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Philippines: An Int-ERUPTED Experience

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Background

- 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

