FIBUSPAM Internship
Fundraising, Researching, Teaching, and More

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Riobamba, Ecuador
Funded by CHW under the IIP program

Introduction
I worked for a medical clinic, FIBUSPAM, in Ecuador.
FIBUSPAM provides free primary and specialized care for community members with limited economic resources.

Objective of Internship
Promote, improve and learn from FIBUSPAM staff and patients.

Work Profile
- Shadowed health professionals
- Assisted dentist and nurses
- Research assistant for pterygium study
- Taught CPR class to staff
- Handed out reading glasses and sunglasses in caravan mission
- Pamphlets on oral and visual health
- Fundraisers for two patients

Reflection
- CPR class was extremely rewarding because before only two nurses were trained and all were unaware of the location of the AED.
- After, understood importance of skill
- Fundraisers for victims of stove accidents also rewarding. I made a video and a GoFundMe for each young girl.
- They can now get their necessary treatments in the US for their burns.

Impact
Promoted the clinic in informational videos in order to gain support and prepare future volunteers from the US.
CPR training will continue for staff.
Pterygium study will inform clinic on how they can improve treatments for patients and patient charts.
Pamphlets will help spread word within communities on importance of brushing teeth and wearing sunglasses.
Watched the staff become a family.

Challenges
- Communicating importance of our jobs to on-site director
- Study was disorganized
- Understanding various languages and dialects
- Different views on independence and familial structures

Questions
- Is pterygium more prevalent in rural communities or urban communities?
- Are there other ways to reduce cavities in Riobamba?
- How do we spread the importance of CPR globally?

Looking Ahead
Applying to be EMT volunteer
Still want to go into medicine, in particular pediatrician or pediatric reconstructive surgeon
Improved patient interaction
Look for more creative outlets

Conclusion
Healthcare is a crucial need for people around the world. Many times it requires additional support in order to provide for and improve our communities.

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