

Abstract:

A 10,000 Foot View: A Spanish Immersion and Clinical Global Health Experience for the Family Medicine Resident in Quito, Ecuador

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Background:

This presentation is a review of a 4-week Spanish immersion elective in Quito, Ecuador through Child and Family Health International (CFHI) and Northwestern University.

Methods:

Objectives include 1. Fostering local partnerships, 2. Improving healthcare access, and 3. Increasing Spanish language proficiency. Time was spent providing direct care to patients in clinic and observation in family medicine, inpatient obstetrics, and a rural indigenous clinic. Daily Spanish lessons and home-stay were integral to the program.

Results:

Twenty-four patients were examined in clinic. The resident's medical Spanish competency increased from baseline. All learning objectives were met and as a summary, a checklist was developed to guide medical residents planning similar immersion rotations.

Conclusions:

Based on this experience, key considerations for success include: an emphasis on local-partnership, medical supervision, bioethics, and continuity of care. This case highlights the value of global medical education and helps providers serve patients in increasingly diverse settings.