Introduction
• Under the Ministry of Health, Fiocruz contributes to the promotion of health and reduction of social inequalities
• Specialized focus in Souza Araujo Outpatient Clinic (ASA) and the Laboratory of Hansen’s Disease

Objective of Internship
I aimed to increase my exposure to global health challenges while gaining experience in a clinical research setting.

Work Profile
• Observed the comprehensive cycle of care for disadvantaged leprosy patients
• Accompanied a variety of different clinical research protocols
• I contributed to the ongoing research of leprosy-specific biomarkers found in infected cells

Reflection and Results
• In the clinic, I examined practices of overcoming structural barriers to healthcare for underserved communities
• After being trained in a variety of histopathological routines, I cultivated and stained my own cell cultures needed for further leprosy research — both THP-1 cells and neutrophils (pictured right)
• For my own research project, I infected macrophage cell populations with *M. Leprae* bacteria to test the resulting levels of three leprosy-affiliated biomarkers
• For example, levels of IL-10 are seen below, particularly in populations treated with 80M PMA concentrations

Looking Ahead
• My project served as another stepping stone in ongoing vaccine research at Fiocruz
• Further research in viability needs to be done to improve the BCG vaccine for leprosy

Questions
• How can the communities who are a means for the research be properly given back to in recognition of their vast contributions to improving the quality of healthcare?

Conclusion
• The work conducted in global settings is by no means simple, and yet holds incalculable promise towards improving the quality of life

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