Global Health Immersive Elective in the Philippines

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Objective
• Gain exposure to different patient pathology, as well as a new, diverse culture
• Practice in a resource-limited clinical setting
• Meet and work with residents from a different country and learn from their experiences

Preparation
• Global Health lectures and simulation
• Spent time in Travel Clinic, explored resources such as WHO and CDC

Experience
• Fabella Memorial NICU
  – Attended deliveries at one of the busiest delivery hospitals in the country (>50/day)
  – Kangaroo mother/baby Unit
  – Involved in care of neonates
• Philippines General Hospital
  – Inpatient pediatric Ward and ED
  – Diverse patient pathology (TB, Dengue Fever)
• Eruption of Mount Taal
  – 31 miles south of Manila
  – >33 historic eruptions
  – 01/12/2020 erupted for first time in >40 years, killing 39 people and continually emitting volcanic ash

Reflection
• Honed my physical exam and decision-making skills without diagnostic studies in a resource-limited setting
• Learned the importance of cultural humility when encountering different medical practices and physicians
• With the eruption and early evacuation, experienced first hand disaster medicine and the skills needed to keep a level head, work swiftly in an unfamiliar setting, and prioritize

Future Directions
• Partner with an international health community for longitudinal relationship and continuity in ongoing healthcare projects
• Return to the Philippines and further the partnership among the resident/fellowship program there and at CMH