

The Boletín

Spring 2019

Medicos en Accion
Guatemala Surgical Teams



Antigua 2019: 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 eight new volunteers and had a total team of 40 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 175 surgical procedures for 144 individual patients. General Surgery completed 46 procedures, Gynecology completed 46 procedures, and ENT completed 83 procedures.

Surgical Supplies

In 2018 we again had the opportunity to share in the capacity and cost of a shipping container with the BC - based **Health for Humanity**. We shipped surgical supplies for our mission at Hermano Pedro Hospital. We were again supported this year by the **Compassionate Resource Warehouse** (Victoria, B.C.) who supplied many needed surgical items. These were carried to Guatemala in six suitcases by the OR and PAR nurse team members from Victoria. Please see their website (<https://www.cresource.ca>) for information about areas they are supporting around the world, what their current needs are, or, to donate.

Medications and surgical supplies are becoming more difficult to obtain from the hospital or purchase in Guatemala. The team has been bringing more supplies to Guatemala which has also increased mission costs.

Hearing Clinic

With the limitation of a single audiologist on the team this year, 61 patients were seen in the clinic. We conducted hearing tests with 25 patients, fit 32 new hearing aids, provided 28 new molds, repaired and programmed 44 hearing aids of repeat patients, and referred 19 patients to Otolaryngology for medical consultation.

The team continues to welcome donation of used, functioning hearing aids.

Hermano Pedro Hospital

Outpatient clinic space at the hospital has been reorganized and expanded and appears to be very well-utilized. While there were plans posted last year showing a proposed development of additional ORs we did not see any evidence of that planning this year and Obras staff did not mention the project. The OR operations are running well under the leadership of Lizeth Castillo the OR Nurse Manager. Dra. Julissa Pineda remains the hospital's physician liaison for visiting teams and there is also a physician employed on the wards to manage post-operative care and coordinate any follow-up care that's required.

Back-up Generator

Obras Sociales was donated a generator to provide back-up electricity to the hospital ORs. MeA was approached by the hospital to contribute to its installation. As we have experienced power failures during surgeries a few years ago, we were keen to support this initiative and contributed \$850 USD to its installation along with two other Canadian groups.

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who provide the medical support so many Guatemalans need.

Brenda Uhrynuk
Vice President Surgery, Guatemala

San Benito Report

Immediately following the Antigua mission, a seven-member Medicos en Accion team departed for Flores, a one hour flight north of Guatemala City. This was the fifth mission to Hospital Shalom in San Benito, a 20 minute drive from Flores. 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, a recovery room and pre-operative area on the main floor and patient rooms on the second floor.



l-r: Loyd Busby, Christa McGuire, Gordon Wood, Joanne Richard, Norm Weir, Amy Binckli, Richard Abriss.

Our team's work at Hospital Shalom has been limited to ENT and audiology. The hospital does have a small fulltime medical staff and is providing some outpatient clinics, an emergency room service and is welcoming small surgical teams.

Hospital Shalom is beginning to attract other teams and during our recent mission with both ORs were in use. The second OR was being used by a small general surgery team.

Team Leader Dr. Norm Weir also noted that more patients were identified as surgical candidates and most showed up for their scheduled surgeries. Without a doubt, having a second surgeon, Dr. Richard Abriss, also contributed to the successful week. Congratulations to the team! The week was also a milestone for the hospital: it was the first week in its history it didn't lose money.



Oscar Ardon

Several years ago, audiologists with a pediatric ENT team from the University of Washington trained several Guatemalans as Audiology techs so they could provide basic services in their communities after they left. As a follow-up, they would send him a small supply of hearing aids and he was able to start a hearing aid clinic in San Benito. During the November mission, we were contacted by Oscar Ardon. He joined the team in February and lead a

very successful week of conducting hearing tests and fitting/repairing hearing aids.

November in San Benito

Medicos-en-Accion will be returning to San Benito in the Péten Department in November. "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.

While at Hospital Shalom, the team stays in nearby Flores, a 20 minute drive away where 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 November 2019 team, you can apply using the Medicos-en-Accion Guatemala application form. The 2020 dates are still TBD.

San Benito 2019 mission dates

Saturday Nov 9 - Saturday Nov 16

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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Kamloops, British Columbia
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Vice President Surgery Guatemala: Brenda Uhrynuk
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Secretary: Bill Beaton
Website: Blake Farren

Medicos-en-Accion/Guatemala Surgical Teams

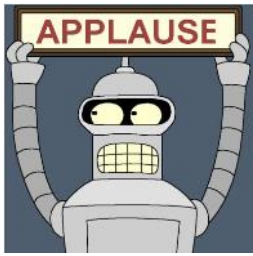
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Medicos-en-Accion is a registered charity in Canada.



One of the two ORs at Hospital Shalom.



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 2019

Surgical/Audiology Team Members Antigua 2019

Surgery

Herb Wong, Norm Weir, Amelie Foucault, Sari Kives, John Cleland, Donald Lovely, Elyse Lackie, Abdurrezagh Abujazia, Mark Robson, Daniel Ovakim,

Anesthesia

Murray Reimer, Gordon Wood, Patrick Rice, Ricardo Quesada, Harold Booy.

Nurses PAR

Barbara Daykin, Libby McMullen, Joanne Marceau, Catherine MacKenzie, Chris Bransen.

Nurses OR

Joanne Richard, Tammy de Rocquigny, Elna Bourgenesset, Sophie Timmerman, Gina Hawryschuk, Robin Edwards, Laurie Beauchamp, Louise Mooney, Elizabeth Allen, Vicki Yankoski, Janet Hardie, Karen Bishop, Amy Binckli

Audiology

Jean-Gregoire Roveda

Translators

Evelyn Quesada,

Support

Cindy Reimer, Brenda Uhrynuk, Laurel Cleland, Evelyn Quesada, Jocelyn Faire.

Plan now for the 2020 Mission January 24- February 8

Recruitment for the Antigua Mission 2020 has begun!

The application form, waiver and instructions can be obtained by contacting MedicosCanada@gmail.com

Anticipated Team Composition

Surgeons: General: 2 ENT: 2 - 3 Gyne: 2 - 3

Anesthetists: 5

Surgical Assistants: 3

OR Nurses: 12

PAR Nurses: 6

Audiologists: 2-3

Hearing Clinic Support: 4

Translators: 2

Please forward the newsletter and application to colleagues who may be interested in joining a mission.

The 2020 Antigua Mission

January 24 - February 8

including travel days

Applications are now being accepted for 2020 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.



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, 2019



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

medicoscanada@gmail.com

To help us with planning, please apply early!

Fundraising for your Medicos mission?

Medicos missions operate on a full cost recovery model and for our team that adds up to \$900USD per person for the two week mission. Costs are creeping up and currency exchange on the Canadian dollar adds to the burden.

Many volunteers have become very imaginative in raising funds to offset mission costs. 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 your donors can be issued a tax receipt for 2019.

How to make a donation?

Cheque:

Some volunteers 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 your mission expenses. Cheques are payable to Medicos en Accion.

On-Line:

Medicos en Accion works with Canadahelps.org to facilitate donations. To use this convenient option:

1. Go to medicos-en-accion.com. Select **Donations** from the list in the left column.
2. Click on **Fund** and scroll down the menu to **#4 Medicos-en-Accion Guatemala Surgeries**.
3. In the **Message** box enter the information to route the donation. For example, to support a specific volunteer, enter the person's name and also the mission they are volunteering for: San Benito 2019, Antigua 2020 etc..
4. Complete the donation form and then click on **Complete Donation Now**.

♦ Important

For 2019 tax receipts, donations must be made before December 31, 2019.

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



I will sponsor ____ surgeries X \$75 each: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please mail your donation to:
Medicos-en-Accion (Guatemala Surgeries)
c/o 450 Greenstone Drive
Kamloops, BC V2C 1N9

Make cheques payable to: Medicos-en-Accion

Thank you. Tax receipts are issued for donations supporting this project.