support is provided to their families as well. In 2013, thanks to the cooperation with the Institute of Virology in Bucharest, 39% of the Centre's patients on antiretroviral therapy had testing of viral loads and HIV resistance profiles.

The Baylor team succeeded in 2013 to support 172 children who had at least one of their parents infected with HIV. In addition, the Centre of Excellence offered medical and psychological support for more than 1,500 persons infected with HIV or hepatitis last year alone.

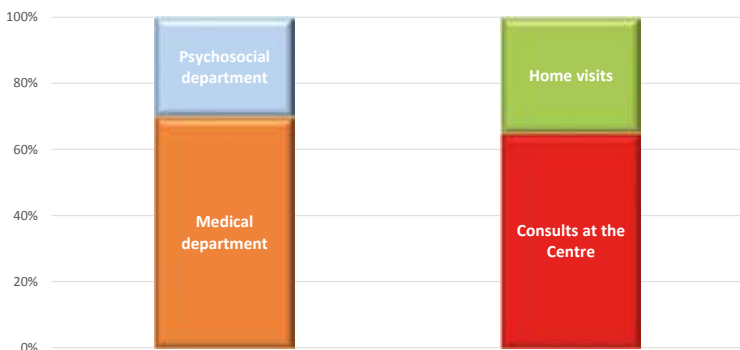
About 100 children in Constanta, Petrosani, Brasov and Galati received more than 5,000 boxes of donated formula milk, with a total value of approximately \$100,000 (USD).

“ Approximately 90% of all the HIV patients in Constanta County have been beneficiaries of at least one of the services rendered by the Baylor Centre of Excellence in 2013. That means 876 HIV infected patients were seen in 2013 with a total number of 6416 sessions, both at the Centre and out in the community. ”

Types of medical services



Distribution of sessions per department





Though many mothers are discouraged when they find out they are HIV positive, a normal pregnancy is possible even in their situation, and it is possible to have a healthy child.

# “Protect the Children’s Heart” Project - A Necessity for HIV Positive Women and their Children

The project entitled “Protect the Children’s Heart,” proposed in 2013 by the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation, was one of the winners of the national contest “Adopt a Project”. This contest was unfolded during May-December 2013 at the Baylor Centre of Excellence with a purpose to evaluate the cardiovascular risk factors in HIV infected persons in Constanta County.

The direct beneficiaries of this screening were 423 people. Among these individuals, 142 were precious children and 281 mothers/HIV positive women.

After some clinical examinations, interpretations of EKG and the blood tests results - processed in specialized laboratories –it became apparent that there was a high risk for cardiologic disorders in HIV positive mothers. In addition, there was also a higher proportion of congenital malformations in their children. The cardiovascular disorders found in women can be expected in patients with long term HIV infection (sometimes more than 25 years), but also to the side effects of the antiretroviral therapy itself.

In the case of the newborns, their health is threatened during pregnancy if their mother’s health is not well controlled.

In this context it was obvious that it is necessary to start a permanent cardiovascular screening program at the Centre of Excellence.

This program has four components:

- ★ On-going cardiologic screening for the precious children;
- ★ Evaluation of HIV positive women in Constanta that have a major risk for cardiologic diseases;
- ★ Case referral to the MD of cardiology ward in Constanta County Hospital;
- ★ Follow up regarding the treatment administration, as well as the state of the beneficiaries health.



“ At the moment, correct administration of antiretroviral therapy is very effective in controlling the evolution of HIV infection. At the same time it might produce significant changes, the most important being related to the lipid metabolism, which has a great impact on patients’ cardiovascular status.

**Emanoil Vasiliu,**  
**Medical Director**



## Two Innocent Children Saved by the Baylor Team at the Last Minute



The psychosocial department in the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation represents a reliable source of support for the HIV+ population as well as for their families throughout Constanta County. A team composed of 6 people from the Centre of Excellence - psychologists and social workers - is in charge of coordinating counseling sessions, both for the infected persons and their partners but also for the rest of their family members.

The services are provided both at the beneficiaries' homes - where they go regularly for monitoring, especially in case of seropositive children or those born from infected mothers, to track their growth and development - but also at the Baylor Centre of Excellence headquarters. The psychosocial support is complemented by the care provided by 5 doctors and 4 nurses, both out in the community and at the Centre of Excellence.

The cases that request the attention of our teams are quite different and involve special attention since many of the beneficiaries are from vulnerable families (poverty stricken and/or a low level of education).

One of the cases we took care of last year was of a very ill boy who had to be transported urgently to the hospital as his health was visibly very poor. The toddler, about 18 months old, was HIV exposed and lived in a poor family that was registered with the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation for a long time. The boy, along with his brothers, are raised only by a father who hardly copes with their daily needs, especially after his wife passed away recently. When the Baylor employees arrived at their home for their routine visit, the youngest child was in a serious condition. He had endured several repeated episodes of respiratory diseases, had lost significant weight, and after several interventions he was urgently transported to the hospital.

After two weeks of treatment at the Infectious Diseases Hospital the boy was eventually released and reintegrated into his family. Now he waits for his HIV confirmation tests to see whether he needs specific treatment. The whole family is still followed by psychologists and social workers from the Baylor Centre of Excellence.

The second case is that of a 5 year old boy in Constanta, who is HIV positive and could have lost his life if the psychosocial team of Baylor had not acted quickly.

During a routine visit to their home, the youngest child was found to be very pale and anemic in appearance. He also had a history of tuberculosis. However, his family members, because of their low health literacy level, did not realize the seriousness of the situation. Baylor employees quickly intervened and transported the child to the hospital where he received transfusions and specialized treatment.

After his recovery, he returned home where he was started on antiretroviral therapy under supervision by physician's from the Baylor COE. Although advised by the Baylor teams, family members of those HIV infected do not always understand that infected persons are more sensitive to catching infections because of their low immunity. For example, a common cold, which can easily be overcome by the robust immune system in an uninfected person, could be fatal to a person who is HIV positive.

## The “Precious Children” Project

More and more newborns are enrolled every year among our beneficiaries. Last year, more than 20 children from registered families with the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation were born at the Constanta County Hospital. That means one or both of the parents are infected with HIV in order to be registered with our Foundation. In case the future mother is HIV infected, the pregnancy is followed closely by the Foundation’s medical team. The pregnant woman will receive specific treatment with antiretroviral medications, and the baby is delivered only by Cesarean section because it is known that natural childbirth increases the likelihood of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. These babies are called “the Precious Children” by the Foundation members. Also, the child is not breastfed but is fed with formula provided by the Foundation. Under these circumstances, there is over a 90% chance that the baby will be healthy and HIV negative. Research conducted by some of our Foundation specialists found that during the last three years only 1% of babies born from infected mothers have been infected with HIV. These unfortunate situations were determined by the fact that the pregnant women were diagnosed with HIV at the time of delivery and had not received antiretroviral therapy during their pregnancy. Currently over 50 toddlers under the age of two are still considered exposed to HIV. After this age, one can say with certainty they are HIV free. Our team performs routine medical evaluations on a regular basis for all of these infants and toddlers in their homes in the countryside or wherever they may be located. During these home visits, the Foundation also provides clothes, food, formula, and/or hygiene products to the families to help them with their various needs for daily living. The Foundation helps focus on the many needs of not just the infected individual but the entire family. It is the mission of the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation to help those afflicted by HIV, and this program is just one of the many ways the Foundation helps many individuals and families in our community.





More than a third of staff interaction with patients took place out in the community during individual and family home visits.

## Baylor Housing Complex

The “Flower House” is a family-type housing complex, situated in Lazu, where some of the foundation’s most vulnerable beneficiaries are hosted.

The cases are diverse: there are abandoned children and teenagers, abused and battered women, or even entire families with no support. The young people living there temporarily are provided support with attending school, finding a job, and learning skills to better take care of themselves. They also participate along with the Baylor employees in certain occupational activities.

At the same time the beneficiaries are supported by the psychologists to overcome the trauma they have endured. When it is possible, they are given significant support to rejoin their family. Additionally, for the positive HIV individuals that need medical assistance, it is essential for them to stay in touch permanently with the Centre of Excellence as well as with the partner medical institutions so that each patient’s health will be improved and be able to lead a normal life. From the opening of the Centre in 2001 until now, almost 60 individuals have been housed in the Flower House.

Just in 2013 itself, 13 individuals stayed and were provided help to overcome a more difficult time in their lives. Among these individuals, there were 3 HIV positive pregnant women as well as 2 families – a single mother with 2 children and a couple with 1 child.



## Stories from the Flower House



A young 27 year old woman from a gypsy family who was abused physically and emotionally was integrated into our Flower House so that she could live in a decent environment. The moment our Baylor psychosocial team found her, this woman didn't know how to use a fork or knife, didn't use cups or glasses for drinking water and had a very limited vocabulary. Although her physical and mental development was limited, the Baylor team was shocked to learn that the young lady once lived with a man and his family. During that time, she became pregnant and a baby was born. The baby was born at the local hospital and after the baby was discharged, he suddenly became sick and eventually died. The moment the woman was taken by the Baylor team the only financial support she had was that of the disability allowance she received from the government for being HIV positive. After she was brought to the Flower House a significant amount of efforts were made in order for her to live a normal and decent life. Though she had some health issues and had to go to Bucharest on two occasions for being diagnosed and treated for some neurological problems, her development was a spectacular one. The young woman succeeded to learn to take care of herself, improved her vocabulary, was taught to write her name and attended everyday activities next to the other inhabitants of the Center.



A young HIV positive woman was found in an abandoned car. After some conflicts with her family she had to leave home even though she was 7 months pregnant at the time. The woman – who also had a little girl – was in a very poor condition and stopped her antiretroviral medications that were treating her HIV infection.

The medical team at the Baylor Centre of Excellence helped her restart her antiretroviral therapy, provided her a room at the Flower House, and facilitated her transportation to the local hospital for the delivery of her baby. The baby, a boy, had no health problems at birth or later, but he is still under close follow up by the Baylor team.

Although the child's growth has been good, the young mother was very close to losing her life because multiple complications arose from her Cesarean section. She underwent other corrective surgeries and had to be transferred to the Constanta County Hospital Intensive Care Unit because of poor wound healing. She was later sent to the Infectious Diseases Hospital in order to continue her treatment. After approximately 10 weeks of hospitalization, the young woman returned to the Flower House where she was housed until her complete recovery. Currently the woman is back in her original town with her 2 children. They are currently looking to try to find land to build a house of their own.



**TESTEAZĂ-TE AICI**

hepatita B, hepatita C, HIV

**FUNDAȚIA BAYLOR MAREA NEAGRĂ**

During 2013 from those 45 HIV new cases confirmed in Dobrogea, 30% were discovered through the Baylor testing program. The 14 people who were found to be positive through testing at the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation, either in the clinic office or the mobile lab, were rapidly connected to local medical providers to have the chance to receive life-saving treatment and to prevent infection transmission to other people.

The rapid testing program in the Baylor network includes 3 permanent medical offices (2 in Constanta and one in Tulcea) as well as a mobile lab. The mobile lab ensures access to free of charge rapid testing to people living in distant rural areas.

# Counseling and Testing Program



From the starting of the program in 2007 until the end of 2013 more than 31,000 people in the Dobrogea region have received free testing and counseling for HIV as well as for Hepatitis B and C.

In just the last year, more than 8,500 people underwent testing, and more than 2,000 of these clients utilized the mobile lab for their testing.

Over 7.13% of the clients that were tested during 2013 received a reactive result to one of the three viruses, which - once more - indicates the importance of such a program.

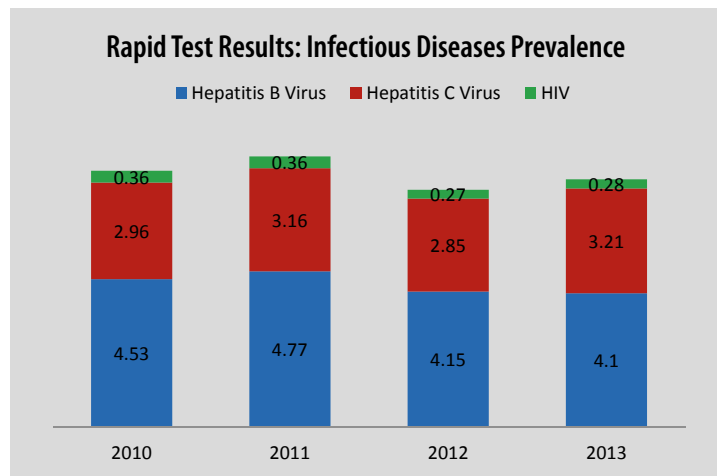
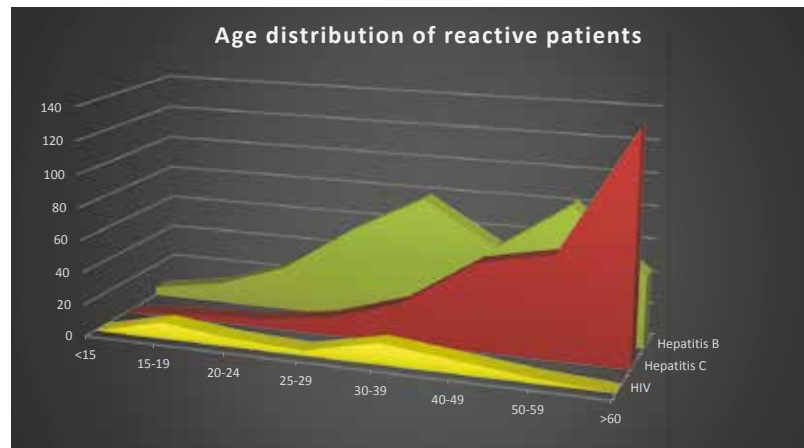
In other words, approximately 1 in 10 people in the Dobrogea region has a viral infection with one of the 3 viruses, and most of the time, the person is not aware of his/her infection.

Having untreated and undiagnosed Hepatitis B and C can lead to significant health concerns. This fact is proven by a high death rate due to cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinomas associated with this particular viral hepatitis.

“The Baylor team’s ultimate concern is to ensure the continuity – outreach project. By doing so, throughout the last year the counseling, information, testing, and clinical service were provided at excellent standards. Many individuals are coming forward to be tested, and this increased demand shows that individuals in our community have realized the role of our program and asked for our help.

At the same time the financial resources have been wisely used by the project team throughout its various outreach efforts. Therefore these 6 years of experience have helped us to achieve in 2013 the best results we have ever seen.

**Mihaela Bogdan,**  
Project Manager



## A Mother Infected with Hepatitis C Virus is the most Optimistic Beneficiary of the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation

The Baylor-Black Sea Foundation organizes support groups for the patients with Hepatitis C. The Foundation helps those who are infected with this virus to overcome the shock of first learning about their diagnosis and to encourage them not to surrender to the disease. The most optimistic and joyful member of this support group is a young lady, age 28, who was discovered having hepatitis C while she was making the usual tests prescribed by her gynecologist when she became pregnant. After the first tests, when her infection was just preliminarily confirmed, her family doctor recommended that she go to the Baylor Centre of Excellence for further evaluation. Here at the Foundation, all the tests were repeated and her diagnosis was confirmed. Although she had a high viral load which would recommend starting the treatment with interferon for a year, she was placed on the waiting list of the House of Health Insurance for more than 12 months in order to be accepted for treatment. Under the attentive care of her doctors (OB/GYN and Internal Medicine), her pregnancy developed normally and the child was born with no health problems. The child was born by Cesarean section and was not breastfed. The girl is now one year old, and she is the joy of her family. The young lady never lost her courage. She continues to lead her life as if nothing happened. It is important that her family supports her and does not treat her as a suffering person. More than that she has the desire to have more children. Regarding her infection with hepatitis C, the young woman did not know where she originally became infected. She assumes it might have been from the transfusions she received while in the hospital right after her first child was born or possibly from dental procedures she underwent previously. Sexual transmission is unlikely as she denies having any sexual partners outside of her marriage, and her husband tested negative for Hepatitis C. Since she became a beneficiary of the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation, the woman attended all the support group's sessions, and she has been an example of optimism and good humor for all the other participants. She says to everyone in the groups that she has never felt she was ill and never had any pain or weakness. People who know her say her diagnosis is hard to believe because she is such a lively and joyful person. Her case has provided others with a belief that Hepatitis C is manageable.





## Research and Publications



“The research conducted at the Baylor Centre of Excellence by our specialists and partners were published last year in two international peer reviewed publications – “Germes” and “Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services”

”

In the 3rd issue of *Germes* journal, in September 2013, multiple team members of the Baylor Centre of Excellence and physicians from the local Infectious Diseases Hospital in Constanta published an article entitled, “Nine year follow up of HIV infected Romanian children and adolescents receiving lopinavir/ritonavir”<sup>1</sup>. This work is based on the study of the HIV infected Romanian children who were infected in hospitals before 1980 and received the lopinavir/ritonavir antiretroviral medication for their treatment. Approximately 450 of these patients were followed for a longer period of time.

In 2001, 414 of these patients were initiated on triple therapy including lopinavir/ritonavir. Data from this cohort treated through August 2006 were published in April 2007 demonstrating that the treatment was well tolerated.

337 children (81%) remained on therapy more than 4 years. The median age at initiation of lopinavir/ritonavir was 14.0 years, and the median time on lopinavir/ritonavir treatment was 7.5 years. The overall mortality was found to be 13.5% during the time course of this study.

Of the original 414 patients started on lopinavir/ritonavir in 2001, 199 (48.1%) remained on this therapy by the end of 2010 and of these 63.8% had undetectable viral load. Therefore a significant proportion of patients treated with lopinavir /ritonavir remained on this therapy for up to 9 years and with good results.

Also in 2013, a study on the psychological determinants of adherence to antiretroviral therapy of the patients in Baylor Center of Excellence was published in the *Journal of HIV / AIDS & Social Services*. The scientific research article entitled “The Information – Motivation – Behavioral Skills Model of ART Adherence in Romanian Young Adults”<sup>2</sup> was conducted by Baylor Romania in cooperation with Southampton University and the Centre for Health affiliated with the University of Connecticut.

The 20 research participants in this study had a mean age of 21.4 years and a mean duration of antiretroviral therapy (ART) of 8.5 years, most of them knowing their diagnosis for over 14 years. The study involved nine medical and social service providers with many years of experience working with people with HIV.

The method of investigation was a focus group with 20 patients and health care providers and investigation of the psychological aspects and attributes of this specific group by comparing the results to those in the known literature.

The psychologists have researched aspects of information regarding misinformation and motivational factors that can support or hinder adherence to ART among this specific group of patients. They also investigated the behavioral skills that play a role in maintaining adherence to treatment success, and the most common barriers that patients need to cope.

The results of this research have been used for the development of tools for improving adherence among our beneficiaries.

1 Wanless RSB, Rugină S, Ruță SM, Dumitru IM, Cernat RC, Schwarzwald HL, Calles NR, Schutze GE, Schweitzer AM, Draper HR, Kline MW. Nine-year follow-up of HIV-infected Romanian children and adolescents receiving lopinavir/ritonavir-containing highly active antiretroviral therapy. *GERMS*. 2013;3(3):90-95. doi: 10.11599/germs.2013.1042

2 The information-motivation-behavioural skills model of ART adherence in Romanian young adults - A.L. Dima, A.M. Schweitzer, K.R. Amico & S. Wanless (2013). *Journal of HIV/AIDS & Social Services*, 12(3-4), 274-293.

# Medical Education

Hundreds of health professionals as well as medical and dental students attended the medical training organized by the Baylor – Black Sea Foundation in Constanta in 2013. The training was held by the authorized trainers of the Foundation and had various themes. It was very well received by the participants. Among the themes were transfusion safety, vaccinations, cirrhosis and sexual and reproductive health. It is important to know that the themes were unique in Constanta County which interested people to register from other cities including Tulcea, Bucharest, Mangalia, Megidia, and Cernavoda.

More than 800 people attended these ten training sessions, and they showed a strong interest. They were delighted by how these sessions were organized and also by the topics that we chose to present.

**BIPAI Romania organizes educational and non-formal teaching events for hundreds of people working in healthcare every year.**

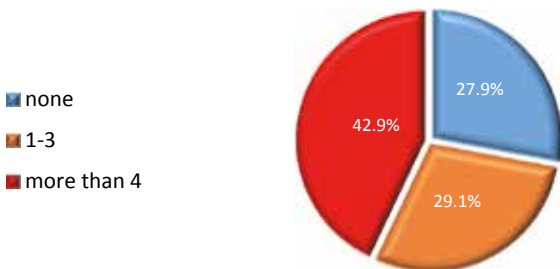
**Total number of trained people: 824**

**MD's: 468**

**Nurses: 347**

**Students, other professionals: 9**

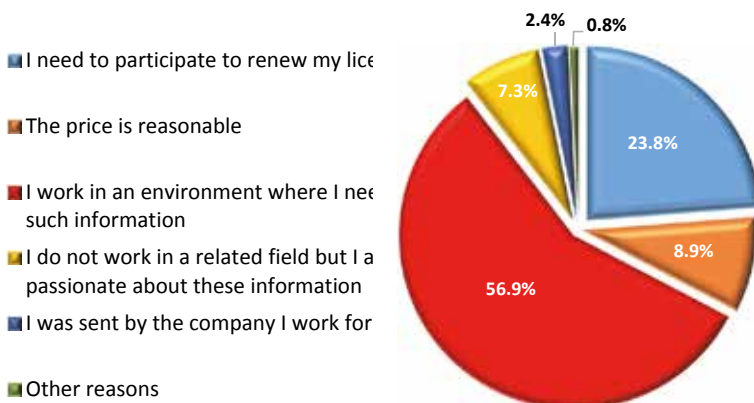
How many training sessions have you attended at Baylor during the last 3 years?



“Attending the Baylor training sessions, I believe I was involved in a wonderfully informational package which was very helpful for my job. I would like to continue to improve each day from now on because of this training.”

**Anonymous, Training Attendee**

Why have you chosen to attend this training?



“Starting from the principles of teaching adults, we manage to develop attractive courses which can be interesting and convey things that can be applied immediately by the participants. Every time we do our best to bring something new. We focus on emphasizing prevention over treatment and on promoting such attitudes in every day service delivery.”

**Dr. Violeta Cîndea MD Family Planning**

## “The Adventures of the Brulee Firefighter”, Our First Community Theatre Project.



Last year, the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation unfolded the project entitled “The Adventures of the Brulee Firefighter” in the rural kindergartens in Constanta, Romania. The aim of this program was to improve the personal hygiene skills among preschool children by utilizing the art form of puppetry to capture kids’ attention. The habit of using the toothbrush and toothpaste as well as washing one’s hands and body were messages that the characters of the play taught to the children watching the play. Between November – December 2013 the volunteer team of puppeteers in the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation had performances in 13 local kindergartens such as: Mihail Kogălniceanu, Dorobanțu, Nicolae Bălcescu, Valu lui Traian, Crucea, Gălbiori, Agigea, Lazu, Cumpăna și Lumina. Over 1,000 children have learned from the Brulee Firefighter the secrets to be victorious in the battle against germs and had the unexpected opportunity to shake hands and communicate at the end of the performance with the characters. The children seemed to thoroughly enjoy the performances. For some it was the first time they had seen a puppet show. Their smiles were contagious. “Even though ‘The Adventures of the Brulee Firefighter’ project ended, because of the positive feedback from the children, the performances will be renewed in 2014 when the volunteers will present it again to kindergartens in both rural and urban communities in the area,” stated Stefania Mihale, director of programs in the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation. It should be emphasized that “The Adventures of the Brulee Firefighter” is the only health education project through puppetry implemented in Constanta County by the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation.



# Consolidated Finances

## BIPAI Romania Center of Excellence

(Fiscal year ending Month 12, 2013)

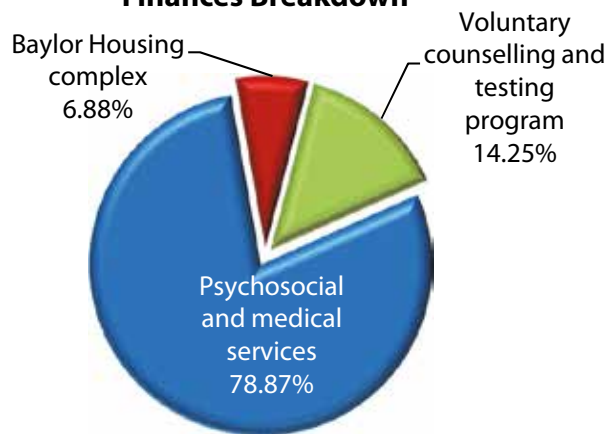
### INCOME

Gross Income	\$ 1,004,471
Expenses	\$ 812,753
Surplus	\$ 191,718

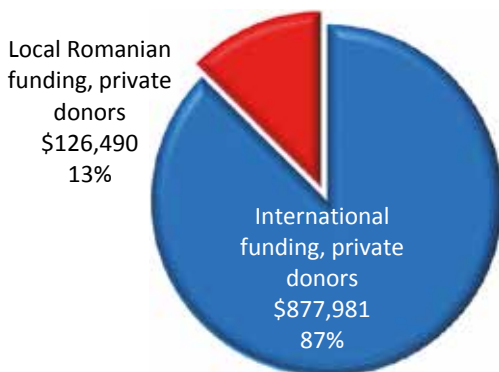
### BALANCE SHEET

Non-current assets	\$ 117,896
Current assets	\$ 529,263
Total	\$ 647,159

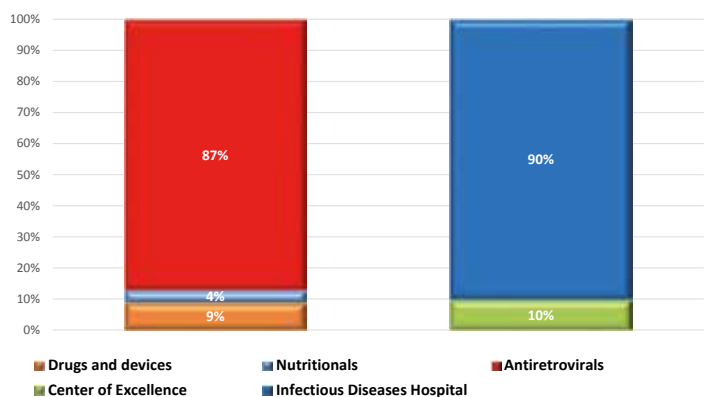
### Finances Breakdown



### Origin of Income



### AmeriCares donations (\$4,034,210)



During the past 5 years, Baylor-Black Sea Foundation's financial audit is annually performed by KPMG Romania and it is independently submitted to the BIPAI Board of Directors based in Houston, USA.



12% of births among HIV positive women in our country were registered among the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation's beneficiaries.

## Reflections from our Partners and Donors

Chevron works closely with communities to ensure we direct resources toward issues that are important to the people who live there. In other parts of the world, we have partnered with Baylor to deliver those resources.

In Romania, we have found Fundatia Baylor Marea Neagra's team, their vision and their mission very positive in seeking to address community health issues. We are pleased to be working with them to improve the health outcomes for our communities in Romania, and to contribute to the lives of the people in those communities.



*Tom Holst,  
Country Manager Chevron România*

We have the privilege to cooperate with the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation for more than 8 years. Our partnership started with the viral follow up of the anti-retroviral treatment efficiency, treatment that was administered to HIV infected patients, who were registered at the Foundation. That partnership permanently developed and today we perform together studies about:

- ★ Follow up for HIV transmission from mother to child
- ★ The impact of adherence on the success of the antiretroviral therapy
- ★ Follow up of the resistance at the antiretroviral medication
- ★ Supervision of the new viral subtypes that can be found in the Dobrogea area
- ★ Confirmation of the results obtained at the volunteer testing for the HIV infection and viral hepatitis (VHB, VHC).

I think this cooperation, which in time was doubled by a beautiful friendship among those working together, is one of the successful stories of the Institute of Virology.

*Simona Ruță, MD PhD  
Stefan Nicolau Institute of Virology, Virology Department,  
Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest*



The partnership OMV Petrom – Baylor-Black Sea Foundation started as a six month pilot project in 2011 with the aim to inform rural communities in Dobrogea about the 3 Hs – Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV – and to provide relevant medical testing. The project continued also in 2012. In 2013, the partners focused on the communities situated along the Romanian Black Sea coast, aligning with OMV Petrom's goal to establish committed, long-term relationships with these local stakeholders, taking into account also company's business perspectives. The work Baylor conducts fulfills OMV Petrom's commitment regarding human rights (access to health education) and it reflects company's belief that continued education is essential to developing a healthy community. The Baylor team's commitment, professionalism and engagement determine us to be close also in 2014 in its efforts to raise awareness and to help preventing the consequences of these infectious diseases.

*Wolfgang J. Leeb, Asset X Petromar Director, Constanța*



## Reflections from our Partners and Donors



I have had the privilege to have such special partners: involved, honest, always having initiative, never tired, and friendly. Most importantly, these partners are very willing to help everyone around them – from coworkers and partners to patients who unfortunately are still discriminated and marginalized by others in society. Some of our patients endure countless struggles and appear oppressed by fate that they fight to survive, to have a family and, importantly, to have healthy children.

All of these individuals find support, comfort, and advice at the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation. They find hope- hope that things will be better. They know they are not alone in this unfair fight and world in which they live. They know they can find a solution to their burden of having HIV at the Centre of Excellence – the solution which was originally created here in Constanta, Romania in 1996, and it became a model of care to others throughout the world. The Centre of Excellence has a remarkable team that works well and keeps developing its programs to help many in the community. We are honored to have partners with such quality. We hope that this cooperation will be long lasting. May the results of our work continue to alleviate the suffering of patients and allow them to live a better life in a better world year by year!

*Stela Halichidis, MD, Associate Professor Ovidius University  
General Manager Infectious Diseases Hospital in Constanta, Romania*



The mission of the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation impressed all the employees of the ING Bank. In 2013, there was an internal bank competition where our employees provide support and promote projects in the local community. My coworkers voted in large numbers to support the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation project "Protect the Children's Heart". Then again in 2013, approximately 100 ING Bank employees ran in a local marathon not only to promote the Foundation but also to raise the necessary money to continue the project. We need such organizations that not only approach difficult problems in our Romanian society, but also succeed to involve other people to support their cause.

*Roxana Colisniuc,  
CSR Officer, ING Bank România*



We are glad we were able to organize the project entitled, "Cora Month", a traditional initiative for our mall. Thanks to this project, we managed to help people in need. All 10 shops are involved with this project, and our clients donate to it in addition to the generous donations from Cora itself.

*Daniela Andrei,  
Cora City Park Representative*

## Reflections from Baylor Team Members



It has been more than 10 years since I have started my activity at the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation. I find myself always thinking about what else I can do to help our beneficiaries. My biggest joy is when the children are born healthy from seropositive mothers, and I am aware that this is possible thanks to our work. I want to continue my work here because I know that with our help, the HIV infected people can improve their health and live a normal life.

*Luiza Vlahopol,  
Psychosocial Department Coordinator*



Even from when I first came to the Baylor-Black Sea Foundation, I felt I belonged here. I am very excited by the mission of the Foundation and because I have the opportunity to be part of a team developing so many bold and inspiring projects.

*Roxana Popescu,  
Psychologist, Counseling and Testing Program*



I enjoy working at Baylor because I have the chance to help people every day. At the OB/GYN office, people come who need support, and I am glad I am there for them. Initially, I used to work for the dental office, but once I was transferred to the OB/GYN office I was happy to develop myself in a new direction which has been very useful for my career. Among it all, I have new friends here who make my days at work full of joy.

*Rodica Mihai,  
Nurse*



I was close to Baylor from the beginning, first as a volunteer and then since 2006 I have been officially part of the Foundation. Though I am just a driver, I enjoy being involved in all sort of activities whenever the team needs me.

*Ion Picioarea,  
Driver*



# Donors

The Baylor-Black Sea Foundation's Projects have become reality thanks to the generosity and support of the following organizations and companies:



268 individual donors.

Baylor Partners:



Media Partners:



## Core Operational Funding for the Centre of Excellence

- ★ Baylor International Pediatrics AIDS Initiative and Abbott Fund – \$458,836

## Donors and programs they contributed to in 2013

- ★ Chevron România – the testing program for chronic hepatitis and HIV infection in Constanta – \$62,000
- ★ Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Johnson&Johnson Romania – HIV and viral Hepatitis B and C counseling and testing project – \$26,270
- ★ OMV Petrom SA – Expansion of the project “Baylor – Petrom”, an educational program for health and testing for HIV and Hepatitis B and C within the Black Sea Coastal localities – \$11,355
- ★ The Ministry of Communication and Informational Society – the Program entitled “Increasing of Economic Competitiveness”: purchasing of ICT equipment (Information and Communication Technology) for the Centre of Excellence of Baylor-Black Sea Foundation – \$10,895
- ★ SC Romania Hypermarche SA, Cora City Park – medical tests through the Cardiology Program entitled “Heart” – \$7,079
- ★ ING Bank – The project “Protect the children’s heart” – \$6,823
- ★ COSMOTE România – “The Adventures of the Brulee firefighter” Project – \$6,530
- ★ ROMATSA (Romanian Administration of Air Traffic Services) – purchasing an electrocardiography machine for the “Heart” cardiology program – \$4,088
- ★ SC GlaxoSmithKline SRL – “The Precious Children” – preventing the transmission of mother to child infection – \$2,728

## Partners that supported the Foundation activity in 2013 through in-kind donations and specialized expertise

- ★ AmeriCares – Donations consisting in medicines, medical supplies and nutritionals
- ★ KPMG România SRL – financial audit services
- ★ SC Social Marketing Solutions SRL – Love Plus condoms donation
- ★ SC Danone Producție și Distribuție de Produse Alimentare SRL – dairy products for children followed by the psychosocial department
- ★ Hotel Cherica – hosting partners, provided room and board
- ★ SC Dobre&Fiii SRL – weekly bread donations for the Flower House
- ★ SC Square Media SRL – IT consulting services
- ★ SC Devronium Aplicacion SRL – IT software
- ★ Uz Casnic – household supplies
- ★ SC Bio Service SRL – Hepatitis tests donations
- ★ SC Seaview Advertising SRL – advertising billboards for the program “Donate 2%”
- ★ Amster’s – a dinner offered to the winners of the contest “Donate 2%”
- ★ Bibi Bistro Vama Veche – Contribution for purchasing the electrocardiography machine
- ★ Trattoria Due Modi – dinner offered to the winners of the contest “Donate 2%”, food donations for children and also for the program “Heart”
- ★ SC David Consulting SRL – donations for the program “Heart”

# **Baylor-Black Sea Foundation**

## **Clinical Centre of Excellence**

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Tel / Fax: +40 241 691 730; mobil: +40 372 765 200

Email: [secretariat@baylor-romania.ro](mailto:secretariat@baylor-romania.ro)

## **The Baylor Habitat Complex**

Str. Traian Lalescu, Nr. 29, Loc. Lazu, Jud. Constanța, România

Tel./Fax: +40 241 738 918

Email: [secretariat@baylor-romania.ro](mailto:secretariat@baylor-romania.ro)

## **Baylor Centers for Counseling and Rapid Testing for HIV and Hepatitis**

Constanța

Spitalul Județean

Policlinica nr. 1, cabinetul 243

Tel : 0241 691 730

Tulcea

Spitalul Județean de Urgență

Secția de Boli Infecțioase – parter

Tel : 0240 532 345

[www.baylor.ro](http://www.baylor.ro)

**BIPAI**  
Baylor International  
Pediatric AIDS Initiative

**BCM**  
Baylor College of Medicine

  
Texas  
Children's  
Hospital

 **Abbott  
Fund**

# BIPAI

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Pediatric AIDS Initiative – Headquarters  
Texas Children's Hospital  
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Houston, TX 77030  
www.bipai.org



**Baylor Black Sea  
Foundation**

Those who strive can be helped

**Fundația Baylor Marea Neagră**  
Centrul de Excelență Clinică HIV  
Strada Prelungirea Liliacului nr 10,  
Constanța, România,  
www.baylor.ro

