



The Boletín

Medicos en Accion Antigua Surgical Team

Spring 2017

2017 Trip Report

Our team had another successful two week mission in Antigua in January/February, completing 164 surgical procedures (40 General, 30 Gynecological, and 94 ENT). The hearing clinic saw 116 patients, performed 65 hearing tests, issued 79 new hearing aids, repaired/reprogrammed another 33 hearing aids and referred 21 patients for further assessment by an ENT surgeon. Team members were drawn from Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, New York, and Minnesota.

Most people travelled to Guatemala on the Friday and arrived into Antigua late in the day. Saturday is always reserved as a free day to get ourselves (re)orientated to the city and (re)acquainted with new volunteers and friends from previous years. Norm Weir and Joanne Richard hosted a welcome party in their casita.

After a tour of the hospital, physicians and translators had a very busy Sunday with surgeons assessing all patients to be scheduled for surgery, anaesthetists assessing patients as required while OR, PAR and Hearing Clinic teams setup their respective areas. Our enthusiastic volunteers then explored some Antigua restaurants before retreating to the hotel to rest before starting work Monday morning.

As usual, ENT sees a large number of patients seeking surgery who do not require surgery. A lot of time is spent with these patients and families to explain what the best treatment options are. With two ENT surgeons, additional clinics were

held during the afternoon of the first operative week and identified more patients requiring surgical procedures, which were then scheduled and completed during the team's time at the hospital. This also meant that an ENT surgeon was available to see patients referred from the Hearing Clinic.

The mission wrapped up with another great night of food prepared by the Hearing Clinic and PAR volunteers. The wrap-up part was "a blast" and we are pleased to report that everyone had an uneventful trip home.

Thanks to all of you, we had a great mission and we look forward to seeing many of you again in 2018!

Brenda Uhryuk
Vice President Surgery, Guatemala

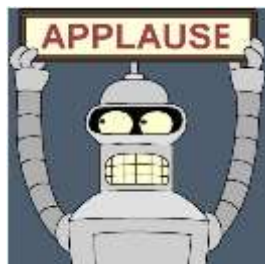
Team members:

Surgeons	6
Surgical Assistant	1
Anaesthetists	5
OR Nurses	12
PAR Nurses	6
Audiologists	3
Hearing Clinic Support	6
Translators	2



Team 2017

Photo: Joanne Richard



Our work in Guatemala is only possible through the generous donation of time, talent, money and supplies by our enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers and supporters in North America and Guatemala.

Surgical Team Members

Antigua 2017

Surgery

Herb Wong, Norm Weir, Sari Kives, Amelie Foucault, Dominique Haiart, Otto Regalado, John Cleland.

Anesthesia

Murray Reimer, David Fermor, Gordon Wood, Miriam Berchuk, Patrick Rice.

Nurses OR

Joanne Richard, Janet Hardie-Kaszuba, Silvie Abella, Shauna Nirmal, Tammy deRocquigny, Janet Lee Currell, Debbie Snider, Celia Mills, Laurie Beauchamp, Elna Borgenesset, Vicki Yankoski, Luisa Wilson.

Nurses PAR

Barbara Daykin, Nadia Beaumont, Libby McMullen, Joanne Marceau, Pauline Topham, Cathy MacKenzie.

Audiology

Jean Gregoire Roveda, Matthew Hannon, Anne Gravel

Translators

Murray McCallum, Florrie McCallum

Support/Hearing Clinic

Cindy Reimer, Brenda Uhrynuk, Jill Haugo, Rosemary Abella, Laurel Cleland, Macia Haiart.



Photos: Joanne Richard

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
450 Greenstone Drive
Kamloops, BC V2C 1N9

Medicos en Accion - Antigua Surgery
1431 Frontier Place
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:
Treasurer: Dennis Wallis
Secretary: Christa McGuire
Website: Blake Farren

For Medicos - en - Accion/Antigua Surgical Division

Vice President: Brenda Uhrynuk
Team Leader Surgery Guatemala: Norm Weir
Secretary: Cindy Reimer
Treasurer/Communications: David Hill-Turner
Director Orientation: Nadia Beaumont

Email: medicoscanada@gmail.com
FB: [medicoscanada](https://www.facebook.com/medicoscanada)
URL: www.medicos-en-accion.com

Medicos-en-Accion is a registered charity in Canada.



Photos: Joanne Richard

Plan now for the 2018 Mission January 26- February 10

Applications are now being accepted for 2018 on a first received basis. This means a fully completed application form, signed waiver, certificates and for physicians, a copy of your degree, specialization certificate and current license. If your license will be renewed after your application is posted, please send a renewal after you receive it.



The application package is attached to this newsletter.

Please ensure your application is complete *before* you mail it. Your application must include a cheque for \$300 CDN, payable to *Medicos en Accion* or it will not be considered. If you are not accepted to the team, you will be notified via email and your cheque will be shredded. For those accepted to the mission, the amount will be deducted from your final donation payment.

We regret that because of limited accommodation, friends and family visiting with team members should make their own hotel arrangements.

Application deadline: June 30, 2017



For information about the mission or fundraising, please contact us at

medicoscanada@gmail.com

To help us with planning, please apply early!



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 (Antigua Team)
c/o 450 Greenstone Drive
Kamloops, BC V2C 1N9

Fundraising for your 2018 mission?

The dedication of the team is very much appreciated as it is a big commitment to travel to Guatemala. Medicos missions operate on a full cost recovery model and for our team that adds up to \$800USD per person. The costs do creep up and the current exchange rate adds to the burden.

This year we were impressed with the imaginative fundraising ideas demonstrated by many team members. Congratulations! Please remember that if you do receive donations to cover the cost of your trip, please keep track of contact information and amounts so that person will receive a tax receipt in 2018.

How to make a donation?

Direct:

Some people ask friends and family for donations to support their mission. Cheques can be sent to Medicos en Accion at our Kamloops address. Please ensure that the donor identifies that their cheque is to support you. Cheques are payable to Medicos en Accion.

Indirect:

Medicos en Accion is also listed with Canadahelps.org. On their home page the search term is Medicos en Accion Society.

- ◆ Under "donate to the charity now", enter the amount
- ◆ In the message box, please enter "Guatemala Surgery" for general team donations. If it is for a specific person, please enter the volunteer's name. Please include **Mission 2018**.
- ◆ After following the onscreen instructions, Canada Helps will issue a tax receipt to the email address provided by the donor.
- ◆ Note: For 2017 tax receipts, donations must be made before December 31, 2017.



We would like to thank everyone for all the great donations we received for the gift bags for our Surgical patients this year. It was wonderful to see the smiles of delight as patients received the unexpected gift and the many thank-yous

and blessings we received were truly heartwarming! Special thank you to Cathy MacKenzie and her friends and to Tammy de Rocquigney and her friends and family for their overwhelming generosity. Thanks also to Joanne Marceau for sewing the colourful fabric gift bags for surgical patients and Hearing Clinic clients (used for aids, cleaning kits and batteries.)

We're sure that these bags are used in many creative ways long after the contents are gone!

Muchas Gracias from PACU



Photo: D. Brauer

May 21, 1943 – November 21, 2016

Michael Whitehead passed away peacefully on November 21, 2016 at Vancouver General Hospital with his family by his side. He was 73.

Michael was born in 1943 in Liverpool and raised in Birkenhead, England. He attended Liverpool University where he obtained his medical degree. He then attended school in Salisbury and Oxford where he received his fellowship in Anaesthesia. He worked in Oxford for several years until he immigrated to Canada in 1976.

Michael settled in Trail where he began a long, dedicated career at Trail Regional Hospital. He was highly regarded and respected as a doctor and gave much of himself to his job and the people around him. From practicing Anaesthesia to Chief of Anaesthesiology and on to Chief of Staff at Trail Regional Hospital, Michael gave each job his best.

He was instrumental in setting up, along with others, CPR training at Trail Regional Hospital. He also provided an invaluable service to the residents of Trail and surrounding areas through his pain clinic.

He was passionate about teaching others and giving back to the profession he loved. His joy for teaching extended beyond the borders of Trail, taking him as far away as Vancouver and Hong Kong where he spent many years teaching ACLS.

Near the end of his career, Michael volunteered his time by joining Medicos En Accion. For 8 years he travelled to Guatemala to provide anaesthesia for surgeries on the less fortunate in the local and surrounding areas.

Even after his retirement, Michael continued to practice medicine travelling throughout BC doing locums.

Those who knew Michael through Medicos remember him as kind, gentle and generous man.

