



The Boletín



Medicos-en-Accion Guatemala

Fall 2015

2016 Mission Planning on Schedule

"Mission planning for 2016 has been going smoothly," said Vice President Surgery Guatemala Brenda Uhrynuk. "Applications have been arriving and many of the areas are now staffed."

There is much that goes into planning each year's mission and no sooner is one finished than planning for the next begins. Recruitment, accommodation and shuttle planning, social events and a vast diversity of supplies must be confirmed before the departure date. Licences and certifications must also be forwarded well in advance to the Guatemalan authorities.

Surgical Team Leader Dr. Norman Weir reports that while we have some surgeons confirmed, we are still looking for general surgeons and surgical assists. Hermano Pedro has four ORs.



Introductions and tours are part of the first day at Hermano Pedro Hospital

Audiology is also a very busy department and the team still needs one more audiologist to staff the busy clinic.

If you know of anyone who might be

interested, please have them contact us at medicoscanada@gmail.com

Please check our Facebook site from time to time for last minute updates.

"No access to surgery see millions dying"

Scotland Herald, April 27 2015

A large majority of people in the world do not have access to safe and affordable surgery, according to a new report. An estimated five billion people, from a total population of seven billion, are unable to get surgical help when they need it, said researchers.

In low and middle-income countries as many as nine out of 10 individuals were said to lack basic surgical care. As a result, millions of people were dying needlessly from common and easily treated conditions such as appendicitis, fractures, and childbirth complications.

Researcher Andy Leather, director of the King's Centre for Global Health at King's College London, said: "In the absence of surgical care, common, easily treatable illnesses become fatal. The global community cannot continue to ignore this problem – millions of people are already dying unnecessarily, and the need for equitable and affordable access to surgical services is projected to increase in the coming decades, as many of the worst affected countries face rising rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and road accidents."

Of the 313 million operations performed around the world each year, just one in 20 takes place in the poorest countries.

Looking at your flight options?

Plan to arrive at the Guatemala airport (code GUA) between 2100 and 2300 on January 29 in order to connect to our Antigua shuttle.



Plan for Mission 2016!

Travel day: January 29
Setup: January 31
Operating: February 1-12
Wrap-up: February 12
Travel day: February 13

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Mission Costs and Your Donation



Medicos en Accion originated in Kamloops, BC where most of the organization's executive members and many of volunteers still live and work. Traditionally, community fund-raisers were held to raise money to cover the costs of medications and supplies and the Kamloops group continue to do this in support of The Gambia missions. The Guatemala surgical group, however, is made up of volunteers from across Canada and the U.S. and it has not yet been possible to work together on a major fundraising effort.

In addition to the in-country personal mission expenses (accommodation, ground transfers, and meals at the hospital), each participant also makes a donation to offset the costs associated with providing surgical services in Antigua. These costs generally include: medications, surgical supplies, IV fluids and accommodation for patients who must travel from other parts of the country for surgery. While many volunteers now consider this part of their overall trip cost, participants are encouraged to fundraise to cover the individual donation portion of their expense.

As challenging as fundraising may seem to be, there are definite advantages to raising funds in support of Medicos missions, including raising the profile of Medicos in your community and potentially attracting future volunteers. Some successful fundraising events have included the sale of Guatemalan crafts, asking friends and family to contribute to

About Medicos -en-Accion Canada

Formed in 2001, Medicos-en-Accion's volunteers provide surgical services, community health and education support in Guatemala and The Gambia.

Medicos-en-Accion

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V2C 1N9

Medicos-en-Accion/Guatemala

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Nanaimo, BC V9X 1P5

Medicos-en-Accion Board

President: Anna Peron
Vice President/Team Leader The Gambia: Jon Just
Vice President Surgery Guatemala: Brenda Uhrynuk
Vice President /Team Leader Medicine Guatemala : Brian Poelzer:
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For Medicos-en-Accion/Guatemala Surgical Division

Vice President: Brenda Uhrynuk
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Treasurer/Communications: David Hill-Turner
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Medicos-en-Accion is a registered charity in Canada.

your costs, selling baked goods and home canned fruit/vegetables.

Your donation goes towards covering average \$75 Canadian cost per surgical patient. Friends, relatives and colleagues who wish to support our work in Guatemala may be interested in sponsoring one or more surgeries. They will know that 100%

of their donation will directly benefit a person in Guatemala.

It is extremely rewarding to see how even a minor surgery can affect the life of someone and their family. We have witnessed many situations where after receiving a surgery a person has been able to continue working and supporting their family.



YES, I want to make a difference to someone's life!

I am sponsoring ____ surgeries X \$75 each: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Make cheques payable to: Medicos-en-Accion

Thank you. Tax receipts will be issued for donations received to support this project.



Please mail your donation to:

Medicos-en-Accion
c/o 1431 Frontier Place
Nanaimo, BC V9X 1P5