

2010 Summer Enrichment Project

Daniel Goble

Program details

Dates: July 3-31, 2010

Location: Quito and Chone, Ecuador

Program: Urban and Rural Comparative Health, Child Family Health International

Living situation: Homestay with local families

Educational experience: Seven days of Spanish classes at the beginning of the program

Clinical experiences:

- District government clinic in Quito (3 days)
- Private dermatology clinic in Quito (4 days)
- Maternity hospital in Quito (1 day)
- Regional hospital in Chone (7 days)
 - Surgery ward
 - Obstetrical ward
 - Pediatrics ward
 - Medicine ward

Travel experiences:

- South America's largest traditional market in Otavalo, Ecuador
- Isla de la Plata and the town of San Pedro on the Pacific coast



Description of experience: I decided to use my last free summer to see parts of the world I had never seen, to work on my Spanish, and to have hands-on medical experiences. Child Family Health International's four-week Urban and Rural Comparative Health Program in Ecuador afforded me the opportunity to do all three, while also allowing me four weeks in May and June to backpack across Europe with a friend. I spent my first two weeks in Ecuador at high altitude in Quito, where most mornings I shadowed physicians at the clinics listed above. Most afternoons, I had Spanish class with other first-year medical students from around the country, where we learned intermediate and advanced grammar and medical Spanish. One afternoon, I attended the Maternity Hospital, where I witnessed my first delivery—an exciting and emotional experience! Those two weeks also afforded me ample time to reflect on my experiences in my blog, which can be reached at dansecuadorstories.blogspot.com.

The second component of the program consisted of traveling seven hours by bus to Chone, Ecuador, a town of sixty thousand people in the eastern tropical region of Ecuador. There, my six companions and I participated in rounds on the pediatric and medicine wards and observed surgeries and obstetrics, including six deliveries. I was also given the opportunity to scrub in on a cholecystectomy and a fibula reduction. My free time was spent reading, studying Spanish, and getting to know the family and the other students on the program. I also traveled to the Pacific coast, where I took part in a voyage to the Isla de la Plata, an uninhabited island inhabited by several exotic bird species. On the voyage to the island, I also had the privilege of a first-hand course in motion sickness!

Throughout my month in Ecuador, I sought out experiences to practice my Spanish and to learn as much as I could about Ecuadorean culture and the Ecuadorean health care system. My experience has given me knowledge and confidence that I hope to use in future medical trips to Latin America, starting perhaps as early as my fourth year of medical school. The Brody family and Brody Foundation have my deep gratitude for giving me the opportunity to have this unique experience.

-Daniel Goble

