



SOLIDARITYBRIDGE
Healing & Empowering the Poor

REPORT
28th MEDICAL MISSION TRIP
Coroico, Bolivia

September 23rd – Oct. 4th, 2009



Nurse Kristen Skoch and one of our surgery patients.

HIGHLIGHTS

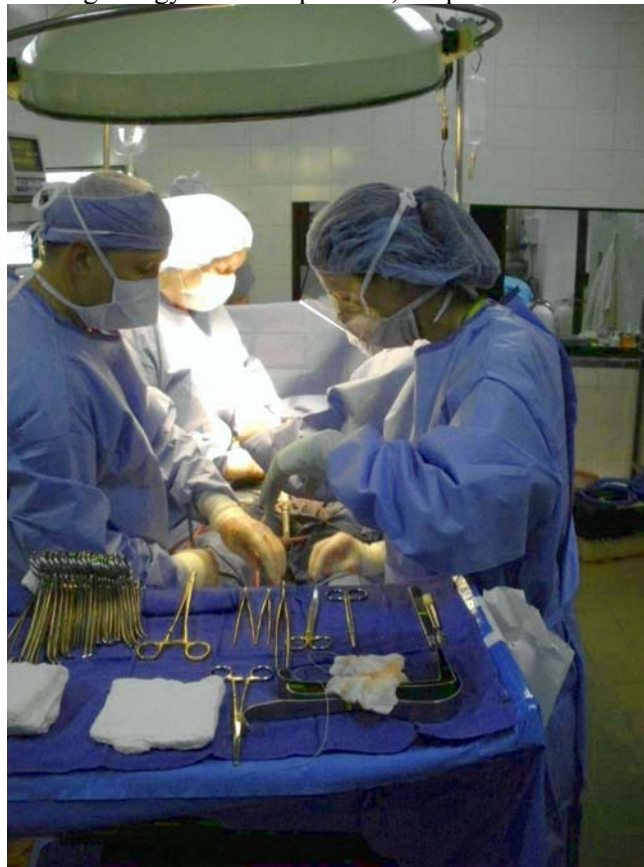
- The Coroico mission team performed 29 gynecology and general surgeries and 24 dermatological procedures, 15 of which were substantial making a total of 44 surgeries at the Hospital Universitario de los Yungas.
- Our dermatologist, neurologist, and gynecologists saw 687 patients in clinic.
- Our surgeons were able to help the local hospital to develop their laparoscopic capacities and showed how to perform a less invasive type of hysterectomy.
- The delegation that went to Cochabamba and Santa Cruz met with key hospital leadership partners and the K'anchay and Ulala cooperatives.
- We delivered medications, anesthetics, surgical supplies and equipment valued at over \$50,000.

MEDICAL MISSION IN COROICO

Our trip to Coroico proceeded with no delays or difficulties. We were able to take the new road, making it possible to bypass the "Road of death." Everyone was happy about this, though some were a little wistful about the loss of the adventure. Our welcome was very warm and wonderful.



Coroico is stunningly beautiful, perched on top of a mountain, with sights of other higher mountains, some snow capped. It is in the tropical highlands of Bolivia – the Andes easing down toward the tropical Amazon basin. Fr. Bob Oldershaw presided at wonderful prayer services, with our donor mass and our closing liturgy particularly standing out. The closing liturgy included patients, hospital staff and our mission team.



Drs. Carrie Giordano, Steve Bujewski and Surgical Tech Dianna Pepper

Surgeries: We performed a total of 43 surgeries, distributed among gynecology, general surgery and dermatology specialties. The local general surgeon, Dra. Paola Cinzano, as well as the local gynecologist, Dr. Jorge Ramirez,

were very grateful for the help we brought in the way of showing new surgical techniques and bringing needed instrumentation.

Outpatient Clinics: Our clinical team consisted of gynecologists, a neurologist, and a dermatologist. A total of 687 patients were seen. Dr. Jay Herrmann, our dermatologist, alone saw 335. Most of these were at the hospital, but we also went to a remote Afro-Bolivian village and saw students of a university for rural indigenous youth.

Donated Materials: We delivered a large quantity of donated drugs including antibiotics and analgesics. We also donated anesthesia supplies and other surgical supplies and equipment including monitors, a computer and printer for the operating room. The value of these was over \$50,000.

PATIENT STORY and MISSIONER REFLECTION

Because of the nature of the case, we will not be able to share a picture or name of the patient featured to whom we will give the pseudonym Maria.

As a result of sexual abuse as a child, Maria was traumatized in such a way that the vagina was torn and formed a recto-vaginal fistula - a hole connecting the vagina and rectum- resulting in over 20 years of suffering. Doctors in Bolivia were unable to help her and as a last resort Dr. Ramirez asked her to come see us during the campaign. Dr. Giordano, as lead surgeon, and Dr. Bujewski were able to surgically correct the fistula and repair the anatomy so that Maria may now lead a normal life.

Dr. Giordano’s thoughts on this surgery: “This really was the most satisfying and rewarding procedure I was able to participate in during the trip - the moment we told her we would be able to help her, her eyes filled with tears and she was in disbelief. For her entire life she was always told she would need a colostomy to fix her problem but we were fortunate enough to avoid this and provide her with a simpler corrective surgery. She really has a whole new life ahead of her!”

TEAM MEMBERS

COROICO MEDICAL MISSION TEAM			
Dr.	Carrie	Giordano	Gynecologist
Dr.	John	Gregory	General Surgeon
Dr.	Steven	Bujewski	Gynecologist
Dr.	James	Herrmann	Dermatologist
Dr.	Colleen	Jay	General Surgeon
Ms.	Diana	Pepper	Surgical Tech
Ms.	Sally	Scanlan	Nurse
Ms.	Mary	Mordan	Nurse
Ms.	Aruna	Marri	Nurse
Ms.	Kristen	Skoch	Nurse
Dr.	John	Oldershaw	Neurology
Ms.	Claudia	Laskowski	Nurse
Dr.	Daniel	Yousif	Anesthesiologist and medical director
TRANSLATORS and HELPERS			
Ms.	Kurt	Florian	
Ms.	Silvia	Bastos	
Ms.	Macri	Bastos	
Ms.	Monina	Calvo	
Ms.	Sue	Rhomberg	
Mr.	Andrew	Herrmann	
Ms.	Christy	Jackson	
COORDINATING TEAM and CHAPLAINCY			
Dr.	Juan- Lorenzo	Hinojosa	
Ms.	Christin	Hinojosa	
Fr.	Bob	Oldershaw	Chaplain