



Planning update for Future Guatemala Missions

Covid Situation in Guatemala

The Guatemalan government requires that visitors to the country have been fully vaccinated and present evidence of a negative Covid test (PCR) within 48 hours of arrival in the country. With these requirements met there is no need for self-isolation. However, there continues to be a very high level of Covid in Guatemala and the U.S. Centre for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that even fully vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19 variants and should avoid all travel to Guatemala (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/covid-4/coronavirus-guatemala>) (accessed June 6, 2021).

Guatemala has two vaccines available: Astra Zenecka and Sputnik. Healthcare workers were vaccinated first and the public is now able to register for vaccinations (currently age 50 and older.) Guatemalans who have the financial resources and are in possession of U.S. visas are now traveling to the U.S. to access vaccination programs.

Planning for Future Missions

Since February, three international teams have worked at Hermano Pedro Hospital to perform cleft lip and palate surgeries and the U.S. based Faith in Practice lead a team to Antigua in May for orthopedic surgeries.

Petén – November 2021. We expect to be able to have a small ENT and Hearing Clinic team working at Hospital Shalom in San Benito, the Petén in November. Communications with the hospital are ongoing and a final decision will be made in July.

Antigua 2022 – An OR renovation and expansion project is planned for Hermano Pedro Hospital from November 2021 to the end of February 2022. (See design plan page 4). The project will update the facility and expand OR capacity, to be able to serve larger teams or two smaller teams at the same time.

While this project is welcomed as it will greatly improve the capacity and functionality of the operating room space at the hospital, it impacts our usual mission time in 2022. Unfortunately, we will **not** be leading a surgical mission to Antigua in January 2022. The hospital is reviewing the surgical schedule and may be able to offer the teams affected some alternate time in the summer. We have been assured that our usual weeks will be restored for the 2023 mission.

During the pandemic, as soon as they were able to reopen within the country Hermano Pedro Hospital engaged some local surgical teams. If there is unutilized operating room capacity going forward, they would very much like to continue the relationship with local surgeons.

Hermano Pedro Hospital has been working with some local teams. Since the Antigua 2022 mission will not be happening, we are looking into the possibility of sending a larger team (two surgical services) to the Petén at that time (end of January/beginning of February).

Melody School – Medicos en Accion has had a long association with My Melody School in Chimaltenango, about 30 minutes by road from Antigua. A medical team, led by Dr. Brian Poelzer, attended the school on several occasions to conduct health assessments of students and provide basic treatments. Although the need is still there, this service has not been provided for the past few years and may be an opportunity/gap that we can fill in the short term.



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Renovations at Hermano Pedro Hospital

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The current five operating rooms of the OSSHP Hospital were inaugurated 27 years ago. During this time, an estimated of 130,000 surgeries have been performed in these facilities, restoring health to an equal number of poor people in Guatemala by thousands of volunteer surgeons from the USA, Canada and Spain. Thanks to the generosity of the Lammens Torres Family and the AICSA Corporation, the construction of three new operating rooms will begin very soon.



With this construction, the Hospital will have 8 active operating rooms, which will allow it to attend more sick and poor people who do not find relief from their health problems in the public sector and do not have the resources to be treated in the private health sector.

These new operating rooms will be able to alleviate the ailments of thousands of people throughout the country who remain on the waiting list or who require surgery.

There is a demand from international medical groups seeking the opportunity to contribute to free surgeries in various specialties, but the availability of operating rooms is reduced and saturated.

We also expect the valuable cooperation of several international and national organizations that will help us in the donation of the necessary equipment to enable these three operating rooms and replace some of the equipment of the active operating rooms so that the OSSHP will be able to attend more poor and abandoned sick people as its institutional mission states.

Building Restoration and Refurbishment

We are very grateful to the Architect Ernesto Ruiz, we announce that, after 367 years of existence of the construction of the Hospital Building for Clergy, San Pedro Apostle, the AICSA Corporation in conjunction with the Board of Directors of the Friends Association for Social Works, the Fraternity of OSSHP and its Board of Directors intend to carry out the project of Restoration and Refurbishment of the Building, where the Hospital of OSSHP currently operates.

This will be an important contribution to the colonial architecture of the country, to the city of Antigua Guatemala and will respond to the care of the building entrusted to the Franciscan Order by the Municipal Council of the City of Antigua Guatemala.

The objectives of the project are to restore the architectural splendor of the old hospital building and readapt the spaces so that the number of outpatient and specialized clinics can be increased, expand the waiting area and services to the public, renovate and modernize the electrical, hydraulic and sewage systems, provide for the most logical and convenient movement of people to avoid crowds and difficulties of locomotion, readapt environments: clinics, offices, beds and sanitary use, to obtain a better amplitude and location according to the convenience of the hospital's purposes.

Renovations to OR area, Hermano Pedro Hospital

Diagrama de procesos

- Zona Privada - Aséptica
- Zona Privada - atención al enfermo y médicos
- Zona Pública
- Zona Administrativa

