



MINISTERUL SĂNĂTĂȚII  
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA



ANSP  
AGENȚIA NAȚIONALĂ  
PENTRU SĂNĂTATE PUBLICĂ



NICOLAE TESTEMITANU STATE UNIVERSITY  
OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



# The 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on non-communicable diseases



JUNE 03-05, 2026



CHISINAU  
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



EXPERTS  
in public health



INNOVATIVE  
ideas



COLLABORATION  
for change



IMPACT  
on communities

# Health risk factors and prevention of injuries and diseases



# Foreword

Dear colleagues, distinguished guests, and participants of the 4th International Conference on Non-Communicable Diseases,

It is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Chişinău, the heart of the Republic of Moldova, for our gathering from 3 to 5 June 2026. The theme of this edition – “Health Risk Factors and Prevention of Injuries and Diseases” - reflects our shared commitment to addressing one of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century: the growing burden of non-communicable diseases and injuries on health systems and communities worldwide.

This conference brings together researchers, policymakers, clinicians, and public health experts from Europe, the United States, the Caucasus region, and beyond. Through plenary sessions, intersectoral panels, oral presentations, and dedicated workshops for early-career researchers, we aim to create a vibrant space for dialogue where scientific evidence meets practical community experience. We will discuss national governance in NCD prevention, injury prevention, tobacco control strategies, early-life nutrition, etc., and importantly, how to build sustainable bridges between health policy, education, local administration, and civil society.

This meeting would not be possible without the generous support of the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the CEI Cooperation Fund, nor without the close collaboration between the Nicolae Testemiţanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, the National Agency for Public Health, Moldovan - Swiss Project "Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases" Project and our international partners from the iCREATE Project “Increasing Capacity for injury Research in Eastern Europe”. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and resources.

I encourage you to use these three days to share knowledge, spark new ideas, and forge partnerships that can turn prevention from aspiration into reality where it matters most: in people’s everyday lives.

I wish you fruitful discussions and a pleasant stay in Chişinău!

**Olga Cernetchi,**

Dr. habil. in Medical Science, MSc, Professor,  
First Vice-rector, Vice-rector for Academic  
Activity Management,  
Nicolae Testemiţanu State University of  
Medicine and Pharmacy

# Conference Schedule

## DAY 1

**Thursday, June 4, 20261**

09:00 – 12:30  
iCREATE Project Meeting

12:30 – 14:00  
Lunch

14:00 – 16:30  
Pre-Conference Lectures

## DAY 2

**Thursday, June 4, 20261**

08:00 – 09:00  
Registration & Welcome coffee

09:00 – 10:00  
Opening Ceremony

10:00 – 11:00  
Keynote Speakers

11:00 – 11:30  
Coffee Break & Networking

11:30 – 13:00  
Common Panel

13:00 – 14:00  
Lunch

14:00 – 15:30  
PARALLEL PANELS

15:30 – 16:00  
Coffee Break & Networking

16:00 – 17:30  
PARALLEL SESSIONS

17:30 – 18:00  
Conclusions & Future NCD  
Priorities

## DAY 3

**Friday, June 5, 20261**

09:00 – 10:30  
PARALLEL PANELS

10:30 – 11:00  
Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00  
Young Researchers & PhD  
Networking Session (part 1)

11:00 – 12:00  
Research methods in practice:  
choosing your topic, designing  
your study, and finding your  
journal

12:00 – 13:00  
Systematic review made simple  
with Rayyan

14:00 – 16:00  
Q & A

13:00-14:00  
Lunch

14:00 – 16:00  
Young Researchers & PhD  
Networking Session (part 2)

14:00 – 15:00  
From burnout to wellbeing  
through Lifestyle Medicine

15:00 – 16:00  
Preventive Medicine Without  
Borders: Educational Resources  
for NCD Control

16:00 – 17:00  
Closing Remarks

# Organizing Committee

## **Olga Cernețchi**

Dr. habil in Medical Sciences, MSc, Professor, First Vice-rector, Vice-rector for Academic Activity Management, *Nicolae Testemițanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Jana Chihai**

Dr. habil in Medical Sciences, MSc, Associate Professor, Vice rector for Research and Innovation, *Nicolae Testemițanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Victoria Craveț**

Vice-rector for Economic and Financial Management, *Nicolae Testemițanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Gheorghe Plăcintă**

Dr. habil in Medical Sciences, MSc, Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, *Nicolae Testemițanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Serghei Cebanu**

Dr. habil in Medical Science, MSc, Associate Professor, Head, Department of Preventive Medicine, *Nicolae Testemițanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Nicolae Jelamschi**

PhD, Director, National Agency for Public Health, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Angela Cazacu-Stratu**

PhD, Associate Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPH, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Svetlana Cociu**

PhD, Assistant Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPH, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Elena Ciobanu**

PhD, Associate Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPH, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Catalina Croitoru**

PhD, Associate Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPH, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Dumitru Cheptea**

PhD, Assistant Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPH, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Dumitru Cartaleanu**

PhD (c), Assistant Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPH, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Cara Hamann**

PhD, Associate Professor, College of Public Health, University of Iowa, *United States*

**Laura Rockwell**

Research Assistant, College of Public Health, University of Iowa, *United States*

**Diana Dulf**

PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, *Babeş-Bolyai* University, Cluj-Napoca, *Romania*

**Mădălina Coman**

PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, *Babeş-Bolyai* University, Cluj-Napoca, *Romania*

**Helen Prytherch**

PhD, MPH, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of Basel, Project Director, Moldovan Swiss Project “Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases”, *Switzerland*

**Ala Curteanu**

Dr. habil. in Medical Sciences, Associate Professor, team leader Moldovan - Swiss Project "Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases" Project, Head of Perinatology Lab, Institute of Mother and Child, *Republic of Moldova*

**Constantin Rimis**

PhD, Public Health Expert, "Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases" project, *Republic of Moldova*

**Lilia Onea**

Communication expert within the "Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases" project, psychologist, *Republic of Moldova*

**Ion Şalaru**

Head, Department for Surveillance and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, NAPH, *Republic of Moldova*

**Cucoş Diana**

Head of the Department of Project Management, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

**Aliona Serbulenco**

PhD, Associate Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

# Scientific Committee

## **Serghei Cebanu**

Dr. habil in Medical Science, MSc, Associate Professor, Head, Department of Preventive Medicine, *Nicolae Testemițanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

## **Simona Vilani**

PhD, Professor, University of Pavia, *Italy*

## **Ioana Popa**

PhD, Associate Professor, University of Pavia, *Italy*

## **Sara Felszeghi**

PhD, Professor, University of Miskolc, *Hungary*

## **Peter Kortesi**

PhD, Professor, University of Miskolc, *Hungary*

## **Predrag Duric**

PhD, Professor, Educons University, *Serbia*

## **Marius Ungureanu**

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## **Diana Dulf**

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## **Corinne Peek-Asa**

PhD, Professor, Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation, University of California, San Diego, *United States*

## **Cara Hamann**

PhD, Associate Professor, College of Public Health, University of Iowa, *United States*

## **Liubov Vlasyk**

PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Social Medicine and Public Health, Bukovina State Medical University, Chernivtsi, *Ukraine*

**Leonid Vlasyk**

PhD, Professor, State Enterprise L.I. Medved's Research Center of Preventive Toxicology, Food and Chemical Safety of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Kyiv, *Ukraine*

**Artashes Tadevosyan**

PhD, Professor, Yerevan State Medical University, *Armenia*

**Nino Chikhladze**

PhD, Professor, Tbilisi State University, *Georgia*

**Helen Prytherch**

PhD, MPH, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of Basel, Project Leader, Moldovan - Swiss Project "Healthy Life", *Switzerland*

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**Grigore Friptuleac**

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**Ion Bahnarel**

Dr. habil. in Medical Sciences, Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

**Ala Curteanu**

Dr. habil. in Medical Sciences, Associate Professor, team leader Moldovan - Swiss Project "Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases" Project, Head of Perinatology Lab, Institute of Mother and Child, *Republic of Moldova*

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PhD, Public Health Expert, "Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases" project, *Republic of Moldova*

**Elena Ciobanu**

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**Cătălina Croitoru**

PhD, Associate Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

**Alexei Chirlici**

PhD, Associate Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*

**Svetlana Cociu**

PhD, Assistant Professor, *Nicolae Testemitanu* SUMPh, *Republic of Moldova*



DAY 1

Thursday, June 4, 2026

09:00 – 12:30

**iCREATE Project Meeting**

*Closed meeting for iCREATE project partners from the USA, Romania, Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova. Project coordination, progress review, and planning for next phase activities.*

12:30 – 14:00

**Lunch**

14:00 – 16:30

**Pre-Conference Lectures**

*Interactive lectures delivered by international experts (hybrid format: online/offline)*

**Venue:** State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu”, Main Building, Room 204  
**Zoom Link:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/97496465280?pwd=VcmLRdd3cyrBicPfuObed9rQx5f65Y.1>

**Venue:** State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu”, Main Building, Room 205  
**Zoom Link:**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87917658682?pwd=0gr1i2LR07wbJCY25WSP4McD90TdJT.1>

**Lecture 1**

Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest and Social Determinants of Health:  
**a spatial public health analysis for NCD prevention in Lombardia, Italy**



**Simona Villani**,  
Professor,  
University of Pavia,  
Italy

**Lecture 3**

Global Road Safety:  
**Scope, Challenges, and Opportunities for Prevention**



**Cara Hamann**, PhD,  
Associate Professor,  
University of Iowa,  
College of Public Health,  
USA

## Lecture 2

### Lifestyle medicine in the prevention of NCDs



**Alina Epure,**  
PhD, Nutribalance,  
Romania

## Lecture 4

### Possibilities for extending active life



**Sara Felszeghi,**  
Professor,  
University of Miskolc,  
Hungary

## Mobile Exhibition “Everyday Things: Life with a Chronic Condition”

Available throughout the conference | 3–5 June 2026

The mobile exhibition “Everyday Things: Life with a Chronic Condition” explores the human experience of living with, managing, and preventing non-communicable diseases through ordinary personal objects that acquire profound meaning in the lives of those involved.

A shopping list, a cracked insulin pen, a forgotten scarf left during a medical visit, a patient register, a photograph from the traditional family room, or the manuscript of a book written in youth become testimonies of adaptation, resilience, care, and hope.

Collected from patients, caregivers, health and social workers, representatives of local public authorities, civil society leaders, and public health specialists from the Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, Kosovo, Ukraine, and Tanzania, the objects are accompanied by portraits and short personal narratives, offering an authentic perspective on everyday life in the context of chronic diseases.

The exhibition combines physical artefacts, documentary photography, and visual storytelling, inviting the audience to discover the human dimension of patient-centered care and integrated health and social services.

This is not a medical exhibition. It is an exhibition about people.

The objective of the exhibition is to bring visibility to the often-unseen experiences and efforts of people living with non-communicable diseases, those who care for them, and the professionals contributing to the prevention and management of these conditions, highlighting the role of integrated care and the local community ecosystem in supporting healthier lives and resilience in the context of chronic disease.



DAY 2

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Venue: National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova, Chisinau municipality, MD-2028, 67A Gh. Asachi street

**08:00 – 09:00**

**Registration & Welcome coffee**

**09:00 – 10:00**

**Opening Ceremony**

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83411669507?pwd=MJHwABiCgVPJsGgwAohn9aNEa00cac.1>

*Ministry of Health; WHO Country Office*

*National Institute of Public Health, Romania*

*State University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Nicolae Testemitanu", Republic of Moldova*

*National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova*

**10:00 – 11:00**

**Keynote Speakers**

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83411669507?pwd=MJHwABiCgVPJsGgwAohn9aNEa00cac.1>

Topic	Speakers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Noncommunicable Diseases in the WHO European Region: The State of Progress Toward SDG 3.4</li></ul>	<b>Kremlin Wickramasinghe</b> , <i>WHO Regional Office Representative</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NCD Prevention: Bridging Health in All Policies with Determinants of Health Frameworks - from Socialist experience to European Integration</li></ul>	<b>Predrag Duric</b> , <i>PhD, Professor, Educons University, Serbia</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The double burden of Malnutrition – Where do we stand and what to do?</li></ul>	<b>Helen Prytherch</b> , <i>PhD, MPH, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of Basel, Switzerland</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prevention and control of NCDs in the Republic of Moldova</li></ul>	<b>Nicolae Jelamschi</b> , <i>Director, National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova</i>

11:00 – 11:30

## Coffee Break & Networking

11:30 – 13:00

## Common Panel



Panel 1

## Intersectoral Strategies for NCD Prevention and Health Promotion

**Venue:** National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova; main conference Room

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83411669507?pwd=MJHwABiCgVPJsGgwAohn9aNEa00cac.1>

### Moderator:

**Zinaida Bezverhni**, PhD, Associate Professor, National Program Officer in health, Swiss Cooperation Office in the Republic of Moldova

### Panelists:

**Angela Paraschiv**, State Secretary, Ministry of Health, Republic of Moldova

**Simona Pârnu**, Director, National Institute of Public Health, Bucharest, Romania

**Marius Ungureanu**, PhD, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

**Serghei Cebanu**, Dr. habil. in Medical Sciences, Associate Professor, Head, Department of Preventive Medicine, "Nicolae Testemițanu" State Medical University, Republic of Moldova

**Ion Șalaru**, Head, Department for Surveillance and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova

### Discussion Plan:

- The core pillars of an effective, intersectoral NCD governance framework, and how it can be adapted to countries with differing institutional capacities and resource constraints
- The most significant systemic barriers to implementing Moldova's national NCD strategy across sectors, and what transferable lessons can be shared with countries undergoing similar health system transitions?
- Looking ahead to 2030, which policy actions and intersectoral partnerships should governments prioritize to accelerate NCD prevention, and what meaningful indicators should track progress?
- How can ministries of health, education, local administration, and civil society organizations move beyond fragmented projects toward sustained, community-embedded collaboration? What proven models or success stories can guide this integration?

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 PARALLEL PANELS



## Panel 2

### Building the Toolbox: Practical Instruments for NCD Prevention in the Republic of Moldova

**Venue:** National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova; main conference room

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83411669507?pwd=MJHwABiCgVPJsGwAohn9aNEa00cac.1>

#### Moderator:

**Helen Prytherch**, PD, PhD, MPH, Head, System Strengthening and Health Promotion Unit, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, University of Basel, *Switzerland*

#### Panelists:

*Team of the Moldovan - Swiss Project "Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases", Republic of Moldova*

**Ala Curteanu**, team leader, Dr. habil. in Medical Sciences, Associate Professor, Head of Perinatology Lab, Institute of Mother and Child

**Constantin Rîmiș**, Expert in Public Health and Health Promotion, PhD in Medical Sciences, Associate Professor

**Octavian Pașcaru**, Expert in Integrated Care and Applied Primary Health Care

**Tatiana Dnestrean**, Expert in Social Care and Integrated Care, PhD Student, Sociology and Social Work Department, State University of Moldova

**Lilia Onea**, Expert in Communication, Master's in communication sciences and psychology

**Diana Berari**, Community Coordinator, Psychologist

#### Discussion plan:

Noncommunicable diseases are the leading cause of mortality in the Republic of Moldova, requiring integrated approaches that combine prevention, early detection, and coordinated integrated care. This panel is an opportunity to celebrate 20 years of contribution of the Swiss TPH in strengthening the health system of the Republic of Moldova, highlighting the efforts and the results achieved across the domains of public health, PHC, community health, and social welfare in reducing the burden of NCDs. Within the Moldovan Swiss project "Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of NCDs", practical tools and models were developed, piloted, and scaled up nationwide (2018–2025) to support the transition from fragmented interventions to integrated solutions at the district and community levels.

## Objective:

To present operational tools and models that enable integrated prevention and control of NCDs.

## Content

- Territorial Health Profile – data-driven local planning
- WHO PEN protocols (nr. 1 & 2) – early detection and management in primary health care
- Integrated Community Care – person-centered coordination via case management
- Community Mobilization – engagement through health coalitions
- Communication Strategies – supporting the 3P approach as a core public health operation.

## Expected Outcomes:

- Dissemination and promotion of applied tools and models
- Sharing best practices and lessons learnt
- Ensuring sustainability toward institutionalization
- Co-design and participation in community health and wellbeing



### Panel 3

## Building Sustainable Research Capacity in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Lessons from a Decade of iCREATE Collaboration

**Venue:** National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova; small conference room

Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97496465280?pwd=VcmlRdd3cyrBicPfuObed9rQx5f65Y.1>

## Moderator:

**Madalina Coman, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, *Romania*

## Panelists:

**Artashes E. Tadevosyan, PhD**, Professor, Yerevan State Medical University, Yerevan, *Armenia*

**Cara Hamann, PhD**, Associate Professor, College of Public Health, University of Iowa, *USA*

**Diana Dulf, PhD**, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, *Romania*

**Nino Chikhladze**, PhD, Professor, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi, Georgia

**Svetlana Cociu**, PhD, Assistant Professor, Nicolae Testemitanu SUMPh, Republic of Moldova

### Discussion plan:

The iCREATE project reached the decade-long mark in building injury research and education capacity in Armenia, Georgia, and Moldova, with Romania as a regional hub and the United States as a lead partner. Each country representative will share concrete outcomes – mentored PhD researchers, peer-reviewed publications, and institutional infrastructure – while discussing what sustainability looks like beyond grant funding cycles. The conversation will address the challenges of training a critical mass of researchers in settings with disproportionately high injury burdens and limited pre-hospital care. The US panelists (University of Iowa) will offer reflections on the evolving role of high-income-country partners in empowering, rather than directing, research agendas. In contrast, the Romanian partner (Babes-Bolyai University) will focus on their transition from beneficiary to resource hub.

### Objective:

To critically examine the strategies, successes, and remaining challenges of building a self-sustaining injury and violence research ecosystem across Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, and Romania, drawing on ten years of structured international collaboration under the iCREATE framework.

### Expected outcomes:

- lessons on mentorship and leadership transitions
- identification of critical gaps and next steps
- strengthening international network and collaboration commitments

**15:30 – 16:00** Coffee Break & Networking

**16:00 – 17:30** PARALLEL SESSIONS

<b>Case study session</b> <b>From tools to impact - the local ecosystem of NCD prevention and management</b>	<b>Oral Session</b> <b>Injury research in practice: methodological approaches and multi-country evidence from LMICs</b>
<i>Venue: National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova; main conference room</i> Zoom Link: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83411669507?pwd=MJHwABIcGVPJsGgwAohn9aNEa00cac.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83411669507?pwd=MJHwABIcGVPJsGgwAohn9aNEa00cac.1</a>	<i>Venue: National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova; small conference room</i> Zoom link: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/97496465280?pwd=VcmLRdd3cyrBicPfuObed9rQx5f65Y.1">https://zoom.us/j/97496465280?pwd=VcmLRdd3cyrBicPfuObed9rQx5f65Y.1</a>

<p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <p><b>Ala Curteanu</b>, Team leader of “Healthy Life: Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable Diseases” Project, Dr. habil. in medical sciences, Associate Professor, Head of Perinatology Laboratory, Institute of Mother and Child, <i>Republic of Moldova</i></p>	<p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <p><b>Adina Fodor</b>, PhD, Office for inter-university agreements, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, <i>Romania</i></p> <p><b>Angela Cazacu-Stratu</b>, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, Nicolae Testemitanu SUMPh, <i>Republic of Moldova</i></p>
<p><b>Format:</b> Interactive session/case study</p> <p><b>Context</b> Building on Panel II, this Case study session demonstrates how practical instruments and models for the prevention and management of NCDs of the “Healthy Life” Project are applied in real-life settings, highlighting experiences of collaboration between local actors from different sectors and community members. The panel is bringing the perspectives of different stakeholders, including the voice of people, involved in health promotion activities and integrated provision of health and social community care services for the prevention and management of NCDs within local ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Objective</b> To illustrate the role of intersectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration in generating, sustaining, and ensuring the long-term impact on populations in rural communities.</p> <p><b>Content</b> National experience in health promotion and integrated community care is presented by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bolboceanu Ion</b>, MPH, Director, Public Health Centre of Orhei district</li> <li>• <b>Mosoreti Dumitru</b>, Mayor of Risipeni/Bocşa community, Făleşti district</li> <li>• <b>Toma Andrei</b>, Family Doctor, Health Center, Mihaileni, Rîşcani district</li> <li>• <b>Ciobanu Emilia</b>, Chief of Territorial Social Assistance Agency NORD-VEST</li> </ul>	<p><b>Format:</b> Oral presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Cazacu-Stratu Angela, Cociu Svetlana.</b> Childhood injuries in the Republic of Moldova: a population-based study, 2015–2023. <i>Republic of Moldova</i></li> <li>2. <b>Azad Hassan Dilman, Dizar Abdulrahman Hawre, Bradosty Aras, Montomoli Cristina, Popa Ioana.</b> A multidimensional forensic model to improve firearm injury surveillance and prevention: a public health approach to death classification. <i>Italy</i></li> <li>3. <b>Obazyan Lida.</b> Child restraint system use among children aged 0–6 years in Yerevan: prevalence, barriers, and associated factors. <i>Armenia</i></li> <li>4. <b>Andriadze Mariam, Kereselidze Maia, Chikhladze Nino.</b> Pediatric burn hospitalizations in Georgia: an 8-year national retrospective study. <i>Georgia</i></li> <li>5. <b>Nino Chikhladze, Nato Pitskhelauri.</b> Injury-related mortality in the Georgian population 65 years and older. <i>Georgia</i></li> <li>6. <b>Merab Papava, Nino Chikhladze, Maia Kharatishvili.</b> Fall-related injuries among children in Georgia. <i>Georgia</i></li> <li>7. <b>Tornike Batavani.</b> Occupational health and safety in the construction sector in Georgia, <i>Georgia</i></li> <li>8. <b>Paladi Ana-Maria, Cartaleanu Dumitru, Cebanu Serghei.</b> Epidemiological characteristics and risk factors of trauma in elderly patients, <i>Republic of Moldova</i></li> </ol>

- **Trancalan Natalia**, President of NGO *AO Asociația Băștinașilor Mihăilenarii de Pretutindeni*, Mihăileni, Rîșcani district
- **Ludmila Iaz**, Beneficiary of health promotion activities Mihăileni, Rîșcani district.

International experience in health promotion is presented by:

- **Georgiana Ispas**, PhD (c), *Department of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

#### Expected Outcomes:

- Emphasizing the field impact and replicability of tools and models
- Highlighting the role of multiple actors for sustainable development
- Empowering people and communities' involvement
- Building bridges for nutrition behavior change

#### Core Message

**From tools to impact: demonstrating how integrated solutions work at the community level.**

#### 9. Belecci Elena, Cociu Svetlana.

Evaluation of self-reported pedestrian risk behaviors in the context of road injury prevention, *Republic of Moldova*

#### 10. Bologan Victoria.

The impact of fractures in osteoporosis, *Republic of Moldova*

#### 11. Glavceva Maria.

Particularities of road traffic participants' behavior in the Republic of Moldova, *Republic of Moldova*

#### 12. Ciobanu Daniela.

Domestic trauma in children under 5 years old, *Republic of Moldova*

#### 13. Gratiashvili Tatia.

Chikhladze Nino, Pitskhelauri Nato, Kereselidze Maia. Five-year trends in injury hospitalization on the example of one region, *Georgia*

#### 14. Geladze Shota, Chikhladze Nino, Pitskhelauri Nato, Kereselidze Maia.

The study of epidemiological characteristics of injuries on the example of one hospital in Tbilisi, *Georgia*

## 17:30 – 18:00 Conclusions & Future NCD Priorities



DAY 3

Friday, June 5, 2026

## 09:00 – 10:30 PARALLEL PANELS



Panel 4

**Tobacco Control. Achievements and Challenges in legal framework enforcement and way forward to a smoke free society**

**Venue:** National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova; small conference Room

**Zoom link:** <https://zoom.us/j/94035696936?pwd=avljAdHJdFoROujbeLWg8bchW7x4xb.1>

### **Moderator:**

**Guștiuc Vasile**, Deputy Director, Head, Public Health Inspectorate, National Agency for Public Health, *Republic of Moldova*

### **Panelists:**

- **Angela Ciobanu**, *World Health Organization*, Regional Office for Europe, Regional Adviser in Tobacco
- **Adrian Pană**, Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Health, *Bucharest, Romania*
- **Mariana Gincu**, Head, Public Health Policy and Public Health Emergencies Directorate, Ministry of Health, *Republic of Moldova*
- **Ion Șalaru**, Head, Department for Surveillance and Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases, National Agency for Public Health, *Republic of Moldova*
- **Ion Spătaru**, Head, Inspectorate, Municipal Centre of Public Health, *Republic of Moldova*
- General Police Inspectorate, *Republic of Moldova (tbc)*
- Centrul PAS/ Health Policy and Analysis Center, *Republic of Moldova (tbc)*

### **Discussion plan:**

- Regional overview in Tobacco Control and SDG
- National legislation – enforcement and weaknesses
- Best practices to reduce tobacco and nicotine consumption
- Challenges in enforcement and cross-sectoral collaboration
- Role of civil society and media in advocacy for a smoke-free society

### **Objective:**

*To analyze the regional and national context in the implementation of tobacco control legislation, including alignment with EU Acquis and SDG goals to reduce smoking prevalence and tobacco-related mortality, identify enforcement gaps, and outline actionable strategies for strengthening intersectoral collaboration and advocacy for a smoke-free society in the Republic of Moldova and across the European region.*

### **Expected outcomes:**

- Mapping of key barriers in national tobacco legislation enforcement
- Identification of transferable best practices from EU member states experiences
- Ways to improve multi-stakeholder collaboration and compliance monitoring
- Perspectives for the implementation of a smoke-free environment
- Proposals for future communication activities



## Panel 5

# The role of nutrition for a healthy start in life and the prevention of NCDs

**Venue:** Mother and Child Institute (MCI), Department of Specialized Outpatient Medical Assistance, conference room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Burebista 93 street, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83411669507?pwd=MJHwABiCgVPJsGgwAohn9aNEa00cac.1>

### Moderator:

**Curteanu Ala**, Dr. habil. in Medical Sciences, Associate Professor, Head of the Perinatology Scientific Laboratory, *Mother and Child Institute*; Team Leader of the Facilitation Unit of the „Healthy Life” Project, **Moldova**

### Panelists:

- **Dorina Savoschin**, Head of the Maternal and Child Health Department, Ministry of Health, *Republic of Moldova*
- **Angela Capcelea**, Health Specialist/Head of Health Section, UNICEF, *Republic of Moldova*
- **Maria Victoria Racu**, PhD, Head of the Nutritional Health Section, National Agency for Public Health, *Republic of Moldova*
- **Natalia Bursacovscaia**, PhD, Ob&Gyn., Researcher, Obstetrics Scientific Laboratory, MCI, *Republic of Moldova*
- **Tatiana Carauş**, PhD, Neonatologist, MCI, *Republic of Moldova*
- **Nadejda Fărîmă**, Family Physician, MPH, International Board Lactation Consultant, Consultant of the NGO „Mămica Alăptează”, *Republic of Moldova*

### Discussion plan:

Child nutrition is a critical determinant of lifelong health. The poor dietary habits in early life can fuel a rising epidemic of NCDs like obesity, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. Proper and healthy nutrition for a child, from birth and at an early age, contributes to shaping healthy habits throughout life, reducing the risk of obesity and metabolic diseases. Appropriate early childhood interventions, policy actions, including multisectoral responses, and nutritional prevention strategies are essential to improve the child's health. The panel will address the organization overview (central health authority, international agency, tertiary-level public health and childcare institutions, and civil society) and professional points of view (public health, obstetrics, neonatology/pediatrics, and family medicine) regarding the role of maternal and child nutrition for the prevention of NCDs from the perspective of public health policies and clinical practices.

## Objective:

To reflect on achievements, gaps, and future interdisciplinary actions to promote healthy child nutrition.

## Expected Outcomes:

- Connect evidence with policies and practical solutions
- Strengthen collaboration across disciplines, institutions, and civil society
- Identify barriers to the effective implementation of nutrition policies and practices.

**09:00 – 10:30**

## Parallel Pitch Presentations

### Session A: **NCD and health risk factors**

#### Moderators:

**Artashes E. Tadevosyan**, PhD, Professor, Yerevan State Medical University, *Armenia*

**Vlasyk Leonid**, PhD, Professor, State Enterprise L.I. Medved's Research Center of Preventive Toxicology, Food and Chemical Safety of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Kyiv, *Ukraine*

**Venue:** State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Main Building, Room 205

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97496465280?pwd=VcmLRdd3cyrBicPfuObed9rQx5f65Y.1>

1. **Karapetyan Elina, Sakanyan Ganna.** Awareness of lifestyle-related risk factors of non-communicable diseases among adolescents aged 15-17 in the city of Yerevan. *Armenia*
2. **Tigran Harutyunyan.** Interpersonal relationships, health, and academic performance among YSMU students. *Armenia*
3. **Vlasyk Leonid, Prodanchuk Mykola, Vlasyk Lyubov.** Ambient air particulates total lung deposited surface area levels in urban Chernihiv city. *Ukraine*
4. **Vlasyk Lyubov.** Personalized Approach to the Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases from Theory to Practical Interventions. *Ukraine*
5. **Vilcova Ana, Ferdohleb Alexandru, Spinei Larisa, Ciobanu Elena.** Professional burnout among surgeons – a cross-sectional study based on the Maslach questionnaire. *Republic of Moldova*
6. **Iordan Irina, Șalaru Virginia.** Information technologies in the activity of nurses in primary health care for the management of non-communicable diseases. *Republic of Moldova*

7. **Mihalaş Elena, Raevschi Elena.** National trends and regional disparities in age-standardized premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases in the Republic of Moldova, 2014-2023
8. **Miron Inga, Bebîh Vladimir, Zavtoni Mariana.** Exposure to endocrine disruptors: discrepancies between awareness levels and cumulative chemical risk. *Republic of Moldova*
9. **Curteanu Maria.** Informing the population on the quality and composition of bottled drinking water. *Republic of Moldova*
10. **Lupascu Valentina, Caraus Alexandru, Gorea Mirela, Cebanu Serghei.** Assessment of obesity as a determinant of arterial hypertension in the context of noncommunicable disease prevention. *Republic of Moldova*
11. **Rusu Radu, Tafuni Ovidiu.** Prevalence and determinants of self-reported anemia and iron supplementation among adults in the Republic of Moldova. *Republic of Moldova*
12. **Bernic Vladimir, Miron Inga.** Impact of obesity on morbidity and mortality due to cerebrovascular diseases. *Republic of Moldova*
13. **Hovsepyan Emma.** Complementary feeding practices in Armenia: evaluation of maternal knowledge and compliance with WHO standards. *Armenia*

**Session B: Raising awareness related to healthy lifestyle**  
(nutrition, behavior, environment)

**Moderators:**

**Ladner Joël**, Professor, University of Rouen, *France*

**Chikhladze Nino**, PhD, Professor, Tbilisi State University, *Georgia*

**Venue:** State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Main Building, Room 204

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83411669507?pwd=MJHwABiCgVPJsGgwAohn9aNEa00cac.1>

1. **Ladner Joël, Tavolacci Marie-Pierre, Herrmann Karl, Veber Benoit.** Financial precarity and mental health among students: a nationwide study in France, 2025. *France*
2. **Badalyan Vahe, Mkrtchyan Armen.** Nutritional balance and supplement use among trainees. *Armenia*
3. **Bartušová Maria, Kostičová M., Roussier L., Hussain-Alkhateeb L.** Determinants of child custody loss among mothers experiencing homelessness: a qualitative study from Slovakia. *Slovakia*.
4. **Melike Yavuz.** Temporal Trends and Socioeconomic Inequalities in Diabetes Prevalence in Türkiye: A Sex-Specific Analysis of National Health Surveys, 2010–2022. *Türkiye*

5. **Mnatsakanyan Anna.** The association of exposure to some heavy metals and neurodegenerative diseases in Armenia. *Armenia*
6. **Stepan Hovhannisyan.** Stress, burnout, anxiety and depression among school teachers in Armenia. *Armenia*
7. **Mane Kurghinyan, Lilit Arstamyán.** Healthcare-Seeking Behavior and Attitudes Toward Preventive Examinations Among the Adult Population of Armenia. *Armenia*
8. **Elen Hayrapetyan.** Caffeine Consumption Among Medical Students in Armenia: What Is the Motive? *Armenia*
9. **Chiosa Diana, Ignat Rodica, Salaru Virginia, Levițchi Alexei, Curocichin Ghenadie.** Non-conventional risk factors of NCDs in young people. *Republic of Moldova*
10. **Stanciu Oana-Lorena,** Hygienic characteristics of occupational cancer in Suceava County. *Romania*
11. **Marga Irina, Paraschiv Angela.** Pediatric healthcare-associated infections in the Republic of Moldova: disproportionate burden in preterm and extremely low birth weight neonates. *Republic of Moldova*
12. **Antoniuc Natalia, Țurcanu Gheorghii, Cheptea Dumitru.** Health risk assessment in the context of climate change. *Republic of Moldova*
13. **Ambrosiev Victor.** Prevalence and incidence of refractive errors among pupils. *Republic of Moldova*
14. **Yengibaryan Nane.** Household waste sorting and waste management behavior in Armenian households. *Armenia*

### 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

### 11:00 – 13:00 Young Researchers & PhD Networking Session (part 1)

Interactive workshop sessions for early-career researchers

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97496465280?pwd=VcmLRdd3cyrBicPfuObed9rQx5f65Y.1>

Venue: State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Main Building, Room 205

### 11:00 – 12:00

### Research methods in practice: choosing your topic, designing your study, and finding your journal

Lead:

**Patricia Marga**, PhD(c), *Department of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

### Description:

Working on a PhD thesis is rarely a linear process. This workshop offers a practical guide through three main pillars of the research journey: choosing and refining a research topic, selecting and applying appropriate research methods, and navigating the publication landscape. Through structured frameworks, a visual PhD roadmap and an overview of journal quality indicators (impact factors, quartiles, ISI, and BDI indexing), participants will gain both the tools and the confidence to move from an initial idea to publishable research.

**12:00 - 13:00**

### Systematic review made simple with Rayyan

#### Lead:

**Madalina Coman**, PhD, *Department of Public Health, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania*

**Predrag Duric**, PhD, Professor, Educons University, *Serbia*

### Description:

This session provides a general introduction to systematic reviews, covering the key steps and core principles involved in planning, conducting, and reporting a systematic review. Participants will also explore how Rayyan can support the review process by helping organize, screen, and manage references more efficiently. Through a guided workflow, from importing and deduplicating search results to blinded screening, labeling, and resolving conflicts, attendees will learn how to use Rayyan's tools to accelerate study selection while maintaining transparency and rigor.

**14.00 – 16.00 Q & A**

**13:00-14.00 Lunch**

**14.00 – 16.00**

### Young Researchers & PhD Networking Session (part 2)

Interactive workshop sessions for early-career researchers

Zoom Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/97496465280?pwd=VcmLRdd3cyrBicPfuObed9rQx5f65Y.1>

**Venue:** State University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Main Building, Room 205

**14:00-15.00**

### **From burnout to wellbeing through Lifestyle Medicine**

**Lead:**

Alina Epure, PhD, Nutribalance, *Romania*

**Description:**

Burnout is a major health problem with metabolic, hormonal, and emotional consequences, increasingly manifesting from adolescence. This workshop presents Lifestyle Medicine as an integrative, evidence-based approach focused on identifying and correcting root causes rather than merely managing symptoms. Participants will explore how nutrition, restorative sleep, physical activity, and stress management reduce systemic inflammation and restore physiological balance. Through personalized interventions and practical case studies, the session demonstrates strategies to transition from chronic exhaustion to sustainable wellbeing. We will also discuss integrating Lifestyle Medicine into public health policies and prevention programs, highlighting its foundational role in fostering vitality and longevity.

**Venue:** room 205

**15:00-16.00**

### **Preventive Medicine Without Borders: Educational Resources for NCD Control**

**Lead:**

**Erica Frank**, MD, MPH, FACPM, Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia; Affiliate Professor, Faculty of Arts, University of British Columbia, *USA*

**Description:**

Non-communicable diseases require a shift toward prevention-centered medical training. This session presents freely available, evidence-based preventive medicine curricula as scalable tools for building local capacity in health promotion. Drawing on experience from Yale and Stanford training to the creation of NextGenU.org – a platform delivering free education globally – the speaker will demonstrate how digital resources can be adapted to enrich postgraduate programmes. Participants will explore strategies for integrating preventive medicine modules into existing training frameworks, with emphasis on faculty development and policy alignment, highlighting their role in reducing NCD burden and strengthening health systems.

**Venue:** online (Zoom)

**16:00 – 17:00      Closing Remarks**

## Conference Venue:



### **Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy**

165, Stefan cel Mare si Sfant street, MD-2004,  
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova



### **National Agency for Public Health, Republic of Moldova**

67A Gh. Asachi Street, MD-2028,  
Chisinau, Republic of Moldova



### **Mother and Child Institute, Department of Specialized Outpatient Medical Assistance**

Burebista 93 street, Chișinău,  
Republic of Moldova

## Partners:

