



REPORT
MULTI-SPECIALTY MISSION TRIP
Coroico, Bolivia

September 25th – October 6th, 2013



Dr. Tom Marshall talks with a patient in the Internal Medicine clinic.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This mission trip was hosted by the Hospital General de los Yungas in Coroico, Bolivia. It was our fifth mission at this location.
- Our mission team was comprised of 31 physicians, nurses, interpreters, helpers and staff.
- A total of 50 surgeries (13 gynecologic and 37 general surgeries) were performed.
- Our diverse clinical team saw 1,193 patients across specialties including pediatrics, internal medicine, dermatology, cardiology, and gynecology.
- Medical education was provided via hands-on mentoring of interns and local professionals working in our clinics and in surgical areas.
- We delivered medications, surgical supplies, and equipment valued at \$516,985 dollars. These donated materials will be used in Coroico and various Solidarity Bridge program locations in Bolivia.

MISSION LOCATION

The partner hospital for our 2013 Multi-Specialty Mission Trip is located in the lush, tropical Yungas region of Bolivia. We knew from previous visits that our three-hour bus ride would be beautiful but rigorous as we climb to 15,600 feet altitude and then descend and traverse dramatic Andean switchbacks.

This year we took on the added stress of compromised road conditions which resulted in an extra hour of driving along 'the old road' (pictured) because the new modern highway was closed. Needless to say, this setting brought us to a deeper appreciation of the conditions our patients face each day.



With a sigh of relief and significant fatigue, we eventually settled into our mission site and received a warm welcome by the staff at the Hospital General de Los Yungas. We were ready to get to work!



Missionaries and local hosts pose for a welcome photo the day of our arrival.

OUTPATIENT CLINICS

Our clinic doctors saw 1,193 patients, including 170 in cardiology, 639 in dermatology, 126 in gynecology, 85 in internal medicine, and 173 in pediatrics. The majority of patients were informed of our services through a community outreach campaign that started months prior to our arrival. This campaign included announcements in local churches and on the radio. Patients arrived by foot or bus from near- and far-away villages, and upon arrival were assigned a number for their appointment.



Dr. Mark Ottolin and interpreter Ellen Palop pose with a smiling patient and local medical resident after giving the patient the news that her heart is strong and healthy.



Dermatologist Ted Conrad with 9-year-old Juan Antonio.



Pediatrician Dr. Jon Powell with 11-year-old Moises.

SURGERIES

Prior to our visit, local physicians and other health practitioners diagnosed numerous patients with surgical needs. Upon our arrival, General Surgeon Dr. Magued Khouzam, Gynecologic Surgeons Dr. Carrie Giordano and Dr. Bob LaPata, and Anesthesiologists Dr. Daniel Yousif and Dr. Ricardo Palop evaluated the patients and assembled surgical schedules for the two operating rooms. Combining use of the surgical equipment on hand at the hospital and our own equipment and supplies, mission surgeons, nurses and assistants partnered with the Yungas Hospital surgical and support staff to form effective surgical teams.

- 37 general surgeries were performed, primarily on hernia and gall bladder patients as well as two cancer patients and a few minor procedures.
- 13 gynecologic surgeries were performed, including abdominal and vaginal hysterectomies, an emergency cesarean, and procedures to ameliorate urinary incontinence.



Dr. Ricardo Palop accompanies 8-year-old Gabriela while she is prepped for hernia repair.



Phew! The hospital staff worked overtime to help keep our busy mission pace.
Fifty patients were wheeled into surgery over the course of seven days.

DONATED MATERIALS

Approximately 1,400 pounds of medical materials and supplies were hand-delivered to Bolivia through this mission. High value surgical supplies such as laparoscopic instruments, anesthesia medication and surgical mesh were used by our mission team throughout the week, and a large surplus was left to subsidize our year-round programs in various other locations. The total value of these in-kind donations is estimated at \$516,985.



Dr. Carrie Giordano and R.N. Judy Biggus pick up the day's surgical supplies from our improvised supply room

PATIENT STORY

Edmundo is a 69-year-old farmer and father of seven from rural Trinidad Pampa, located an hour outside of Coroico. He had lived with a cancerous tumor on his cheek for over four years. When the growth began to obstruct his vision, he could no longer ignore it. Edmundo was referred to the capital city of La Paz, where doctors told him treatment would cost 5,000 Bolivianos (over \$700 dollars), an amount entirely out of his reach. Although he qualifies for basic public healthcare for the elderly, surgeries or cancer treatment are not covered.

Edmundo was desperate for help and was more than relieved to hear that our clinic team included a dermatologist who could perform the surgery. Dr. Jay Herrmann successfully removed the tumor. He also performed a skin graft from Edmundo's neck so that he wouldn't experience an ectropion, a condition that could cause the eyelid to droop. Edmundo returned for a follow-up exam prior to our team's departure, and all involved were very pleased with his recovery.



Our dermatology team poses with Edmundo moments after his complex procedure.

Missioners from left to right: P.A. Missy Koopmann, Dr. Jay Herrmann, Dr. Ted Conrad, and interpreter and assistant Anna La Tour.



Coroico Mission Team

Gustavo Arreguín	Interpreter
Judy Biggus	Surgical Nurse
Mary Luz Botero	Interpreter
Vivian Camacho	Interpreter
Jose Choque	Supply Coordinator
Nancy Churchill-Matko	ICU Nurse
Dr. Ted Conrad	Dermatologist
Dr. Carrie Giordano	Gynecologist
Jodi Grahl	Trip Coordinator
Ashlea Gregoire	Medical Assistant
Lisa Haufschild	Helper
Dr. Jay Herrmann	Dermatologist
Mateo Hinojosa	Videographer
Peggy Jordan	Recovery Nurse
Dr. Magued Khouzam	General Surgeon
Melissa Koopmann	Dermatology PA
Dr. Bob LaPata	Gynecologist
Anna La Tour	Dermatology Assistant
Mary Lerps	Helper
Dr. Tom Marshall	Internal Medicine
Esteban Michel	Interpreter
Cecilia Miranda	Interpreter
Mara O'Brien	Communications
Fr. Bob Oldershaw	Chaplain
Dr. Mark Ottolin	Cardiologist
Dr. Ricardo Palop	Anesthesiologist
Ellen Palop	Interpreter
Dr. Jon Powell	Pediatrician
Ann Rhomberg	Trip Coordinator
Natalie Rodriguez	Interpreter
Dr. Dan Yousif	Medical Director/Anesthesiologist