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Global Health Elective - Philippines

Hannah Ho

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Global Health Elective - Philippines

Hannah Ho, DO PGY-3

Children's Mercy Kansas City

Background

- The Philippines has over 7,000 islands.
- Manila, the capital of the Philippines, is one of the most densely populated cities in the world (population: 14 million within 245.6mi² vs KC with 2.3 million within 8,472mi²)
- The Philippines has many large hospitals with multiple subspecialties including Allergy and Immunology.
- Filipinos speak English and Tagalog.

Objectives

- Develop cultural awareness and humility.
- Grow personally and professionally.
- Understand the barriers and challenges physicians face in a developing country.
- Recognize cost-effective measures physicians face in a developing country.



Preparation

- Global health pre-travel modules and GH academic half days.
- Self-guided research about the hospitals and the cities.

Experience

- Philippine General Hospital (2 weeks).
 - Allergy & Immunology clinic and consults.
 - Immunotherapies, immunodeficiencies, drug allergies, and seafood allergies.
 - Cases: SLE, antiphospholipid antibody syndrome, DOCK8 deficiency, disseminated molluscum, progesterone hypersensitivity, and lymphocyte immunotherapy.
 - Limitations: EpiPens, monoclonal antibodies, Newborn Screen (only test 20 disorders!)
- Philippine Children's Medical Center (2 weeks).
 - General pediatrics ward.
 - Cases: hospital-acquired pneumonia, sepsis, bacteremia, TB.
- Exploring the culture, food and meeting new friends



Reflection



I learned:

- Perspective
- Cultural Humility
- Appreciation
- Self-awareness
- Compassion
- This was an amazing first GH experience. It was memorable because of everything I have learned both medicine and non-medicine.
- I am constantly reminding myself of the new perspective I have gained and how I can improve as an individual and as a physician to my patients.
- I hope to participate in more global health trips in the future as a pediatrician!

