

# Andean Health & Development

*Quality, sustainable health care for Latin America's underserved*

## Spring 2018 Update



### From the Field

by Dr. David Gaus

A Chinese immigrant carried his daughter into Hesburgh Hospital's Emergency Room in mid-January. She had some cognitive delays and severe scoliosis, and now she was suffering extreme respiratory difficulty. We diagnosed influenza with pneumonia as a complication. She went downhill very fast and sadly died in the ICU within two hours of coming to the ER.

Influenza is a concerning public health threat in the U.S., as you all know. It is generally a wintertime virus due, in part, to the concentration of people in warm, enclosed areas.

Because the southern hemisphere's winter falls during the U.S.'s summertime, the peak time for influenza in countries like Argentina is June-August. But Ecuador straddles the equator, and so doesn't have a true wintertime. This raises some interesting questions, like: "What affects influenza transmission in a country without a winter season? Does it impact Ecuador twice per year? Are the virus strains the same at all times in all places?"

Knowing the answers to these questions would help Ecuador determine its readiness for these epidemics before they arrive. It would also allow Ecuador and other countries to determine when and how to use the flu vaccines that come out each year. Finding answers will help to prevent deaths like that of our young Chinese patient.

Welcome to the Andean Health Institute! A major component of our new institute is to research poorly understood illnesses that pose significant public health threats in the region. Although public health and clinical medicine complement and inform each other, they are typically managed by professionals who specialize in either one or the other. AHD offers the rare confluence of the two.

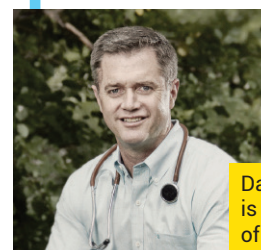
Through the Institute, we will also measure the impact we are having on our communities. Metrics represent an important aspect of any organization, particularly in healthcare delivery, and this data will guide future research and ongoing treatments. Finally, we hope to influence health policy in the region through our journal, Rural Family Practice, and our Saludes Medical Manual. These are both online ([saludrural.org](http://saludrural.org)) and already receive thousands of visits each month from medical professionals throughout the world.

We hope you remain healthy and, as always, we are grateful for your support.

David



The new Andean Health Institute facilitates research on poorly understood illnesses that pose significant public health threats in rural Ecuador.



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

Supported by you, we have provided 20 years of quality, sustainable health care for Latin America's underserved.

## Breakthrough Maternal/Child Health Grant

As you all know, we've spent two decades working to improve medical care for Ecuador's rural poor. And recently, this work and commitment earned a \$1.5 million grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®).

This remarkable award validates the hard work of everyone in this organization, specifically because Andean Health is one of only four organizations to receive one of these prized global grants. This grant will help us specifically address maternal and newborn health services in Santo Domingo and the surrounding provinces. With this RMHC grant, Hesburgh Hospital will now:

- connect to a network of rural facilities led by AHD residency program graduates
- strengthen maternal and newborn services at those rural sites
- educate women and their families about pregnancy and warning signs of complications
- develop a triage system
- establish telemedicine infrastructure with partner organizations

We began implementing the program last September. Since then, Hesburgh Hospital's doctors have safely delivered over forty babies each month. Funding from the grant will dramatically expand the hospital's capacity

through 2019. By then, we plan to sustain the program through our regular operations.

We are very grateful and appreciative of this powerful vote of confidence from this prestigious organization. RMHC Global Grants Program has dramatically impacted health care throughout the world, with a focus on reducing maternal and child mortality in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America.

Earlier funding from RMHC expanded AHD's rural family physician residency program and created a state-of-the-art medical simulation center at Hesburgh Hospital. We truly value their partnership.

And we value yours! Your support over the past 20 years has led us to this very exciting moment. Without the infrastructure you helped to create, this grant never would have happened. It is a tremendous endorsement of Andean Health's important work.

While this RMHC grant allows us to further our work in maternal/child health, we still need your support to continue our greater mission of training health care leaders and providing medical care to Ecuador's underserved. Thank you for making high quality care possible for the mothers and babies of Ecuador.



## Research Collaboration with Notre Dame

AHD partners with the University of Notre Dame's Eck Institute to conduct antimicrobial research at our new "Andean Health Institute" in Santo Domingo. From this Eck Institute collaboration, we are beginning to learn about which bugs are involved in wound infections in our community. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, or "MRSA," is a nasty superbug, which is resistant to antibiotics. Half of the wound infections we see at Hesburgh Hospital and Hospital PVM are infected with this bug.

The results of our study with the Eck Institute will be published in our own *Saludesa* online medical journal--the only such journal in all of Latin



The Eck Institute's **Tori Alexander, MS '17**, is pictured here working in Hesburgh Hospital's microbiology lab last summer for her capstone project.

America! (Visit [saludrural.org](http://saludrural.org).) Moreover, these results can help influence Ecuador's Ministry of Health guidelines for proper treatment of infections. This is one of the very goals of the Andean Health Institute--to influence policy and, in turn, create long term impact on health in the region.

# Gift Opportunities

## Family Medicine Resident for the 2018-2019 Academic Year \$14,400

This residency program is the heart of AHD's efforts to deliver quality health care to Ecuador's rural poor. Training Ecuador's future doctors is one of the primary drivers of our success. Your gift will fund training for one of these future doctors enrolled our residency program.



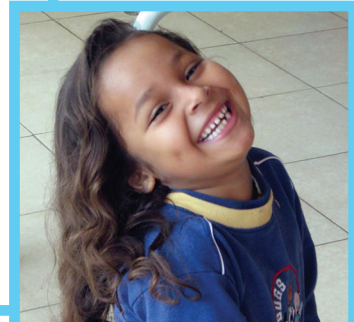
## Newborn Incubator, Hospital Pedro Vicente Maldonado \$12,000

Babies born before 37 weeks of gestation may have underdeveloped digestive tracts, lungs, immune systems, and skin. A newborn incubator provides the heat and humidity critical to help premature babies survive outside the womb until they can fully develop. Please help us provide one additional incubator for these little ones.



## Dental X-Ray Machine \$2,700

Dental health is profoundly important to wellbeing and an area often under-funded in rural health care delivery. Your gift of this machine will quickly earn daily use in our clinic where many patients suffer from poor dental hygiene and the ensuing problems.



## Funding for Complicated Childbirths \$1,000

Low-income mothers with delivery challenges incur significant expenses for themselves and their newborns as they adjust to medical conditions that require repeat or ongoing treatments. This gift can literally change a family's life.



## ER Visit, Santo Domingo \$100

Consider helping one of our patients who typically lives on less than \$4/day and has no health insurance. When emergencies strike, this gift could be the difference between life or death. Help us offer that life-saving care to these patients.





Supported by you, we have provided 20 years of quality, sustainable health care for Latin America's underserved.



Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh (1917-2015) is the Founding Chair of Andean Health & Development. As the longest standing President of the University of Notre Dame, Fr. Ted was a mentor to many, including Dr. David Gaus whom he encouraged to pursue a life dedicated to the people of rural Ecuador. Fr. Hesburgh remained involved with Andean Health & Development until his death in 2015. His humanitarian legacy lives on through Hesburgh Hospital in rural Ecuador.



Follow us on FB and Twitter

facebook.com/andeanhealth   
twitter.com/andeanhealth 

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

## AHD Advisory Board



**John Burchett, CHAIR**  
Washington, DC

**Laurie McKeon, VICE CHAIR**  
Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin

**Juan Esteban Baus**  
University of Notre Dame

**Austin I. Collins, CSC**  
University of Notre Dame

**Jim Conway, MD**  
University of Wisconsin

**Carlos del Salto**  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**James Dunn**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Rachel English, MD**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Mike Flores**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Peter Gottsacker**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Michael Hansen**  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**Al Harding, MD**  
South Bend, Indiana

**Michael Heisler, MD, MPH**  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

**Tara Kenney**  
Boston, Massachusetts

**Dan Kerrigan**  
Hong Kong

**Louis M. Nanni**  
University of Notre Dame

**Paul O'Hop**  
Washington, DC

**John C. Rudolf**  
Seattle, Washington

**Mary Runger**  
Lisle, Illinois

**Maureen Hesburgh Ryan**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Jenny Grantham Stein**  
Madison, Wisconsin

**Peter J. Urbain**  
Chicago, Illinois

**Tim Willis**  
University of Notre Dame

## AHD Management

**David Gaus, MD, MPH/TM**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Diego Herrera, MD**  
VP OF SALUDESA

**Laura Dries**  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

**Alicia Acker**  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

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

name					
address					
email					
phone					
card type	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MC	<input type="checkbox"/> AMEX	card expiration date	
card #					
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ _____.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to join the Hesburgh Hospital Society by pledging \$1,000 each year for 3 years. Enclosed is my first gift.				

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 Lulloff & Taylor, LLC, CPA. AHD is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Donations are tax-exempt. Tax ID: 39-1809174. Please ask if your company matches donations. Please also consider bequests and planned gifts by beneficiary designation left to AHD, which can ensure long-term impact. Thank you!

spring 2018

Supported by you, we have provided 20 years of quality, sustainable health care for Latin America's underserved.