Philippines: An Int-ERUPTED Experience

Susamita Kesh
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## Background
- The Philippines provided a unique setting where we would get exposure in a resource-limited NICU, a general hospital, and a dedicated Children’s Hospital.

## Objective
- Experience how a resource-limited hospital is managed.
- Learn about the medical system and how health care is delivered.
- Interact with residents and fellows to understand their role.
- Compare cultural practices in the Philippines vs the US.

## Preparation
- Global health academic half days and noon conferences.
- Global health simulations.
- International Travel Clinic.

## Experience
- Experienced NICU in Fabella for 1 week.
- Experience was cut short by a volcanic eruption -> evacuated by MedJet.
- Applied global health knowledge about disaster relief.
- Gathered supplies after eruption including medications, water, and food.
- Were unable to find N95 masks -> made makeshift masks with bandanas and tissue paper.

## Reflection
- Unexpected experience but highly valuable!
  - NICU experience:
    - Kangaroo care was the norm and could be emphasized in the US more.
    - Difficult discussions about survival with families due to limited resources.
  - Evacuation Experience:
    - Learned the importance of having essential supplies (e.g. will always travel with an N95 now!).
    - Although much uncertainty, felt prepared as a group.
    - Know your role and be safe! Determine if you will be a burden on the medical system.
    - Communicate, extensively with program and loved ones back home.

## Future Directions
- Hope to experience global health at a different site in fellowship to compare.
- Continue to be involved with global health education throughout career.