

Getting Back to Global Health; Lake Atitlan, Guatemala

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Background

- Spanish-speaking country provided the opportunity to practice Spanish-language skills learned in CHiCoS program
- Past travel to Guatemala for medical mission trips and familiarity with the country in anticipation of traveling alone
- Community-based hospital on family compound, which provided safety while traveling alone



Objectives

- Primary objective was to better understand the Health Service in Guatemala
 - Understanding the impact of COVID-19
 - Understanding the system of medical education in Guatemala
- Secondary objective was to acquire improved Spanish-language fluency
 - Full immersion in homestay setting
 - Specific medical terminology and phrases
 - One-on-one Spanish language classes

Preparation

- Global Health Track participation
- CHiCoS Program participation
- Acquisition of electronic resources
- Dedicated mentorship

Experience

- Diverse patient presentations; pediatric patients, pregnant patients, travelers
- Exposure to multiple care settings; ambulatory care, prenatal visits, urgent care, 24/7 emergency room
- Performed simple procedures; laceration repair, incision & drainage, wound debridement



Reflection

- Appreciation for resource-rich environment at academic teaching hospital; electronic medical record, extensive ancillary staff, consultation services, pharmacy
- Improved Spanish-language skills, and increased attention to the importance of language barriers in adequate care
- Learned new medical skills; use of ultrasound, use of radiography, medication mixing and administration
- Implemented Global Health Curriculum frequently; application of resuscitation and medical diagnostics in resource-limited setting
- Understanding of Guatemalan culture and its intersection with medicine

Future Directions

- Continued use of Spanish-language in medical practice; QBS certification.
- Continued connection with Hospital San Pedro for future travel to Guatemala

