Examining quality of healthcare in FALP, Chile

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Critical Background

- Fundacion Arturo Lopez Perez, a cancer clinic in Santiago, Chile, provides one of the largest health care service for cancer patients in Chile
- Healthcare in Chile serves many different challenges to provide quality care to the patients, some of which includes:
  - Distance a patient must travel to the clinic
  - Balance between bio-psycho-social
  - Representing all kinds of patients from different socio-economic backgrounds
- My internship was to shadow different departments within the clinic to see how the institution faces these challenges

Work Profile

Focused on head-and-neck cancer patients:
1. Observing the surgical operations to learn the biological aspect of healthcare
2. Following psychologists and social workers to see problems patients face along with cancer

Reflection

- Bio VERSUS psycho and social, case study of a 86 yr. old who went through head and neck surgery
- Clinic’s efforts to balance the three aspects of health care by having meetings between surgeons, psychologists, and social workers, who review patients weekly to determine the right kinds of treatments
- The “Shelter,” designed to house patients in need of recovery before traveling long distances home
- Other Integrative Medicines providing therapies for patients

Going Forward

- Drawing relations between Anthropology and pursuit of healthcare
- Inspiration to volunteer as a counselor for Camp Kesem, a summer camp for children from ages 6-16 whose parents are affected by cancer
- Learning the different aspects of healthcare other than the “science’s” biological form of treatment, and how psychology and social settings impacts cancer patients today
- Hopes of becoming a physician who incorporates the psycho and social aspects into treatment

Conclusion

- Shadowed two different departments in FALP to see how the different aspects of healthcare work independently and in conjunction to understand how a patient’s well-being is best served in a cancer clinic

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