

Solidarity Bridge

The Chicago Catholic Missions
Medical ☩ Enterprise ☩ Education

Medical & Education Missions and Neurosurgery Program to Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, Bolivia October 12 - 21 and October 25 -26, 2006

Our October 2006 mission trip comprised our 16th medical mission, our 4th education mission and the initiation of the Neurosurgery Program. On this trip we:

- **Saw and treated 366 dermatology, 69 gynecology, 89 cardiology and 17 neurology patients for a total of 541.**
- **Performed 15 dermatology procedures, 12 gynecology and 7 neurosurgeries for a total of 34.**
- **Delivered 19 large boxes of medications, surgical supplies and equipment and a operative neurosurgery microscope valued at \$254,900,**
- **Provided the most extensive medical education activity to date: a daylong conference for neurosurgeons and neurologists; lectures in dermatology, anesthesiology, and gynecology; in-service for operating room nursing personnel at two hospitals**
- **Provided a workshop for representatives of four Bolivian dioceses on how to raise funds from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and U.S. foundations.**

This was our fourth medical mission trip to Santa Cruz, a city of 1.5 million people in the semitropical lowlands of Bolivia. It is the economic hub of Bolivia, with oil and natural gas production and agriculture being its principal economic engines.

This mission was, to date, the most logistically complex. There were two hospitals, a separate clinic location and various medical education sites. We worked at *Hospital San Juan de Dios*, the poorest public hospital, and at *Clinica Foianini*, one of the best private hospitals,. Our Pacemaker Program partner in Santa Cruz, *Fundacion Niño Feliz*, provided much logistical support and was the site for the clinical work of our dermatologist, cardiologist and gynecologists.

Our team included 19 people. The medical team was headed by Dr. George Lederhaas and Nurse Practitioner Kate Scott. There were three neurosurgeons, two gynecologists, one anesthesiologist, a cardiologist, and a dermatologist. The nursing staff headed by Kate Scott had two surgical nurses and three other nurses. We had three interpreters, a chaplain and two coordinators. The education team was made up of Juan Lorenzo Hinojosa and Mateo Hinojosa.

MEDICAL MISSION and NEUROSURGERY PROGRAM

Surgeries: The medical mission included laparoscopic surgeries at the *Clinica Foianini* and open surgeries at the *Hospital San Juan de Dios*. The gynecological surgeries and neurosurgeries were performed at both hospitals. The cases presented by our Bolivian neurosurgeon counterparts were cases that would have been difficult to operate even in the U.S. Some of these cases lasted 12 hours. The dermatological procedures were done at *Fundacion Niño Feliz*

One patient's story, among many, is that of Gardenia Padilla. Gardenia is a 12 year old girl who had a condition in which her spine was being split by a bone protrusion and her spinal cord was tethered. Her condition was becoming progressively worse and she had begun to have difficulties walking. Dr. Roberta Glick and Dr. Guider Salas performed the surgery at *Clinica Foianini* and after she was stabilized brought her back to *Hospital San Juan de Dios* for recuperation. Solidarity Bridge recently delivered an operative neurosurgery microscope which made possible the operation that saved Gardenia's life. Because of their partnerships with Solidarity Bridge, the two hospitals are collaborating more extensively to provide care for the poor. Before the surgery, her tearful mother pleaded, "I want her to live and remain with us. Don't let her die." She is now recovering from the surgery. (See photo below)

Outpatient Clinics: Our clinical team consisted of a cardiologist, a dermatologist, and two gynecologists. Patients were seen at *Fundacion Niño Feliz*. Our dermatologist also visited a hospital for serious skin diseases.

Education: This aspect of the mission was very significant. Very significant learning occurred in the sharing that happens while performing surgery. In the gynecological surgeries, local gynecologists learned how to do vaginal surgeries laparoscopically. They also learned a new technique to deal with feminine incontinence. The Bolivian neurosurgeons worked hand in hand with ours using the recently delivered operative microscope. (Picture below)

The formal presentations given included:

Neurosurgery: Dr. Richard Moser: "Tumors of the Nervous System" and "The Third Ventriculostomy" and Dr. Roberta Glick: "Trauma in the Nervous System" at the Congress for Neurosurgery; Dr. John Oldershaw "Peripheral Nerve Damage" at the San Juan de Dios Hospital.

Gynecology: Drs. Michael and Kevin Hussey: "Vaginal and Laparoscopic Surgery" at *Hospital Maternidad*.

Dermatology: Dr. Jay Hermann: "'Cutaneous Manifestations of Systemic Disease" at the Santa Cruz Dermatology Society.

Anesthesiology: Dr. George Lederhaas: "Anesthesia for Spinal Cord Injury" to the Bolivian Society of Anesthesiology.

Nursing: Kate Scott, N.P. and Ruth Mau, R.N. gave presentations to nurses at *San Juan de Dios Hospital* and *Clinica Foianini* on sterilization in the operating room. Ruth Mau gave an inservice on adjusting the neurosurgery operative microscope.

Donated Materials: We brought a great quantity of donated antibiotics, analgesics, anesthesia supplies, drugs and other surgical supplies. The value of these was over \$50,000. As part of our Pacemaker Implantation Program we delivered donations of 32 leads and 15 pacemakers for a value of \$59,400. As part of our Heart Surgery Program we donated 8 heart valves for a value of \$12,000.

The Nuerosurgery Program donated the following:

Operative Neurosurgery Microscope (800 lbs.) - \$100,000

Two high speed craniotomy drills - \$20,000 Endoscopic set with instruments - \$20,000

Titanium plate and screw partial set - \$7,500

Two haloes for broken neck victims - \$1,000

Other neurossurgery instruments and supplies - \$5,000 The donated neurosurgery materials totaled \$133,500.

The grand total of donated material was: \$254,900.

EDUCATION MISSION

Juan Lorenzo and Mateo Hinojosa gave a two day workshop in Cochabamba to representatives of the Archdioceses of Santa Cruz, La Paz and Cochabamba and to the diocese of El Alto. A total of 17 people attended in order to learn more effective ways to obtain funds from the sources in the United States. In addition to lecture and demonstration of accessing funding sources on the internet, each participant brought a grant proposal to be evaluated and critiqued.

FALL 2006 TEAM MEMBERS

Fr.	Roger	Corrales-Diaz	chaplain
Dr.	Roberta	Glick	neurosurgeon
Dr.	James	Herrmann	dermatologist
Dr.	Juan	Hinojosa	S.B. Director and education missionary
Ms.	Sarah	Hinojosa	coordinator
Mr.	Mateo	Hinojosa	interpreter and education missionary
Dr.	Michael	Hussey	gynecologist
Mrs.	Patricia	Hussey	RN
Dr.	Kevin	Hussey	gynecologist
Ms.	Angela	Jacobi	RN
Dr.	George	Lederhaas	anesthesiologist and medical director
Ms.	Ruth	Mau	RN
Ms.	Maureen	McKemey	RN
Dr.	Richard	Moser	neurosurgeon and Neurosurgery Program director
Dr.	John	Oldershaw	neurosurgeon
Ms.	Kate	Scott	RN and nursing director
Dr.	Nancy	Streitmatter	cardiologist

Ms. Kathleen Curran interpreter Ms. Ivette
Via-Reque interpreter

Pictures follow on Page 4

Dr. Richard Moser operating with the operative neurosurgery microscope that allows Bolivian surgeons to perform much more difficult cases than were previously possible.



Gardenia Padilla, a 12 year old girl, after her surgery. (Her story is above). She was operated by Dr. Roberta Glick (middle surgeon below) who appears with two of her Bolivian counterparts.

