College of Nursing: Mission to Honduras

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Health Sciences Center for Global Health
Practicum Overview

- 8 days in Honduras
- Interdisciplinary team of health care providers including:
  - Nursing students
  - Nurse practitioner students
  - Nurse practitioners
  - Physicians
  - Pharmacists and pharmacy students
- Ran 7 outpatient clinics as a team
My Responsibilities

- Provide primary care for patients who came to the clinics
- Provide care for common acute illnesses and chronic disease
- Complete health history, physical exam, diagnosis, and plan of care as a member of a team
- Prescribe medication
- Provide women’s health care, both preventative and sick care
Site Feedback

- The site was easy to work at because the College of Nursing has been going there for 11 years, and the processes are well developed.
- Also, it is a great site because there is follow-up available for the patients, since Angie Overholt is available long term, and she sets up follow up for the patients in other locations as well.
- I liked working at this site because it was a sustainable outreach and not just a one week outreach without follow up.
Positive aspects

- Long term relationship with hosts
- Follow up available for the patients after we leave in a lot of cases
- Multidisciplinary team provided learning opportunities regarding working in collaboration
- Working with physicians, NPs, and other NP students aided to the learning experience
Negative aspects

- Lack of enough translators made health interviews more difficult at times
Unique experiences/events

- Seeing a baby with numerous skin infections, café au lait spots, and necrotic tissue on her pinkies, and removing the necrotic tissue
- Diagnosing a baby with pneumonia through history and lung sounds
- Providing pelvic exams for women in school rooms with creative furniture and head lamps
- Learning how to care for diabetic patients in a country lacking in resources
- Seeing a baby with a hydrocephalus that would have been easily treated in the US
- Observing the grace of the Honduran people despite their lack of material possessions
Overall assessment of rotation

- Excellent experience treating common acute illnesses: acute otitis media, upper respiratory infections, etc.
- Excellent experience in women’s health care: pap smears, pelvic exams, and treating sexually transmitted infections
- Excellent experience working in collaboration with physician, other nurse practitioners, nurses, and pharmacists, and students
- Excellent learning experience learning from people in another culture
Anja & Preceptor, Lissa Barker, FNP
Group of NP students, instructor & physicians after our clinic at the AFE dump.
NP student assessing a baby.
Kids from the Choluteca dump clinic site.
NP student assessing a child.
With the kids at the Choluteca dump clinic site.
Posters at the health fair.
Teaching CPR at the health fair.
The clinic set up at Siete de Mayo.
NP student and endocrinologist working with the translator to communicate with the patient.
Anja with a patient at San Jeronimo clinic.
NP students with our instructor at the end of the trip.
Related to IP goals

- Goal: examine health care system of developing nation. This goal was accomplished by observing and participating in the local health care system by delivering primary health care in rural clinics.

- Goal: participate with international organization that provides health care in a developing nation. This goal was met by working with our hosts, World Gospel Mission. Angie Overholt has a longterm clinic outreach. We worked in her clinic and worked with WGM to host clinics in other locations as well.
Advice

- Learn as much Spanish as you can before you go. It is so helpful to be able to speak to your patients without using a translator.
- Staying with the group offers travel safety.
- Learn as much as you can from your teammates from other disciplines.
Conclusion

- The College of Nursing Honduras Mission Trip offered was a great cross-cultural learning experience.
- If you would like more information about the trip, please contact me at brokaw.37@buckeyemail.osu.edu
- Thank you!