



## Thank you, Hesburgh's Heroes

Last April, Hesburgh's Heroes organized an extremely amusing "bubble soccer" match on Notre Dame's South Quad to raise funds and awareness for Andean Health & Development. Hesburgh's Heroes is a student-run club on Notre Dame's campus that fundraises for Andean Health, while having tons of fun hosting different events. **If you know a student at Notre Dame who might be interested in joining this student club, please contact [Peter.T.McKeon.17@nd.edu](mailto:Peter.T.McKeon.17@nd.edu).**

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### AHD MANAGEMENT

David Gaus, M.D., MPH/TM, <i>Chief Executive Officer</i>	Laura Dries, <i>Chief Operating Officer</i>
Diego Herrera, M.D., <i>VP of Saludes</i>	Alicia Acker, <i>Development Assistant</i>

### PLANNED GIVING

Bequests and gifts by beneficiary designation left to AHD are a critical source of funding for the future. We thank those of you who have already included AHD in your estate plans. On our 20th Anniversary, our goal is to secure additional planned gifts to ensure long term impact. If you're interested in making a bequest or have questions about planned giving, please contact [laura.dries@andeanhealth.org](mailto:laura.dries@andeanhealth.org). Thank you.



**Please donate to train local doctors and provide high quality medical care to Ecuador's underserved.**

I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to join the Hesburgh Hospital Society by pledging \$1,000 for 3 years. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks may be made payable to Andean Health & Development and sent to 1100 Delaplaine Ct., Madison, WI 53715 or made online at [www.andeanhealth.org](http://www.andeanhealth.org).

AHD's financials are audited annually by Luloff & Taylor, LLC, CPA. AHD is a 501c3 non-profit. Tax ID: 39-1809174. Donations are tax-exempt. Please ask if your company matches donations. Thank you!

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type:  Visa  MC  Amex Exp: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# ANDEAN HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT NEWS: An Update on the Work You Support

FALL 2017



## Dr. Miguel Obregon: from Student to Teacher and Physician

[www.andeanhealth.org](http://www.andeanhealth.org) • [info@andeanhealth.org](mailto:info@andeanhealth.org)





Dr. Miguel Obregon  
with Ministry of Health  
Resident Graduates

# FROM THE FIELD

As we celebrate our 20th year at Andean Health & Development, we are seeing the next generation of health care leaders emerge as a result of the work and training we do at our hospitals.

Dr. Miguel Obregon and I recently witnessed tangible evidence of AHD “moving the needle.” Miguel is a 2012 graduate of our family medicine residency program and now one of our teaching attending physicians. A few months ago, Miguel and I traveled to the Ministry of Health (MOH) hospital in El Carmen, a rural town in the Manabí province, about 45 minutes from our hospital in Santo Domingo. We had been invited by Diego Zambrano, one of the 45 doctors trained in a residency program that AHD created for MOH general doctors already working in rural Ecuador.

Despite having worked at public hospitals for many years, most MOH doctors have never had residency training. Our program is designed to not only deepen doctors’ medical skills, but also provide a transformative experience for them to become agents for change in the public hospitals where they work.

At the hospital in El Carmen, Diego asked us to speak with a group of MOH physicians who were in the midst of their “rural year”—a year working in the countryside that the government requires after medical school. Diego wanted us to talk to them about a career in family medicine and to teach them about our residency program. The discussion went well, and there is interest in our program. However, something much more gratifying and entirely unexpected happened!

We ran into three recent graduates of our residency program who are all now working at that MOH hospital. They said that when they started at the MOH hospital, they quickly noticed the low quality of inpatient care (hospitalized patients) due to so few doctors having proper training. In response, these newly minted doctors proposed to the MOH that they run the inpatient service as a team of family physicians, using the AHD approach.

Four years ago, the MOH did not even recognize family medicine as a specialty, but, remarkably, they agreed to this arrangement for the first time ever.

The results have been even more extraordinary. In the first month alone, the number of patients transferred to other hospitals from the El Carmen hospital dropped from 80% to a mere 20%. The family physicians (our AHD grads!) have gained the confidence of the community, of their colleagues, and even of the Ministry of Health.

When we decided to take on the larger MOH family medicine training program at Andean Health, we wondered if something like this could happen. Now it’s happening! The transformation has begun.

Thank you all for your belief in our process and your support of our team in Ecuador. I must admit, after seeing the fruits of our labor so clearly on display, I welled up a bit on the ride home!

— David

David Gaus, M.D., MPH/TM is the Founder and CEO of Andean Health & Development.

# Impact by the Numbers



**We have a new website!**

Check it out at [www.andeanhealth.org](http://www.andeanhealth.org).

