

## CEE Hospital Partnerships Formalized

Representatives from three new hospital partnerships recently signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) formalizing their collaboration. With the creation of these partnerships in Romania, Hungary and Croatia, AIHA's hospital partnership program in Central and Eastern Europe has expanded to a total of eight partnerships.

### Cluj-Philadelphia

The Cluj-Philadelphia partnership was officially launched on October 24 at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Health in Bucharest, Romania. The partnership brings together Thomas Jefferson University (TJU) in Philadelphia, PA and three institutions in Cluj: the Sanitary Police and the Clinic for Occupational Diseases--both part of the Cluj Sanitary Directorate--and the Center for Medical Research, Health Services and Management. Romanian Minister of Health Iluian Mincu, MD, opened the ceremony and expressed his strong support for the program.

The MOU was signed by Mincu along with Jussi Saukkonen, PhD, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and vice president for international affairs at TJU; Eugen Gurzcá, MD, director of the Center for Medical Research; Silvia Albu, MD, director of the Sanitary Directorate; Aristotel Cocarla, MD, director of the Clinic for Occupational Diseases; and Eun-Joo Chang, AIHA partnership coordinator. USAID was represented by Thomas Dine, assistant administrator for Europe/NIS, who spoke at a reception following the ceremony; Richard Hough, mission director; and Mary Ann Micka, MD, chief of the human resources development office.

The partners will address a range of issues relating to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses linked to environmental and occupational hazards. They plan to identify a major problem, such as lung disease or exposure to toxic solvents, and create a model for intervention that could be applied to other health problems.

### Vác-Winston-Salem

Carolina Medicorp, Inc. in Winston-Salem, NC, and Javorsky Municipal Hospital in Vác, Hungary have twice celebrated the launching of their partnership--first on October 10 at a CMI Board meeting, and again in Vác at a ceremony honoring Javorsky Hospital's 25th anniversary. The MOU was signed in North Carolina by Paul Wiles, president of CMI, and Agnes Katona, MD, vice director of medical affairs at Javorsky. At the Vác ceremony, C. David Hardisson, PhD, senior vice president for continuous improvement, signed on behalf of Carolina Medicorp, and Mihay Szonyi, MD, medical director of Javorsky, signed for the Hungarian partners.

The partners are building on a strong relationship that began in 1993. In this new phase of their partnership, they will initiate clinical, financial and administrative improvements, focusing on the establishment of a continuum of care--from the patient's home to the primary care physician to the hospital--with an emphasis on home care. Clinical areas identified as priorities include diabetes, oncology, stroke rehabilitation and psychiatry. The partners will use continuous quality improvement concepts and methods.

### Zadar-Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

On November 6, an MOU was signed symbolizing the start of a partnership between the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor Health Systems, Inc. (HSI), located in five US states, and Croatia's Zadar Regional Hospital and nearby Biograd Orthopedic Hospital. Milé Gveric, MD, director of the Regional Hospital, hosted the ceremony and signed the MOU, together with Josip Labar, MD, director of the Biograd Hospital; Rose Murphy, HSI's vice president for

patient care and quality services; and Eun-Joo Chang of AIHA. Also participating were Josip Kraljic, MD, head of Zadar's regional health authority, Tom Yates from USAID/Zagreb, a team of nurses and physicians from HSI, and Linda Poteat, AIHA's deputy regional director for CEE.

The partners have identified areas for intervention including prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular and oncological diseases; infection control; post-traumatic stress disorder in children; and gerontology. Nursing and hospital management will be emphasized in all of the partnership's initiatives. The partners also plan to establish a local fundraising program utilizing HSI's expertise in this area.