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Global Health Immersive Elective in the Philippines

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Global Health Immersive Elective in the Philippines



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The Philippines

- Consists of >7500 islands in the Ring of Fire
- Manila, the capital, is one of the most densely populated cities in the world
- Combination of Western (Spanish and American) and Eastern (Asian) cultures



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