

Global Health Elective in Rural Guatemala

Kendall Burns, DO

Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Mo.

Background

- Interest in Spanish Language
- Understand how to translate evidence based medicine to rural, resource-limited areas

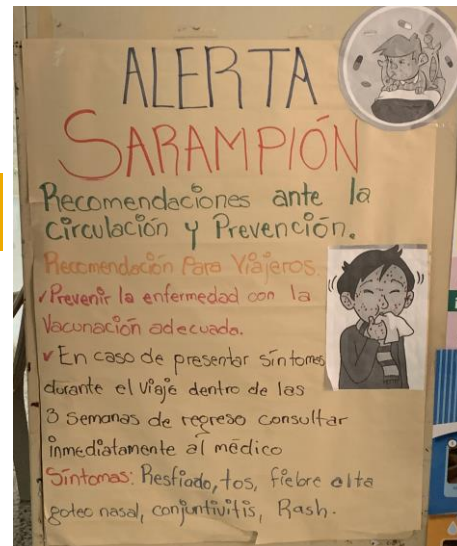


Objective

- Improve Spanish speaking skills
- Describe healthcare in another country and how an American pediatrician can integrate into that structure

Preparation

- USAID 2015 "Guatemala Health System Assessment"
- CHiCoS clinic
- Canopy Medical Spanish Course
- Global Health Track



Experience

- Saw pediatric patients and assisted in births in a local family medicine doctor's clinic in the lake town of San Pedro
- Visited various health centers, traditional medicine providers, a nutrition center and a government hospital
- Stayed with a host family
- Private Spanish tutoring



Future Directions

- Future trips to Central America and involvement in global health
- Providing culturally sensitive care
- Providing care to Spanish-speaking patients in the United States

Reflection

- Importance of partnering with local healthcare providers over touristic medicine
- Recognizing quality v. quantity of donated resources
- How cultural beliefs and traditions influence healthcare

