

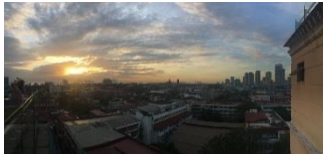
Gastroenterology Elective in the Philippines

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Background

- The Philippines consists of 7,641 islands
- Manila is the capital and is one of the most densely populated cities in the world
- Philippines Children's Medical Center (PCMC) is a tertiary care center located in Manila
- 1 of 3 pediatric GI fellowships in the country. The only one that offers a salary for GI fellows



Objectives

- Describe healthcare practices in a developing country
- Describe GI diseases and presentations in the Philippines and how they differ from those in the US

Preparation

- World Health Organization's *Hospital Care for Children*
- Global Health lectures and workshops

Experience

- Participated in rounds, consults, and clinic visits
- Observed EGDs, colonoscopies, and liver biopsies
- Care was provided in "Pay Wards" or "Charity Wards"
- Higher incidence of biliary atresia and end stage liver disease with related complications and lower incidence of IBD
- Saw a wide range of disease processes: gastric ulcers, TB hepatitis, Rubella Hepatitis, Dengue Fever, Typhlitis, Large Volume GI bleed, DRESS syndrome



Reflection

- Increased confidence in physical exam skills
- Increased my awareness of the cost of medical tests
- Physicians practiced evidence based medicine until resources were limited or unavailable
- Learned about the post-graduate medical education system
- Witnessed the difference in access to medical care based on patient resources



Future Directions

- Pursue a global health elective during fellowship