

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL MISSION TO THE PAMS POLYCLINIC IN CHINCHA, PERU

JUNE 27 TO 30, 2022

From June 27 to 30, 2022, the PAMS Polyclinic in Chincha hosted its first medical mission after more than two years of COVID-19 and a hold on medical missions.

A few days before the medical mission, Drs. Eduardo Zeppilli, Liliana Aguinaga, and Julio Kuwae, collaborators and supporters from SANNA/Pacifico, visited the Polyclinic to review its status and



discuss plans to assure its future success. We discussed how to improve the availability of key specialists and services at the Polyclinic, how to reach our dream of developing Centers of Excellence in Gastroenterology and Ophthalmology and whether to apply for re-categorization of the Polyclinic to allow for low-risk outpatient surgical procedures, and how to develop targeted medical missions to the surrounding communities. The equipment needed to make Telemedicine a reality was reviewed, as was the status of the 2022 budget. All well and good, with lots of homework to do.

The medical mission was a combined effort of 39 volunteers. There were 21 physicians: 8 from the US (Drs. Katherine Jones, Cesar Jara, Dushyantha Jayaweera, Raul Schwartzman, Mabel Zevallos, Gabriel Zevallos, Laureen Jasco, Manuel Valdivieso), 6 from Lima (Drs. Claudia Balbin, Katiza Quispe, Jesus Cardenas, Jose Barrantes, Mayita Alvarez, Cynthia Angulo), and 7 from Chincha (Drs. Solania Tello, Silvia Amaro, Ronald Malca, Iris Ramos, Zulma Hernandez, Nathaly Huaman, Karol Ramos). The



physicians were assisted by nine medical students (4 from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio, 2 from the National University of San Antonio Abad in Cusco, 3 from the San Fernando Medical School in Lima), and a nurse and 5 volunteers from the US.

The following specialties were represented: Internal Medicine, General Medicine, Family Medicine, Cardiology, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Gynecology, Pediatrics, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Urology, and Dentistry. We appreciate the participation of all mission volunteers but want to make special mention of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation team led by Dr. Katherine Jones who quickly organized a team to come to Chincha.



We also appreciated the participation of physicians affiliated with the San Fernando Medical School in Lima and Dr. Mayita Alvarez who, at the last minute, did not hesitate to come from Lima and provide coverage in Internal Medicine and Urology since some physicians had to cancel due to COVID-19 in Lima.

Mission support services included laboratory, EKG, cardiac mapping, echocardiography and cardiac stress test, ophthalmologic evaluation, upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy, mammography, ultrasonography, and dental care.

The mission activities were divided in three parts: free daily Health Fairs, free medical care at the Pueblo Nuevo and El Carmen medical posts, and specialized services at the PAMS Polyclinic at greatly reduced prices. At the Health Fairs, medical students and doctors from the mission evaluated patients to rule out anemia, chronic bleeding, hyperglycemia, high blood



pressure, and visual acuity problems. Patients with abnormalities in these areas were referred to mission specialists for further evaluation. Glasses were donated by the PAMS Polyclinic and provided as needed. Specialized consultations and procedures were provided at the Polyclinic. We send teams of general and specialty physicians plus medical students to the medical posts.

We served 685 patients, 430 women and 255 men. Among them, 201 were seen at Health Fairs, 113 in the medical posts and 371 at the PAMS Polyclinic. By age, there were 98 children, 66 adolescents, 418 adults and 103 elderlies.



In descending order, patients came from Chincha Alta, Pueblo Nuevo, San Jose, El Carmen, Sunampe, Chincha Baja, Grocio Prado and others. The medical care of 441 patients (64%) was completely free of charge. Considering consultations and procedures we delivered a total of 983 clinical encounters.

The most requested specialties were general/internal/family medicine, cardiology, pediatrics, endocrinology (diabetes mellitus), and ophthalmology. Of interest, volunteer physicians had access to the Polyclinic's equipment to conduct endoscopy studies of the stomach and colon, mammograms, ultrasound, cardiological evaluation with



stress tests, cardiac Mapping, and EKG.

A portable echocardiography machine was loaned to the mission by Dr. Jesus Carrion from Lima. Gynecological and ophthalmological evaluations and procedures were also conducted.



Dr. Amaro, the Polyclinic's dentist, provided free care to children and adults at the El Carmen medical post on June 29. In collaboration with the medical post's dentist, they served 23 patients: children between 7 months and 14 years of age, and adults. The services included dental prophylaxis, dental fillings, dental dressings, application of sealants, and oral physiotherapy. This free care was in part due to a generous contribution from Mrs. Kathy Zambrano, wife of the Polyclinic's founder, Dr. Anibal Zambrano.

During the mission, five patients were identified with advanced oncological issues: 1 with rectal cancer, 1 with sigmoid cancer, 1 possible chondrosarcoma, 1 ampulla of Vater cancer, and 1 with history of advanced gastric cancer. The first four were quickly referred to the National Institute of Neoplastic Diseases of Lima (INEN). The patient with advanced gastric cancer gave a history of stage 4 cancer of the fundus of the stomach, diagnosed three years earlier at INEN, and indicated she chose complementary therapy only. Our reevaluation included a gastroscopy and ultrasonography of the abdomen that were completely negative. However, poorly controlled diabetes mellitus and hyperlipidemia were detected. She is still under evaluation by the medical staff of the Polyclinic wondering what happened with the previous diagnosis of "stage 4 gastric cancer".





The happiness associated with conducting the recent medical mission also had moments of sadness. During the week before the medical mission, we became aware of the loss of one of the Polyclinic's great pillars of support in Chinchá, Mr. Fermín Chia Kam, owner of the Princess Restaurant and Hotel. He passed away on June 18, 2022, after a serious illness that took his life a few months after diagnosis. Since the beginnings of the Polyclinic, Don Fermín continued to offer support with significant discounts on all aspects of his business. He served us exquisite dishes of Peruvian Chinese cuisine of which many volunteers said, "it was the best chifa they had ever eaten." He assisted us with our mission receptions in his restaurant, serving Chinese food at the beginning of the mission and Peruvian food at the farewell dinner. It was not unusual to have 8-10 different dishes

during dinner in a cozy atmosphere, at a significant discount. He and his Hotel manager, Ani Matta, often invited local artists to sing or dance marinera or festejo during the dinners as a courtesy from Don Fermín. In addition, he offered us clean, comfortable accommodations at reduced rates, especially for students and residents participating in a mission. Despite his illness, he wanted to continue his support. His family honored Don Fermín's request and we were served a phenomenal welcome dinner on June 28.



While in Chinchá, we attended the wake and burial of Don Fermín. Mr. Chia is survived by his sisters Rosa and Jesus, and by his brother Felipe. Don Fermín, thank you very much for your support through all these years, rest in peace.

At the end of the mission, our Medical Director Dr. Solania Tello organized an excellent farewell luncheon which included delicious plates from the region as well as poetry and dancing accompanied by guitar and cajon played by local artists. She and Administrator Veronica Leiva provided



excellent support to the organization and execution of this mission.

We thank the doctors, students, and volunteers who participated in this medical mission to the PAMS Polyclinic, and thanks also to the Polyclinic's medical, administrative, nursing, and technical staff. It was a pleasure to serve the community of Chinchá with free Health Fairs, specialized consultations at subsidized prices, and free medical care at the Pueblo Nuevo and El Carmen medical posts. We also thank those who provided donations in the US and in Peru to make this mission possible.



We invite members and friends of PAMS to join us in future medical missions to the PAMS Polyclinic in Chinchá. The impact that medical missions have in the Polyclinic's life, and in the community it serves, is exceptional.

Respectfully,

Manuel Valdivieso, MD
President, Directory,
PAMS Polyclinic,
Chinchá, Perú

The following is the Roster of the Medical Mission to the PAMS Polyclinic on June 27-30, 2022.



MISSION'S ROSTER, JUNE 27 - 30, 2022			
PHYSICIANS	SPECIALTY	DATES	CITY / COUNTRY
Valdivieso, Manuel	Oncology/Internal Medicine	June 27 - 30	USA
Jones, Katherine	Family Medicine	June 27 - 30	USA
Jara, Cesar	Cardiology	June 27 - 30	USA
Jayaweera, Dushyantha	Infectious Diseases	June 27 - 29	USA
Schwartzman, Raul	Cardiology	June 27 - 30	USA
Zevallos, Mabel	Gastroenterology	June 28 - 30	USA
Zevallos, Gabriel	Internal Medicine	June 28 - 30	USA
Jasco, Lauren	Pediatrics	June 27 - 30	USA
POLYCLINIC PERSONNEL			
Tello, Solania	Medical Director	June 27 - 30	Chincha
Leiva, Veronica	Administrator	June 27 - 30	Chincha
Amaro, Silvia	Dentist	June 27 - 30	Chincha
Malca, Ronald	General Medicine	June 27 - 30	Chincha
Ramos, Iris	Gastroenterology	27-Jun-29	Chincha
Hernandez, Zulma	Pediatrics	June 27 - 29	Chincha
Huaman, Nathaly	Ophthalmology	June 28	Lima
Ramos, Karol	Gynecology	June 27	Lima
RESIDENTS			
Balbin, Claudia	Dermatology	June 28, 29	Lima
Quispe, Katiza	Endocrinology	27-Jun-29	Lima
Barrantes, José	Urology	June 29	Lima
Cardenas, Jesus	Cardiology	June 27 - 30	Lima
Angulo, Cynthia	Ophthalmology	June 30	Lima
Alvarez, Mayita	Internal Medicine	June 29	Lima
NURSES			
Jayaweera, Camil, RN	Pre-operative services	June 27 - 29	USA
MEDICAL STUDENTS	MEDICAL SCHOOL		
Rodriguez, Gabriela	CCF	June 27 - 30	USA
Eishingdrelo, Alex	CCF	June 27 - 30	USA
Quiñones, Amanda	CCF	June 27 - 30	USA
Mahableshwarkar, Aarohi	CCF	June 27 - 30	USA
Mirano Ortis de Orue, Mayu Gabriel	UNSAAC – Cusco	June 27 - 30	Cusco
Huamani Linares, Ivan Angel	UNSAAC – Cusco	June 27 - 30	Cusco
Gavino, Franz	UNMSM	June 27 - 30	Lima
Rodriguez, Raquel	UNMSM	June 27 - 30	Lima
Villacorta, Pamela	UNMSM	June 27 - 30	Lima
VOLUNTEERS			
Jayaweera, Sonali Jane		June 27 - 29	USA
Jayaweera, Dineli		June 27 - 29	USA
Zevallos, Alexandra		June 28 - 30	USA
Zevallos, Gabriela		June 28 - 30	USA
Zevallos, Isabelle		June 28 - 30	USA