



**Baylor Black Sea
Foundation**

Those who strive can be helped

**Annual Report
2014**



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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Investments that Save Lives



Michael B. Mizwa

For more than 15 years, Romania has served as the launch pad for some of the most innovative programs developed anywhere in the world by Baylor College of Medicine International Pediatric AIDS Initiative. This past year has been no exception.

The Baylor Black Sea Foundation, in a landmark public-private partnership with the Government of Romania, Chevron and AmeriCares, increased the availability of medical supplies and pharmaceutical products in Romania.

Everyone knows that doctors, nurses, hospitals and clinics are vital to improving health, but many forget the equally important role that supply chain management plays in healthcare. Our partnership with the Romanian government, AmeriCares and Chevron has allowed us to recruit qualified personnel, streamline processes and secure the necessary tools to achieve faster product delivery. The results mean improved quality of life for patients.

In 2014 alone, this highly successful pilot project improved the availability and delivery of life-sustaining medications and supplies to almost 14,000 unduplicated Romanian patients.

Looking forward, we will expand access to free-of-charge medication and nutritional support for vulnerable and underprivileged Romanians, and maintain service to our network of public hospital partners.

I applaud the accomplishments of our Romania team and its work to meet the needs of HIV-positive adults and children.

*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*

Excellence as a Mission

What does being a patient in Romania entail? What is it like to be infected with HIV or suffer from other chronic diseases such as viral hepatitis or tuberculosis? What can be done to ease the transition of patients from one specialist to the other and from one institution to the other?

How can we support specialists in treating patients more efficiently? How can our patients self-manage their health more extensively? How can we raise the community's capacity to ensure the population's health more easily? These were only a few of the questions and concerns that motivated our activity in 2014.

The Baylor team, based at the Center of Excellence, which opened in 2001, is made up of people who have dedicated themselves to creating an alternative type of experience when it comes to the healthcare of patients and the specialists involved. Our efforts are implemented simultaneously in several areas as follows:

- ★ Maintaining the health of our patients through prophylaxis and healthcare projects such as tuberculosis prophylaxis, screening and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, identification of patients at risk for cardiovascular complications, and dental treatment;
- ★ Supporting patients in making informed choices about family planning through counseling and free access to the contraception methods best suited for their lifestyle;
- ★ Offering mental health services and support for disease self-management, such as adherence to medication and the treatment plan, and choosing a healthy lifestyle;
- ★ Didactic support for healthcare professionals through continuous medical education initiatives and the development of specific resources such as manuals and educational brochures;
- ★ Expanding the scientific basis of Baylor's initiatives by running research projects and studies concerning the needs of patients and those of healthcare professionals;
- ★ Supporting public hospitals with medical supplies at a national level, by donating medicines for chronic diseases;
- ★ Educating the community and raising awareness of the transmission of infectious diseases and of the need to provide a coherent strategy to tackle them.

I would like to mention the great partnership between the Baylor Foundation and AbbVie Foundation USA, which lies at the basis of the project, *„We make sure that life goes on”*. The five-year project sets out to apply the knowledge we have acquired about the needs of HIV-infected patients to the medical treatment of people suffering from viral hepatitis. The project offers long-term support for patients and their families. They face multiple challenges, as their needs concern the adjustment to the diagnosis, lifestyle changes, as well as mental health improvement.

We look to the future with confidence and hope, convinced that the partnerships with our patients, healthcare professionals and sponsors are built on the synchronicity of values and intentions. These partnerships bring us closer to our mission, which is to live in a community well-prepared to efficiently prevent and treat infectious diseases.



Ana-Maria Schweitzer

*Ana-Maria Schweitzer,
Executive Director*

BIPAI Romania

The Center of Excellence or The Romanian-American Children's Center was opened on April 6th, 2001, and the Baylor Black Sea Foundation was established in 2014. The Center of Excellence was founded by Dr. Mark Kline, who wished to help the children infected with HIV that he met during his first visit to Romania. The Center became the largest pediatric clinic in Europe for treating HIV, offering services such as an outpatient clinic, a short-term treatment and observation unit, a laboratory, a pharmacy and a conference room.

In 2008, the Center was renamed The Baylor College of Medicine Texas Children's Hospital Abbott Fund Constanța Infectious Diseases Hospital Center of Excellence – Constanța, or BIPAI Romania, in order to reflect our expanded services and partnerships.

The Center in Romania is the most mature one in the Baylor network, as it was the first to open and treats the oldest patients. Therefore, BIPAI Romania continues to focus its care for patients as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. BIPAI Romania is part of a network based in Houston, Texas, USA, at the Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital. The network includes 11 countries from Africa, North America and Eastern Europe, where BIPAI is working to expand access to family centered HIV services. The operational funds for the Center of Excellence in Constanța were initially provided by the Abbott Fund and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word and they are currently supplied by the AbbVie Foundation in the USA.

At the moment, BIPAI Romania operates a Center of Excellence in Constanța, three rapid testing and counseling offices in the Dobrogea area (the first ones in the country), a mobile lab for testing and a housing complex for vulnerable youth. BIPAI Romania tries to minimize the impact of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases.

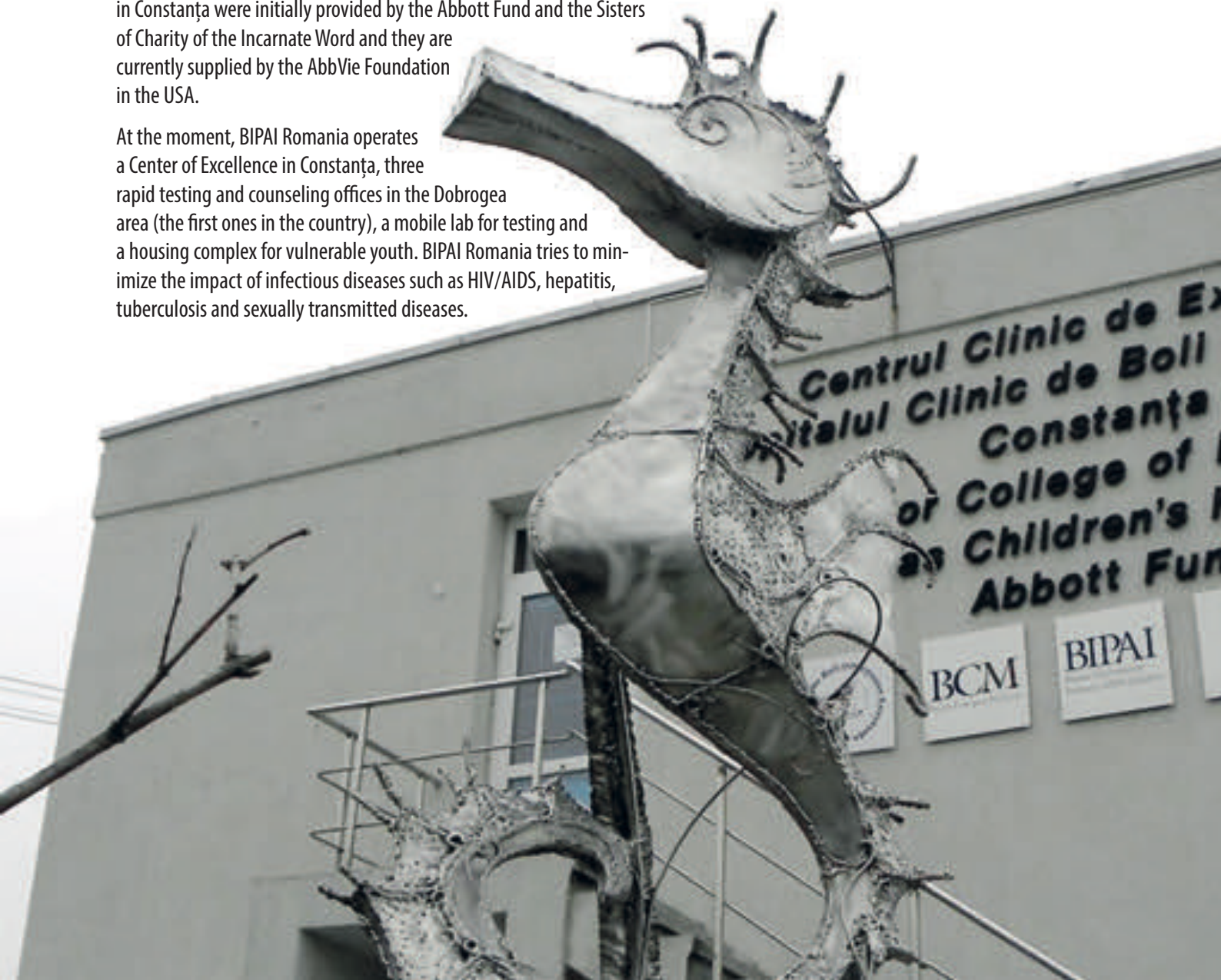
BIPAI Romania at a Glance

Based in Constanța, Romania.

Patients: 853

Offices: 5

Staff: 43



The Center of Excellence

The Center of Excellence provides medical and psychosocial care to patients in the Dobrogea area who suffer from infectious diseases. Since 2001, family planning and cardiovascular primary care were added to the range of services already provided such as dental care, obstetrics and gynecology, pulmonary care, rapid testing and psychosocial care. The psychosocial department offers counseling to those who get tested for HIV, hepatitis B and C, as well as support and guidance to those infected and their families.

The Center also provides medicines and nutritional supplements to HIV-positive patients, which help them maintain their immune system at a healthy level.

All these services lead to improvements in the quality of life for those who turn to the Baylor team for help.

In 2014, over 20,000 people around the country benefited from Baylor's help. Of this total, 8,700 were counseled and tested for HIV and hepatitis; over 850 received medical and psychosocial care; and about 800 healthcare professionals were trained through continuous medical education courses.

Moreover, with the help of a puppet show put on by Baylor volunteers, over 1,000 children enrolled in kindergarten in Constanța found out how to fight germs by using a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap and a comb.

This same year, with the support of AmeriCares, around 14,000 patients in Romanian state-run hospitals benefited from donations of medicines, medical supplies and nutritional supplements.

Another achievement that we are proud of is a new partnership with AbbVie Foundation, which enabled us to start a testing and long-term care project for hepatitis and HIV, a project which is almost 1 year old.



We Make Sure that Life Goes On



World Hepatitis Day lamp launch

“The experience we’ve had with the project this year helped us understand that in Romania there is still a need for testing and care, as there are yet people who are infected but not diagnosed. Moreover, the intervention in raising the community’s awareness regarding the need for testing and diagnosis in the asymptomatic phase of chronic diseases is fully justified. As far as the treatment is concerned, the situation remains problematic; the only option is the double therapy based on interferon, but in Romania the resistance tests are neither compulsory nor subsidized, and they are not a requirement for starting therapy.”

**Mihaela Bogdan,
Project Manager**

As a response to worrying statistics of an increasing number of hepatitis B and C in Romania, the Baylor Black Sea Foundation, together with the AbbVie Foundation, laid the foundation for a testing and long-term care project for hepatitis.

Renowned for its activity in the field of infectious diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, the Baylor Black Sea Foundation set out to transfer all their knowledge about the needs of people living with HIV to caring for patients suffering from hepatitis, through the ‘We make sure that life goes on’ project.

The Baylor team is interested in determining the needs of hepatitis B and C patients, establishing partnerships with the community, identifying new cases and offering long-term support to patients and their families.

“We dare be pioneers in assisting patients suffering from hepatitis B and C in Romania and we count on the good practices that we have developed in partnership with the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative, since the establishment of Baylor Romania until now. I believe that, although we live in a consumerist society focused on making profit, there is still room for philanthropy and real investments in the health and well-being of the community we all live in, and the social investment made by the AbbVie Foundation proves it,” stated Ana-Maria Schweitzer, Executive Director of the Baylor Black Sea Foundation.

The project was launched on the World Hepatitis Day, July 28th. To celebrate, there was a lamp launch on a beach in Mamaia and the foundation’s mobile lab organized free testing sessions for HIV, hepatitis B and C. The campaign has the slogan – “Testing and long-term care for hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. We make sure that life goes on.”

The project, which is a result of the partnership between the Baylor College of Medicine at Texas Children’s Hospital International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) USA, the AbbVie Foundation and Baylor Black Sea Foundation, has a total value of \$1.5 million and is set to run between 2014 and 2018.

Nearly a year since the launch of this initiative, we are beginning to see results – more than 8,700 people were tested and 2.77% of them received reactive results for infection with hepatitis C, 2.95% for hepatitis B and 0.31% for HIV.

Altogether 90 people received reactive results for infection with hepatitis C and their cases were taken over by medical specialists. Out of all of them, 13 have a confirmed diagnosis and their files have been submitted to the health insurance authority, whilst 20 other patients are currently in treatment, at different stages. In the case of nine other patients, treatment was stopped as it did not lead to viral suppression.

Four information sessions were organized, moderated by doctors from the Baylor team, in order to describe to patients the steps to follow after receiving the test results and before starting therapy.

The support group meetings we organized brought together patients at different stages of the diagnosis and treatment process. There were 14 sessions that took place twice a month, and 30 participants, who were split into two groups.

Patient Adherence to Treatment: Theory and Practice – A Textbook for Clinicians

Healthcare specialists worldwide need support in developing and applying interventions that improve treatment adherence of their patients with chronic diseases.

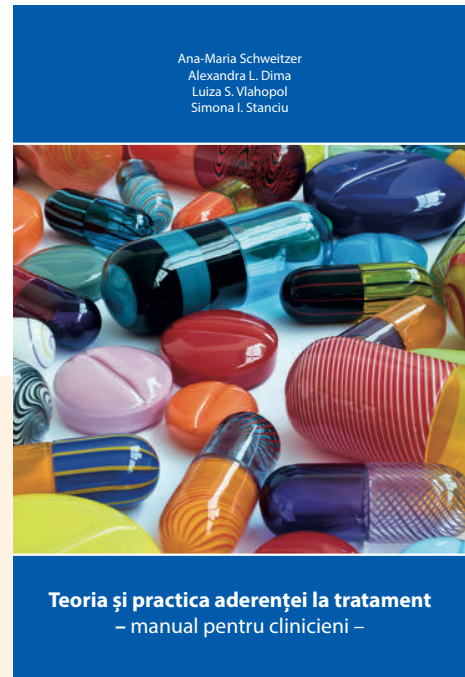
To answer this need, in 2014, the Baylor team led the development of the first manual dedicated to treatment adherence in Romania. This was made possible thanks to the partnership of clinical psychologists working at the Center of Excellence of the Baylor Black Sea Foundation in Constanța and the team of researchers in the field of health psychology at the Amsterdam School of Communication Research (ASCoR), the Communication Department at the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Amsterdam, and the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan, USA.

The textbook is divided in two main sections:

- ★ The theoretical section strengthens the knowledge that clinical psychologists have of treatment adherence, by bringing forth up to date scientific data in the field of health psychology. The handbook especially tackles the problem of adherence to highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), which is used in HIV infections, but the recommendations can be adapted to other chronic diseases that require long-term treatment.
- ★ The practical section shows how to develop an intervention to support adherence to HAART, by applying all the steps and scientific principles mentioned in the first section. This section also describes a series of case-control studies, which received standard adherence support usually given at the Baylor clinic. All cases are real and allow the reader to identify the differences in approach and impact between the intervention to increase adherence developed according to a theoretical model (in the field of health psychology) and the usual clinical intervention that is not structured based on the same algorithm.

The textbook offers clinicians four types of uses:

- ★ Deepening the information about the existing treatment adherence models, the methods of measuring the level of adherence and the techniques of changing behaviors;
- ★ Familiarizing themselves with a standardized model which offers guidance for planning and implementing health interventions;
- ★ Consulting the practical section for understanding the intervention model suggested by the manual, in order to apply it to their own patients or for adapting the suggested intervention;
- ★ Reviewing the case studies in order to understand the actual differences between the suggested intervention and the daily work with patients who experience trouble in adhering to treatment.



“ Health psychology is an ever-changing field. Progress is being continually made in testing and developing different theoretical models. The understanding of relevant factors that cause changes in behavior is diversifying. New techniques and efficient interventions are being identified and can be turned into programs and implemented in clinics. Being aware of this progress and even contributing to the development of this field is part of the clinician’s daily work and contributes substantially to increased efficiency when working with patients.”

Ana-Maria Schweitzer,
Executive Director

HIV-Positive Young Man from Moldavia, Treated in Constanța – The Doctors He Had Turned to, Refused to Treat Him



Lulian travelled all the way from Falticeni to Constanța to receive dental care at Baylor

Lulian, an HIV-positive young man age 27 from northern Moldavia, came all the way to our clinic in Constanța to receive dental care. The doctors in his town refused to treat him and the Baylor Black Sea Foundation offered free medical care.

Lulian comes from Fälticeni, Suceava County, and he is the youngest of four children. He became infected with HIV in kindergarten: „I was five and they gave us all a vaccine. I was the first child infected with HIV in Suceava at that time. I had to face life even before I learned how to read,” he remembers.

Even at that early age Lulian knew he was not like the other children. In everyone else’s eyes he was a person with a limited life expectancy; really limited.

„The doctors told me I was infected with HIV, not my mother. They did it gently. They told me that I would always have to be careful to take my medicine, to take care of my health, as I could get sick at any time and that could lead to complications. The idea that I wouldn’t live long stuck with me, so I told myself that I should live fully. I wanted to try it all,” Lulian says.

The news that he had AIDS spread fast in Fälticeni. His way of coping with what people said about him was to turn to violence: „In my childhood I had the toughest time, I suffered tremendously because of what others said. They called me names, so I started to get back at them the only way I could. At least this way they were afraid of me.”

The ordinary dream of a not so ordinary teenager

On a summer holiday when he was 15, whilst daydreaming in front of his block of flats, he came up with a crazy idea. He packed some stuff in his backpack, his savings – around 350 lei – and took the train to Constanța. He wanted to get to Vama Veche, a place where nobody would care who he was and what he did.

„I was shocked to see a sea of tents spread on the beach, right next to the sign that said `No camping`. It was the ideal place for me,” Lulian smiles. Since then he has been proud of being one of the people who go to Vama Veche and of having tried everything in his life: tattoos, airs and graces, girls, excesses. Close friends know his story, as well as the women he was in love with. „I always protected them. It was their choice to stay with me, they were fully aware of my situation. I would never endanger someone else.” Lulian confesses.

He was just as honest when he went to the dental offices in Suceava. He was in urgent need of dental treatment, but the doctors refused to treat him on account of the lack of instruments suitable for treating an HIV positive patient. „I tried to find another doctor who would treat me,” Lulian says.

He found a doctor on the Internet all the way in Constanța, at the Baylor Black Sea Foundation. Medical services are free here and the patient has to pay the dental technician only if the treatment requires dental prosthetics. Lulian travelled hundreds of kilometers to Constanța, rented a studio flat in the suburbs.

At the foundation’s dental office, „the patient received the urgent medical services he needed, unconditionally,” the Baylor Foundation representatives stated. Lulian is happy that his health issue (the most visible one) was sorted out without having to go through more humiliation.

Newspaper article published in Adevărul Journal, August 12th, 2014

At Baylor, the Little Match Girl is called Selma

Selma and Emel are two sisters helped and monitored by the Baylor Black Sea Foundation. The little girls lost their mother in November 2014. Selma is infected with HIV, whilst her sister is HIV-negative. The sisters remain in the care of their maternal grandmother and live in a village in Constanța County, in a makeshift room built straight on the ground, without electricity, water and heat. Having improvised a stove for heating, the grandmother has to gather wooden boards and branches from the fields.

Selma is an 11-year-old girl enrolled in sixth grade at a school in Constanța. Unfortunately, she is HIV positive. To prevent her from having to drop out, the foundation and local social services have to find financial support regularly to pay for her bus pass to Constanța – around \$250 for two people, as Selma needs to be accompanied by her grandmother.

Her sister Emel is 4 years old and although she is healthy, they can't afford to send her to kindergarten. The little girl doesn't have any friends her age and the only people she communicates with are her sister and maternal grandmother.

The girls' mother, also HIV-positive, died at the age of 27 due to complications after stopping her antiretroviral treatment. After her death, the family lost all benefits the mother and her ill daughter received as compensation for disability. They don't receive a survivor's pension either. The child will receive her allowance once the procedure to be placed in her grandmother's care is finalized, which could last a few months. The grandmother has no income and the money they live on at the moment is provided by her partner, who is a day laborer in the village. It's impressive that, despite the poor conditions they live in, both the woman and her partner take great care of the two sisters and do everything in their power so that the older girl doesn't have to drop out of school.

The grandmother is virtually their heroine, as she makes sure that, despite all difficulties, the girls are surrounded with love, care and affection. She has never put the children at risk and listens carefully to the advice of Baylor Black Sea Foundation social workers. She spends every cent on food for the girls and on building a house for them.

Due to the Baylor Black Sea Foundation's efforts, the family received a lot from the town hall to build a house in the village. The Baylor Black Sea Foundation social workers in charge of this case have so far managed to get all the permits required to begin construction this year. The house plan was finalized and approved with the support and involvement of the Baylor Black Sea Foundation team, whilst the grandmother managed to raise money and pay installments for the house plan.

The family needed help to get through the winter months, which consisted of firewood, clothes and food for the little girls, personal hygiene and sanitary products. They could also use any financial contribution to pay for the bus pass which offers Selma a chance to get out of poverty.

Those who try deserve to be helped!



Selma receives
donated firewood



We keep a close eye on the development of the children living in families affected by HIV

The Baylor Housing Complex

The Flower House is a family-type housing complex situated in Lazu. It hosts beneficiaries of the foundation who find themselves in difficult situations. These cases vary from abandoned children, neglected teenagers and mothers – abused or thrown out by their families – to entire families left with no support.

The young people who live here temporarily are supported in attending school and finding a job. They are also taught to take care of themselves and participate in activities organized by the Baylor Black Sea Foundation employees. The beneficiaries are also helped by psychologists to overcome trauma. Where possible, support is also offered for reintegration into the family.

The HIV positive patients who need medical assistance stay permanently in touch with the Center of Excellence, as well as with the partner medical institutions, so that their health improves and they are able to lead a normal life. Since 2001 when the complex opened, about 70 people have been housed at the Flower House. In 2014, 10 young people – among them two couples with children – were housed and helped to get through a difficult phase in their lives.

This was the first year when a structured intervention was implemented for each young person with personalized objectives. For example, one of the young women who was illiterate learned how to write her name, another how to use a washing machine and another one how to give first aid in case of an open wound. In the fourth trimester of 2014, the complex was renovated with the help of volunteers from local companies.

A Success Story

Although most stories of those who got infected with HIV are sad, there are also some happy ones. One such story involves a young woman who was abandoned by her parents at an early age and grew up in orphanages, her, managed to start a family, now has a child and a new place to live.

The girl grew up in several centers for HIV-positive patients, because her parents did not wish to have an HIV-positive child in their home. When she became an adult she rented a place and worked in different places to support herself. After a relationship with an HIV-negative man she got pregnant. Her parents, with whom she had kept in touch and visited from time to time, made a huge scandal and refused to accept that she was going to have a child.

It was at this time that she contacted the team from the Baylor Black Sea Foundation, who took her to the Flower House, where she stayed until after the birth of her baby. The young mother is very careful with the baby and strictly follows all treatment prescribed for him. He is developing well and his health is very good. She has always stuck to her therapy and is fully aware of the implications of stopping treatment.

The baby's father, who was initially surprised that she was pregnant, kept in touch with her, helped her as much as he could and gave the little boy his name. He has a job, so he managed to get a loan from the bank to buy a studio flat, where he will shortly move in together with his new family. At the moment he is renovating the studio so that they can live there comfortably, together with their HIV negative new born.



Marian, one of the oldest inhabitants of the Flower House

Dear Doctor, Do You See How Far We've Come?



A Baylor nurse visits with patients

“In our previous house calls we found a lot of sadness and trauma, but this one was terrific, it warmed the cockles of my heart. I even started crying when the mothers and grandmothers asked me: “Doctor, do you see how far we’ve come?”

**dr. Rodica Mătuşa,
Medical Consultant**

A whole life’s work dedicated to people infected with HIV has born fruit. The social and medical teams at Baylor, who have been going on house calls with Dr. Rodica Mătuşa for years, now operate without her. The doctor only supervises the activity and intervenes when a more sophisticated evaluation is required.

A real tour de force of 26 mothers and children were visited and evaluated in one day – bringing great satisfaction to the doctor. The warm weather and the tidy gardens added to the joy of finding people without major health issues and children with rosy cheeks, who are happy and well cared for.

As the house calls took place in the Medgidia – Cernavodă – Rasova area, the team was made up of Florance (Florica Niculae), who is a social worker and Ancuţa (Anca Poponete), a nurse. They both did a great job and Dr. Mătuşa was happy to see that, in comparison to previous years when the doctor was the patients’ main focus. This time the two nurses conducted evaluations, checked the state of health of children and their mothers, gave advice, and took care of all paperwork, whilst the beneficiaries gave them their full attention.

‘What I enjoyed the most was the fact that, whilst before the mothers and children were impressed with me being a part of the team, this time it was as if I didn’t exist. Florance was the lead, she sorted everything out, offered advice and asked questions. She knew everything about each family, about what had happened to them lately and what needed to be done from then on,’ Dr. Mătuşa stated.

Dr. Mătuşa added: ‘It was the same with Ancuţa; I liked the fact that I could step back. I watched her measure the children and evaluate their state of health and cleanliness. I only had to perform a more sophisticated examination at the end to check the child’s psychomotor development.’

One of the best moments was when they found three young people (beneficiaries of the Baylor Foundation), who came from different families but were living in the same house. They talked about how much the support groups for HIV-positive patients, which Baylor organizes regularly, helped them.

All these situations show that the house calls are essential for the positive development of the foundation’s beneficiaries.

Donations worth millions of dollars for Romanian hospitals

In 2014, the Baylor Black Sea Foundation sent 50 donations of medical supplies and nutritional supplements to medical institutions all over the country. More than 14,000 patients benefited from these donations, which were part of a national program for donating medicine, medical supplies, formula and nutritional supplements, developed in partnership with the AmeriCares Foundation.

During its first year, with funds amounting to \$160,000, we laid the foundation for long-term implementation of the project. These are some of our achievements:

- ★ Secured warehouse facilities for the medicines.
- ★ Became licensed as a medical wholesale distributor by the National Drug Agency, the first NGO in the country to have this status.
- ★ Recruited and trained the staff in charge of implementing the project.
- ★ Selected the beneficiary medical institutions and signed donations contracts with them.

‘These donations are not obtained easily and have to be used with responsibility and transparency. It is very important for us to select partners that are determined to work according to the standards of good practice, so that we can report on the impact of the social investment that we are going to make,’ declared Ana-Maria Schweitzer, Executive Director of the Baylor Black Sea Foundation.

After the partner selection and the identification of their needs, almost 50 donations of medical supplies and nutritional supplements were sent to medical institutions such as: Tulcea County Hospital, Vaslui County Hospital, Braşov County Emergency Hospital, Braşov Pediatric Hospital, Braşov Infectious Diseases Hospital, Braşov Obstetrics-Gynecology Hospital, ‘Cristian Şerban’ Medical Center for Evaluation and Recovery for Children and Youngsters in Buziaş (Timişoara), Constanţa Infectious Diseases Hospital, etc. The donations were sent to Baylor by AmeriCares on eight international humanitarian shipments.

‘Our partnership with the Baylor Black Sea Foundation is a breath of fresh air for the Vaslui County Hospital, as we have suffered from chronic underfinancing this past year. The medicine and medical supplies that we benefited from were of real use. We could have never afforded some of them, such as the nutritional supplements. We look forward toward more such fruitful collaborations in the future. Thank you!’ stated Ana Rider, Manager of Vaslui County Hospital.

The value of the shipments sent to the Baylor Foundation by AmeriCares in 2014 reached \$6.8 million, thus topping the initial cap by 36%.

The most important result of the program led by Baylor in 2014 is the number of patients who received donations, which exceeds 14,000 patients.

All donations that included medicine were approved by the National Drug Agency.



Medical donations delivered at Vaslui County Hospital

“ I could not have imagined such a result 9 years ago, when Camp Ray of Hope was initiated. It is a blessing to see these children grow and develop. I am honored to be able to provide these children with development opportunities, with the help of our partners who have helped us receive haemophilia medication for the camp children. We could not have had the camp without this donation. ”

Adriana Henderson,
S.T.A.R. Children Relief
Organisation President

Counseling and Testing for Infectious Diseases



Counseling is always part of the testing process

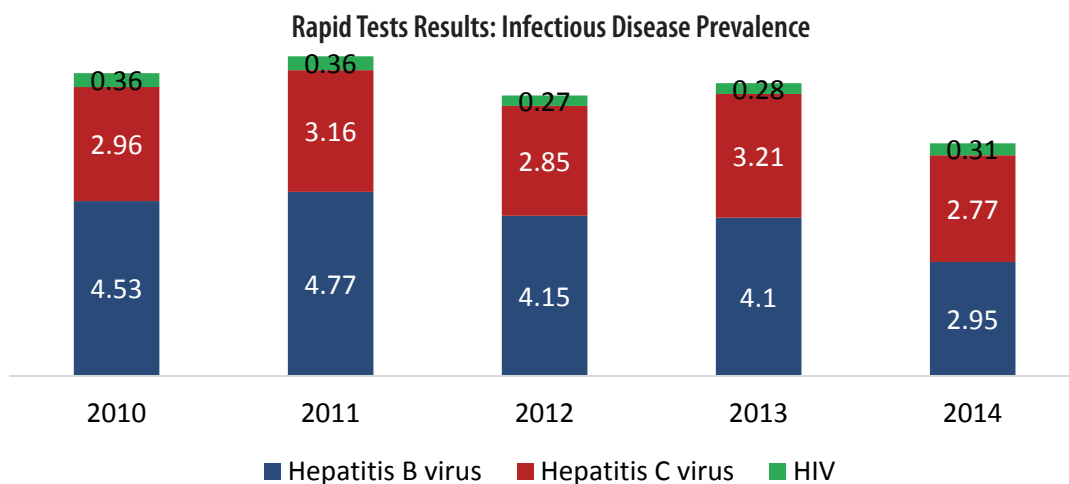
The Baylor Black Sea Foundation's counseling and testing program, which has been running since 2007, exceeded the threshold of 40,000 beneficiaries in 2014. Over 8,700 people were tested for HIV and hepatitis B and C in the past year. Out of all of them, 6% got reactive results to one of the three viruses, especially to hepatitis. In order to support those who wanted to know more about their state of health, but were unable to travel to one of our testing centers, the mobile team went on 64 trips to 22 locations.

It is also important to mention that in 2014, 40% of the tests were carried out by the team in Tulcea. Those who received an unfavorable diagnosis benefited from counseling and support offered by the Baylor team, so that they can recover from the initial shock more easily and become aware of the following steps for starting treatment.

Every client has unique needs and goes through specific situations. For example, one day a young woman called at the Centre of Excellence to require support for her father that has been affected by hepatitis C for about ten years. The counselor met with the patient and identified a series of sources of anxiety for the patient, especially regarding the risks of him infecting his wife. The most surprising discovery was the fact that the file of the client did not include a confirmation of his diagnosis, although there were very many costly investigations that are specific for those affected by the virus (such as viral load, hepatic biopsy and so on). The patient was never treated for hepatitis, since doctors said that there was no sign of disease progression, but he was very worried about his state. In this context, the client was directed to the testing service and the tests revealed that he was actually not infected with the hepatitis C virus. This result was further confirmed and the client was actually helped to move from the conviction that he was a hepatitis patient to the reality that he was actually healthy.

“ We want to teach people from the community to make a habit out of getting tested regularly for infectious diseases. We teach them how to recognize the situations with high risk of infection and take the necessary precaution measures. That is why the Baylor team doesn't only test, but also counsels. ”

**Mihaela Bogdan,
Project Manager**



Fewer Unintended Pregnancies in 2014

The number of newborns in the families monitored by Baylor in 2014 has dropped considerably from the previous year. According to the specialists at the Center of Excellence, in 2013, 26 children were born in families where at least one parent was HIV-positive, whereas in 2014 only 16 out of the 23 pregnant women registered with the obstetrics-gynecology department gave birth. The other seven should give birth in 2015.

This decline is also influenced by the increased level of awareness among HIV-positive couples, which is a result of the activity of the Baylor family planning department.

Since this department opened, Baylor Black Sea Foundation specialists focused especially on the women who had had multiple abortions or had many children and didn't want to have more. The couples were provided with counseling and free contraceptives. In the case of couples who did wish to have children, the specialists focused on raising awareness of the pre-pregnancy preparation process – the two partners need to have their state of health evaluated, consult with the infectious diseases doctor and the gynecologist, and go through several medical examinations, depending on the case. During this preparation time, the couples were provided with contraceptive methods that would protect them from both a pregnancy and STDs.

Two years after the family planning department opened, we started to see the results. The number of children in HIV-positive families has dropped, as the number of unintended pregnancies and pregnancies with high risk of perinatal HIV transmission declined. Moreover, all pregnant women followed the gynecologist's advice and gave birth by C-section. No natural childbirth was registered this year.

The fact that the partners were encouraged to come to counseling together, so that they both understand how important it is to take everything into account when it comes to having a child, also contributed to raising the level of awareness. The partners who benefited from the services offered by the family planning department spread the word in their community about the positive effects this had on their lifestyle. Therefore we expect a snowball effect among HIV-positive people who have already started to turn to this service more often



The Ob/Gyn specialist at Baylor assists an HIV pregnant woman



“ Typical use efficacy rates for unwanted pregnancies prevention is lower among women that use condom only methods. For the women affected by HIV, we encourage dual protection, by offering free of charge access to both contraceptives and condoms; this way we ensure prevention of HIV transmission and prevention of unwanted pregnancies. ”

**Violeta Cindea,
Family Planning
Doctor**



We are motivated to work harder
by every healthy new born

Education for Health and Continuing Medical Education

One of the main activities that the Baylor Black Sea Foundation is in charge of is education. In 2014, about 750 healthcare professionals benefited from Continuing Medical Education courses and over 80 BIPAI representatives from all over the world took part in the annual BIPAI Network Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, organized by the Baylor Black Sea Foundation. Likewise, more than 300 people took part in the information sessions on Education for Health, organized by the members of the Center of Excellence in schools from Constanța County and more than 1,000 kindergarten-age children learned how to fight germs through a puppet show put on by Baylor volunteers.

The Continuing Medical Education courses were led both by authorized trainers who are part of the foundation and other collaborators. Themes varied from 'Basic Elements of Counseling for Sexual and Reproductive Health' to 'Treatment Adherence in Chronic Disease' and 'Cirrhosis'.

These courses took place in Constanța, as well as in Tulcea.

Every year, BIPAI organizes didactic and non-formal educational events for hundreds of healthcare professionals.

Total number of participants during the year 2014: 2199

Doctors: 557

Nurses: 232

Students, other professionals: 1410

Baylor Black Sea Foundation Hosts Annual Network Meeting

The 16th annual BIPAI Network Meeting took place in the summer of 2014 in Johannesburg, South Africa, and was organized by the Baylor Black Sea Foundation team.

The event was a great success, starting with the large number of participants, which exceeded our expectations, moving on to the quality of the presentations and ending with the warm atmosphere. The 90+ participants were delighted to see the Baylor team wearing traditional blouses and the design of the folders and conference bags included traditional Romanian motifs. Residents of Flower House sewed the conference bags in a skills building project.

At the meeting each center – the one in Romania, those in the African countries, in Papua New Guinea and Columbia – presented its achievements. It was brought to our awareness that many of these centers, although they started off as centers of excellence for HIV, have become national reference centers for tuberculosis as well. This is especially important, since HIV infection and tuberculosis are two afflictions that usually go hand-in-hand.

“ *The annual BIPAI Network Meeting was a great opportunity to meet the people who work in other Baylor centers around the world, to learn about their innovative programs and to share ideas. The Romanian team did a great job organizing this event and their workshops on psychosocial assistance were wonderful.* ”

**Liane Campbell,
Doctor
Baylor Center
in Mbeya, Tanzania**

The Brulee Firefighter, Once Again in the Constanța County Kindergartens



As the show is over,
kids interact with puppets

The Brulee Firefighter continued his adventures in 2014 in the Constanța County kindergartens. After the huge success of 2013, the project 'The Adventures of the Brulee Firefighter at the Seaside' carried on in 2014 in some other places on the Black Sea coast. Baylor Black Sea Foundation's puppeteer team targeted kindergartens situated by the sea in Constanța County.

After being recruited, the puppeteer-volunteers had a few rehearsals to plan all the details of the show. In September - December 2014 the team performed twice a month, each time putting on shows in 1-3 kindergartens. By the end of the year, over 1,000 children were taught by the puppets how to use soap, a comb, a toothbrush, toothpaste or a handkerchief.

The play provides children – in an appropriate manner for their age – with essential information about good personal hygiene and how important this is for staying healthy. This is a project designed entirely by Baylor: the initiative, the script, the improvisation moments, the rehearsals, the role distribution, as well as the interpretation. With the help of five puppeteers and five puppets, the play is put on in unconventional spaces. During the show, the little ones interact with the characters through the questions that are inserted in the script. This way, they can give new meaning to the show, pushing the team of amateur actors to improvise.

'The year 2014 was filled with happy events. Our characters received love messages from their public, heard new poems, and with the children's help managed to defeat Toothy (the antagonist in our play) every single time. This project doesn't inspire only our little viewers, but our volunteers as well. On one of our visits we found out that the children at the kindergarten in Vadu had never seen a puppet show before. This saddened us, but knowing that we had brought them joy made us happy. It definitely pushed us to become better actors and try to reach as many children in as many locations as possible,' said Irina Pitilina, Volunteer Coordinator.

At the end of the show, the children received bags with personal hygiene products (toothpaste, a toothbrush, soap, tissues, etc.) which allow them to put to practice all the general hygiene rules mentioned in the play.

The play was recorded and distributed in the kindergartens to ensure the project's sustainability once it is over. The recording is also useful for those educators who might want to initiate similar educational activities on their own.

Financial Data

BIPAI Romania Center of Excellence

(Fiscal year ending Month 12, 2014, calculated in lei at the annual average exchange rate of the National Bank of Romania)

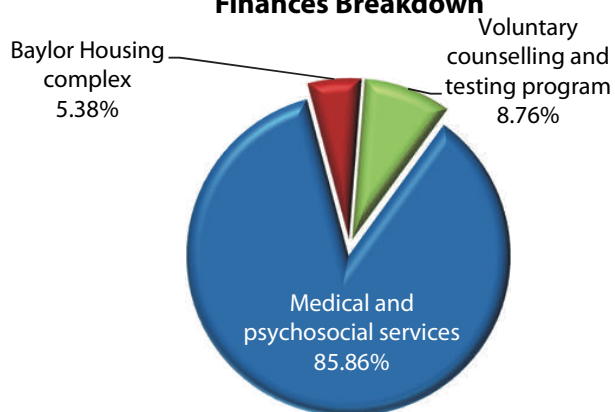
INCOME

Gross income	\$ 5.443.151
Expenses	\$ 5.297.677
Surplus	\$ 145.473

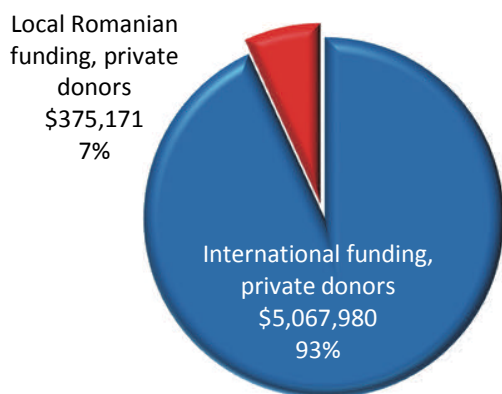
BALANCE SHEET

Noncurrent assets	\$ 111.284
Current assets	\$ 440.574
Total	\$ 551.858

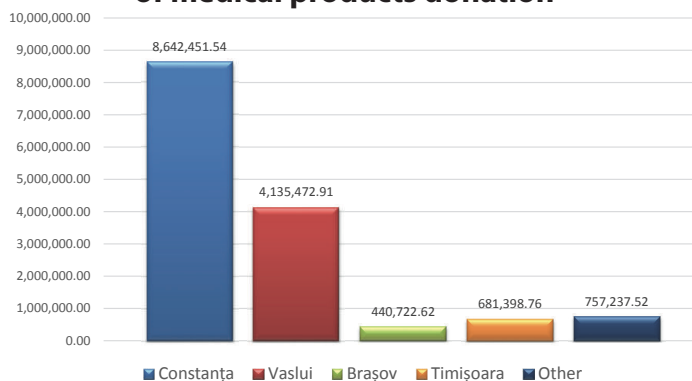
Finances Breakdown



Origin of Income



Geographic distribution of medical products donation



During the past 6 year, KPMG Romania has been in charge of the annual financial audit of the Baylor Black Sea Foundation, which is independently submitted to the BIPAI Board of Directors, based in Houston, Texas, USA.



We include in our daily practices the most recent guidelines regarding medical and social psychosocial care

From our Partners and Sponsors

After the fruitful collaboration that we initiated and developed this year, we can definitely say that you are our trustworthy partner. Your support, offered unconditionally through different kinds of sponsorship, such as donations of medicine and medical supplies, has greatly contributed to improving the quality of medical services in the Vaslui County Hospital.

It is a duty and an honor for me, as the hospital's Manager, to express my gratitude for your donations and I assure you that they all served and will serve a sole purpose, that of increasing the happiness of patients who are treated here.

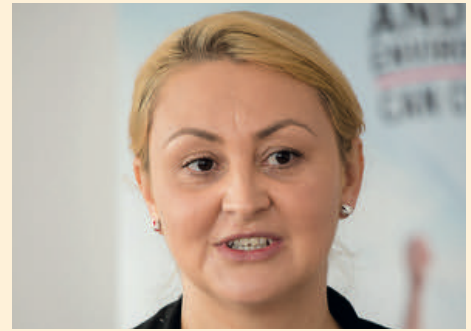
We hope that our partnership will continue and improve from all points of view in 2015. As for us, we assure you we will be fully available.

Dear friends of the Vaslui County Hospital,

Sincere thanks from the patients, healthcare professionals and management team of the Vaslui County Hospital.

With gratitude,

*Psih. Ana Smaranda RINDER
Manager, Vaslui County Hospital*



The words of Albert Einstein are my motivation: 'Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.' I am glad I had the opportunity to meet the people of such great value who wrote the success story of the Baylor Black Sea Foundation.

*Dr. Mihaela Bardoş
Director of National Health Programs Agency, Ministry of Health*



It is an honor for Ameropa Grains to be Baylor's partner. They get us involved and lead us to take on excellent humanitarian projects, which really make our contributions felt in the community and in the lives of those for whom we chose to fight. Thus, we increase the quality and comfort of our own lives and offer society the force it needs!

Ameropa Grains SA



From our Partners and Sponsors



There is no better alternative for the MBA students at the Vlerick Business School to stand out than supporting an NGO or a social company in overcoming strategic and managerial challenges. Although the Vlerick School has been collaborating with the Center of Excellence of the Baylor Black Sea Foundation for years, we are still surprised to see how much energy, enthusiasm and passion the Baylor team put into their work. We share their fundamental values and wish to concentrate our efforts on a solution-oriented way of thinking, many years from now on.

*Valerie Verlinden
Programme Manager Full-time MBA
Vlerick Business School, Belgium*



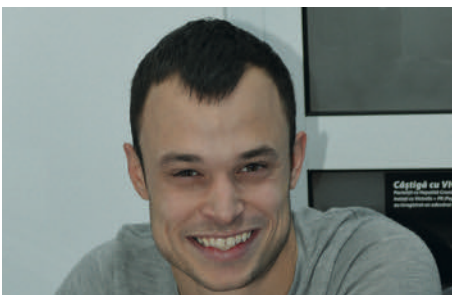
We are glad to join the cause of the Baylor Black Sea Foundation and supply them with an ULTRA-LOW TEMPERATURE FREEZER, which is essential in monitoring HIV, as well as other issues (cardiovascular, pulmonary, gynecological, family planning) that the more than 1,000 patients of the Baylor Center have to face.

*Angela Galeța,
Executive Director,
Vodafone Foundation Romania*



AmeriCares was lucky to begin a strong partnership with the Baylor Black Sea Foundation in Constanța, in 2004, and to benefit from the work of Baylor Romania. We are eager to continue our collaboration so that we can help more people in need.

*Dmitriy Popov
Eurasia Associate, Global Partnerships, AmeriCares Foundation*



I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to collaborate with Baylor. I've learned so much during our partnership and I am looking forward to working with them in the future.

*Gregory Valentine, MD,
MD, Texas Children's Hospital, Houston*

From the Baylor Team Members

As a member of the Baylor team I took part in the integration of the family planning/reproductive health services in the framework of services that we offer to HIV-positive patients.

This means that a range of services are now offered under the same roof, during the same work hours, so the provider of one type of service can recommend the patient another type of service, all in a single visit to the clinic. This way, we managed to create an integrated model of 3 out of 4.

One of the most important advantages of this integration is the prevention of unintended pregnancies for HIV-positive women through contraception, thus contributing to a decrease in perinatal HIV transmission.

*Violeta Cîndea
Family Planning Doctor*



I have always wanted to be part of a foundation, so I was extremely glad that Baylor offered me the opportunity to work in a place where people can really be helped. I want to grow as a professional and as a person in a challenging environment.

*Simona Stanciu
Clinical Psychologist at the Baylor Centre of Excellence*



I was very happy that the Baylor Foundation gave me the chance to be a part of this team, despite the fact that I didn't have much experience when I was employed. I am glad to be a part of this team and that through my work I can contribute to diagnosing HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

*Iuliana Ciocea
Nurse, Voluntary Counseling and Testing Program*



If I had to define what Baylor meant to me, it would be the following: a TEAM, a FAMILY, a HOME. From the first moment I stepped into the building, I felt that Baylor offered me the chance to carry out my mission. Personally, I feel that the hard work that I put in day-by-day is an existential challenge, which has at its core the human being. Thank you, Baylor, for being a part of my life.

*Carmen Stoica
Fundraising Coordinator*



Operational Funding for the Center of Excellence

- ★ Baylor International Pediatrics AIDS Initiative and AbbVie Foundation – \$818.926,91

Donors and the Programs they Supported in 2014

- ★ Chevron Romania – Strengthening Chronic and Infectious Disease Management in Romania – 520.813,75 lei
- ★ Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson Romania – TB GUARD Project – Tuberculosis and Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis Prophylaxis Among People Living with HIV – 90.000 lei
- ★ Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson Romania – ‘Developing a Scientific Textbook for Supporting the Patient Adherence to HAART’ Project – 90.036 lei
- ★ OMV Petrom SA – ‘Developing Skills in Adults that Help Them Face Infectious Diseases: An Educational Initiative’ Project – 22.300 lei
- ★ OMV Petrom SA – ‘The Adventures of the Brulee Firefighter at the Seaside’ – 31.220 lei
- ★ SC Romania Hypermarche SA, Cora City Park – blood tests in the project ‘CORA Month, the Month of Open Hearts’ – 29.161,48 lei
- ★ ING Bank – ‘Protect the children’s heart’ Project – 23.167 lei
- ★ Ameropa Grains SA – ‘Heart’ Cardiology Program – 20.000 lei
- ★ Vodafone Foundation Romania – Purchasing an ultra-low temperature freezer to store blood samples and purchasing blood tests for the monitoring process in the ‘Precious Children – Preventing Perinatal HIV Transmission’ Program – 13.170 lei
- ★ SC GlaxoSmithKline SRL – ‘Precious Children – Preventing Perinatal HIV Transmission’ Program – 9.000 lei
- ★ SC Predilect PRO – ‘Precious Children – Preventing Perinatal HIV transmission’ Program – 5.200 lei
- ★ SC Ceausescu & Partners SRL – ‘Heart’ Cardiology Program - 1.800 lei
- ★ F5 IT SOLUTIONS PARTNER SRL – Blood tests – 3.500 lei
- ★ Khaled Mokhtar – ‘Heart’ Cardiology Program - 2.205 lei
- ★ Motoi Ionuț Dorel – Blood tests – 3.235 lei

Partners that Supported the Foundation in 2014 through In-kind Donations and Specialized Expertise

- ★ Baylor International Pediatrics AIDS Initiative
- ★ Abbott Pharmaceuticals
- ★ AmeriCares – donations of medicine, supplies and nutritional supplements
- ★ KPMG Romania SRL – financial audit services
- ★ SC Social Marketing SRL – Love Plus condoms donations
- ★ SC Danone Producție și Distribuție de Produse Alimentare SRL – dairy products for the children monitored by the psychosocial department
- ★ SC Dobre & Fiii SRL – bread donations for the Flower House
- ★ SC Square Media SRL – IT consultancy services
- ★ SC Devronium Aplicacion SRL – software
- ★ Uz Casnic – housekeeping & cleaning products
- ★ SC GlaxoSmithKline SRL – construction materials for the Flower House
- ★ SC Dulce Dulce – food donations
- ★ N&N Jhon Activ – food for the Flower House
- ★ Jovis Cosmetics – personal hygiene and sanitary products for the Flower House

Donors

The Baylor Black Sea Foundation Projects have become reality thanks to the generous help and close partnership with the following organizations and companies:



and 726 individual donors.

Baylor Partners:



Media Partners:



Baylor-Black Sea Foundation

Clinical Centre of Excellence

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Email: secretariat@baylor-romania.ro

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Tel./Fax: +40 241 738 918

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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

BIPAI
Baylor International
Pediatric AIDS Initiative

BCM
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Texas
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Hospital

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FOUNDATION

BIPAI

Baylor College of Medicine International
Pediatric AIDS Initiative – Headquarters
Texas Children's Hospital
1102 Bates Street, Suite 630
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

