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Pediatría en Panamá: A Spanish International Health Experience

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Background/Objectives

- Opportunity to practice pediatric medicine internationally
- Strengthen medical Spanish and improve Spanish communication skills
- Specific career interest in Hispanic pediatric population
- Contribute to future General Pediatric career with high volume of Spanish speaking patients
- Learn how cultures affect medical management and disease presentation
- Practice in a resource limited healthcare system
- Exposure to tropical diseases not typically seen in US

Preparation

- Global Health lectures and workshops
- Met with Travel Clinic to look at demographics, prevalent diseases, and received necessary vaccines
- CHICOS clinic provider

Reflection

- Expanded cultural competency
- Witnessed numerous barriers to medical care in resource limited settings
- Value of nationwide support/coverage for vaccines and pediatric preventative medicine
- Enhanced knowledge about tropical diseases

Experience

PANAMA CITY, PANAMÁ

Centro de Salud – Amelia Denis de Icaza
Outpatient General Pediatrics
Preventative Pediatric Medicine



Hospital del Niño
Neonatal ICU
Well Baby Nursery
General Inpatient Pediatrics



CHITRÉ, PANAMÁ

Centro de Salud – Chitré
Outpatient Pediatric Asthma Clinic
Outpatient General Pediatrics
Preventative Pediatric Medicine



Hospital de Chitré
General Inpatient Pediatrics
Pediatric ICU

Future Directions

- Continue to serve in Central American Spanish speaking countries as a general pediatrician with specific interest in Urgent Care settings
- Continue to gain knowledge of different Hispanic cultural views to understand, communicate, and support Spanish speaking patients

