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Global Health Experience in the Philippines

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Global Health Experience in the Philippines

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The Philippines

- Made up of >7,000 islands
- Manila is the most densely populated city proper in the world
- National language: Tagalog
- National religion: Catholicism
- Located in the ring of fire
- Previously occupied by the Spanish (1521-1898)



Objectives

- Practice medicine in a low resource setting
- Experience a free-standing pediatric tertiary care center in a developing country
- Understand medical education in a different country

Preparation

- WHO Hospital Care for Children
- CMH Global Health didactics and workshops



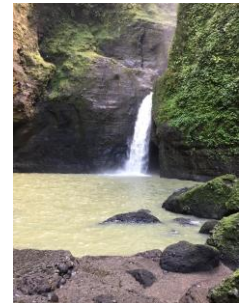
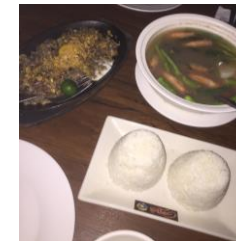
Experience

- Dr. Joe Fabella Memorial Hospital NICU
 - Averages 40-60 deliveries per day
 - Kangaroo care
 - Exclusively breastfeeding hospital
- Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) ER
 - Government-owned free-standing children's hospital
 - 11 bed ER with each bed holding 3-4 patients at a time
 - Staffed by 4 residents/day with 2 residents on duty
 - TB meningitis, meningococemia, Dengue fever



Reflection

- Diagnosed and treated diseases not native to the U.S.
- Enhanced my physical exam skills
- Adapted medical decision-making based on resources and barriers
- Gained understanding of the structure of medical school, internship, and residency in the Philippines
- Witnessed "universal healthcare" in another country



Future Directions

- Focus on Global Health during my Pediatric Emergency Medicine fellowship with plans to pursue a career in Global Health