

The Boletín

Medicos en Accion Guatemala Surgical Teams
Spring 2018

2018: Another Successful Mission

Thanks once again to the dedication and commitment of team members who provided surgical and audiology services in Guatemala. This year we welcomed 16 new volunteers and had a total team of 46 people over the two weeks.

Most people travelled on the Friday, arriving in 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 and everyone enjoyed the Brazilian fish curry along with fresh salsa, guacamole, and local fruit.



Physicians and translators had a very busy Sunday with surgeons assessing all patients to be scheduled for surgery, anaesthetists assessing patients as required, and the OR and PAR teams setting up the 4 operating rooms and post-anaesthesia recovery areas. The hearing clinic was quickly setup and was soon welcoming its first patients. Our enthusiastic volunteers then explored some Antigua restaurants before retreating to the hotel to rest before starting work on Monday morning.

Surgeries

Our team utilized the 4 operating rooms to perform 204 surgical procedures for 159 individual patients. General Surgery completed 55 procedures for 52 patients, Gynecology completed 55 procedures for 27 patients, and ENT completed 93 procedures for 80 patients.

Surgical Supplies

In 2017, we had the opportunity to share in the capacity and cost of a shipping container with the BC - based **Health for Humanity group** and shipped surgical supplies for Hermano Pedro Hospital along with medical clinic furnishings and equipment and two anesthesia machines.

We were also greatly supported this year by the **Compassionate Resource Warehouse** (Victoria, B.C.) who supplied many needed surgical items. These were carried to Guatemala in eight suitcases by the OR and PAR nurse team members from Victoria. One of our returning volunteers, Vicki Yankoski, volunteers with the CRW and made us aware of the organization as a potential source of supplies. Please see their website (<https://www.cwarehouse.ca>) for information about areas they are supporting around the world, what their current needs are or, to donate.

Medications and surgical supplies have become more difficult to obtain from the hospital or purchase in Guatemala. Our team will need to increase the amounts of these items being carried to Guatemala for future missions.

Hearing Clinic:

Over five working days our team saw 123 patients in the clinic. Of these 123 patients, we conducted hearing tests with 66 patients, fit 77 new hearing aids, provided 66 new molds, repaired and programmed 28 hearing aids of repeat patients, and referred 28 patients to Otolaryngology for medical consultation.

Working with two certified audiologists on the team, one did



all testing while one fit and programmed hearing aids, assisted by a hearing aid specialist. Having additional Spanish-speaking support volunteers this year greatly enhanced communications with patients. While the overall number of patients was similar to previous years, the clinic ran much more efficiently and patients did not wait as long to be seen. The team continues to welcome donation of used, functioning hearing aids and molds.

We had no patients from the Petén region this year as we were able to service them with our mission to that area in November 2017. The team will be returning this year in November and will be looking for new and/or refurbished hearing aids and molds for the clinic there.

Brenda Uhrynuk
Vice President Surgery, Guatemala

Returning To San Benito

Medicos-en-Accion will be returning to San Benito in the Péten Department in November. This year, the team hopes to extend the mission to two weeks as the need is there. "While previous missions have been limited to ENT and audiology, there is capacity at the hospital for general surgery, too" said team leader Norm Weir.

Hospital Shalom, <http://www.newcovenantworldmissions.org/Hospital-Shalom.html> is a relatively new facility that is operated by a non-profit from Canton, Ohio. It has two ORs on the main floor and a number of patient rooms on the second floor. In addition to surgery, the team also offers an audiology clinic.

San Benito 2018 mission dates

Saturday, Nov. 3 - Saturday Nov. 17

While at Hospital Shalom, the team stays in nearby Flores, a 20 minute drive away. Here there are a variety of restaurants and hotels in the island community. Flores is connected to the mainland by a causeway. The airport is also in Flores and the city is just a one hour flight from Guatemala City. It is best known as the jumping-off point for the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Tikal, a 90 minute drive away.

Teams that visit Hospital Shalom tend to be smaller as the hospital is just developing its surgical program. If you are interested in joining the 2018 team, you can apply using the Medicos-en-Accion Guatemala application form.



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

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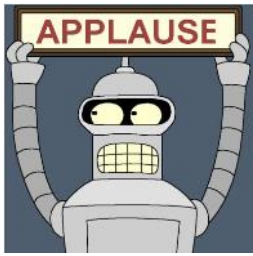
Medicos-en-Accion is a registered charity in Canada.

Medicos en Accion Executive



Front row l-r:
John Just, Brenda Uhrynkuk Christa McGuire

Second Row l-r:
Anna Peron, Dennis Wallis, Blake Farrren



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.



Photo: Ricardo Quesada

Surgical Team Members Antigua 2018

Surgery

Herb Wong, Norm Weir, Sari Kives, Amelie Foucault, Taulee Hsieh, Tami Yamashita, Mina Fereidouni, John Cleland, Colleen McDermott, David Parsons

Anesthesia

Murray Reimer, David Fermor, Gordon Wood, Patrick Rice., Ricardo Quesada, Abbu Ganesan

Nurses OR

Joanne Richard, Janet Hardie-, Silvie Abella, Debbie Snider, Laurie Beauchamp, Elna Borgenesset, Vicki Yankoski,, Jonathan Hsiung, Ann Fenje, Louise Mooney, Anna Ochoa Sanchez, Cheryl Gray

Nurses PAR

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

Audiology

Nancy Levesque, Noliwé Béké, Pascale Bolduc

Translators

Murray McCallum, Florrie McCallum

Support/Hearing Clinic

Cindy Reimer, Brenda Uhrynuk, Jill Haugo, Laurel Cleland, Kimberly Diaz Blanco, Daisy Ochoa Sanchez, Evelyn Quesada

Plan now for the 2019 Antigua Mission January 25 - February 9

including travel days

Applications are now being accepted for 2019 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 proof of the 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, 2018



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

medicoscanada@gmail.com

To help us with planning, please apply early!



2018 Mission Survey

We asked for your thoughts on the 2018 mission and, thanks to a 69% response, we have a very good idea of what is working for you and what needs attention. We especially appreciate the many constructive comments we received and we will be taking them into consideration as planning for 2019 progresses. We received 32 responses.

Q1. Were you a new or returning volunteer?		
New	12	36.7
Returning	20	63.3
Q2. Was the pretrip information you received useful for preparing you for your Antigua experience?		
Very useful	16	53.3
Useful	13	43.3
N	1	3.3
Not useful	0	
Very unuseful	0	
Q3. Overall, how would you rate the application process?		
Very satisfactory	11	36.7
Satisfactory	17	56.7
Neither	2	6.6
Dissatisfied	0	
Very dissatisfied	0	
Q4. Overall, how satisfied were you with accommodations at La Quinta de Las Flores?		
Very satisfied	30	100
(no other responses)		
Q5. How would you rate your experience at Hermano Pedro Hospital?		
Very satisfied	18	60.0
Satisfied	11	36.7
Neither	2	6.7
Dissatisfied	0	
Very Dissatisfied	0	
Q6. Overall, were you satisfied or dissatisfied with your volunteer experience in Antigua?		
Very satisfied	26	86.7
Satisfied	4	13.3
Dissatisfied	0	
Q7. How likely are you to recommend volunteering with MeA to others?		
Very likely	29	96.7
Reservations	1	3.3
Not likely	0	
Q8. How likely are you to volunteer for future missions?		
Very Likely	26	86.7
Undecided	4	13.3
Unlikely	0	

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