

# Andean Health & Development

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

## Winter 2019 Update



### From the Field

by Dr. David Gaus

#### Empowering Women Everyday: Didn't you notice?

A donor came to Ecuador a while back to see our hospitals and clinics in action. As with many of our visitors, she was duly impressed. But she added, "David, you never told me how many women you have working here. This is incredible!"

We have had so many women working here for such a long time that I never stopped to think about how that might look to a visitor. How clumsy of me.

So I began counting, and the list grew and grew. In fact, almost every department head is a woman here at Saludeses [the name for AHD in Ecuador]. We never have said, "let's try to find a woman for this position." We simply hire the most qualified and talented person.

These leaders hail from different backgrounds: some high school valedictorians, some escaping violence from other countries, some single mothers. Their work ethic is inspirational, and they can be tough and strict in the way they run their departments. But their backgrounds and experiences inform who they are and how they work, and each is able to call on those critical humane qualities whenever needed.

Despite their differences, these remarkable women hold two things in common: they all know hardship, and they all know the institution comes first. They are the face and the heart of Saludeses, and that should make all of us proud and inspired.

If you come to visit us, you won't have to look hard to find them because they're everywhere. Thank you for supporting them! Wishing you a joyful holiday season from all of us in the lowlands of the Ecuadorian Andes,

David

From left to right: Mayra is the liaison to Hesburgh Hospital's (HH's) government partners. Margarita is the head accountant for both hospitals. Dr. Alicia Guevara is a 2012 graduate of AHD's residency program and Medical Director at HH. Diana is the administrative director of HH.



Adriana (left) was the valedictorian of the local high school in Pedro Vicente Maldonado (PVM) and has worked as PVM's hospital administrator for 13 years. Ana Milena (center) started 10 years ago and now is the hospital director. Pilar (right) has been on the administrative team at PVM for 9 years. The hospital is the largest employer in the community.



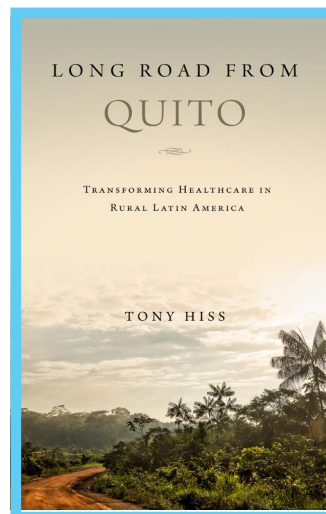
With your support, we have provided 22 years of quality, sustainable health care for Latin America's underserved.

## Q&A with Tony Hiss, Author of *Long Road from Quito*

The following is an excerpt from a book review by Barnett Cline, M.D., MPH, Ph. D., in the *American Journal of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene*.

**The diverse subject matter of your previous books made me wonder what motivated you to take on this project. Was it partly to educate yourself about global health?**

When I first heard about David Gaus from friends, I got intrigued by this inventive, innovative person. After meeting and traveling with Gaus in Ecuador, I became deeply fascinated by a concept I was newly exposed to: the idea of health as something more than simply the absence of disease, much as peace is more than simply the absence of war but the beginning of a civilization. *Long Road from Quito* was a project that took several years and multiple trips to Ecuador. I came to understand health as part of a “landscape of expectations.” Many Americans, unfortunately not all, can look forward to a lifetime of health, something they can rely on and will return to after an illness or operation. But for most Ecuadorians, this is far from the case. I also wanted to learn how Gaus, and the nonprofit AHD, was changing this landscape in rural Ecuador, and perhaps in other parts of Latin America.



**What insights or discoveries about David most stood out for you?**

After spending considerable time with David, a Wisconsin native, I realized he had become trilingual—he could speak English, Spanish, and he had learned to communicate effectively in a rural Ecuadorian society. I also observed, with admiration and affection, that David’s unique combination of passion and compassion permitted him to persist in his efforts, often against long odds that would have defeated many others. It became clear to me that David is a remarkable person who seems remarkably unremarkable; he is open, engaging, modest, fun to be around, and he treats everyone the same, with respect.

**Can you comment on the dynamic relationship between Diego Herrera and David, and between David and the AHD advisory board?**

Diego, David’s partner, is a brilliant physician who himself straddles two worlds of Ecuador, and I greatly admire his skills. He came from a family of a past president, but lived most of his life in the countryside. He is deeply devoted to patient care, and he and David make a terrific team—his knowledge of Ecuador and its culture, and his powerful administrative skills make him especially effective in dealing with Ecuadorian organizations and in attracting high-potential family medicine residents. As for AHD’s advisory board, I find its members exceedingly close-knit, and their deep affection for David and Diego is clear. They are a smart and diverse group. The board has been effective at pulling and pushing, always helping overcome obstacles and, when necessary, reinventing AHD. The positive role of Laura Dries, AHD’s chief operating officer, is another great plus.

**Happily you were able to visit Father Ted, a man who advised presidents and popes. Did your brief meeting in his 13th floor library office enlarge your appreciation of not only his contribution to AHD but of his legacy?**

Father Ted is the kind of mentor one dreams of finding, one who reaches out to the best in you, and then nudges you to do even better. I learned that Father Ted was deeply committed to AHD, and I believe that this nonprofit, and Hesburgh Hospital in Santo Domingo, Ecuador, will be an essential part of his legacy. Andean Health and Development was, in a real sense, his final project.

***Long Road from Quito* is available on Amazon and wherever books are sold.**

## Saludesa Fellowship Launched

Dr. Juan Carlos Perez, a graduate of the AHD/Saludesa Residency program, recently formed the “Saludesa Fellowship” to bring together graduates of the program. Graduates work all over Ecuador and often face a medical professional climate where they feel isolated. The fellowship brings these graduates a sense of unity, identity, and belonging. It offers continuing medical education and provides doctors with the opportunity to conduct research, publish, and contribute to AHD’s medical manuals. Graduates also assist with recruitment of new resident candidates, and create and disperse health policy documents in Ecuador.

This fellowship is an illustration of the wide-reaching and lasting impact of the AHD/Saludesa residency training program.



The Saludesa Fellowship, an alumni association for the residency program, had its first meeting in September '19.

## A Note from Notre Dame Student Club President, Brian Runger

Any good-hearted person has thought about how they can help the people around them, be it their specific community, their state, their country, or the human people. Unfortunately, for anything outside of our specific community or sphere of influence, we do not have the chance to see the impact of the help we provide. We don’t get the opportunity to know the real effects that our support has on those in need. This held true for me and my interactions with Andean Health & Development, up until recently.

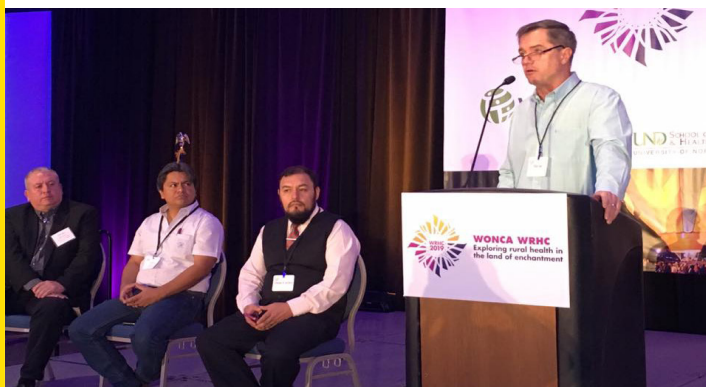
It was not until this past January that my eyes opened fully. I traveled to Ecuador with some fellow Notre Dame students to see the country and visit the hospitals built by AHD. I had the chance to share in life with some of the people that AHD provides for daily. The look in their eyes and the raw gratitude they expressed will stick with me for a long time. AHD, quite literally, gives these people life. I always knew that AHD did great things, but seeing the fruits of these labors with my own eyes made me appreciate the organization that much more.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to travel to Ecuador, I am telling you that the work of AHD means everything to the people of Ecuador. AHD does not just provide medical services; AHD provides hope to the most vulnerable people.

Brian Runger, a senior at the University of Notre Dame, is the President of “Hesburgh’s Heroes,” a student club whose mission is to raise funds and awareness for AHD.

## Rural Health Conference Keynote

AHD Physicians David Gaus, Diego Herrera, Carlos Troya and Juan Carlos Perez provided the closing keynote address for the 16th WONCA World Rural Health Conference in Albuquerque, NM in October. They spoke to 250 Family Physicians from roughly 30 countries. They discussed the need for family medicine ideas and leadership to



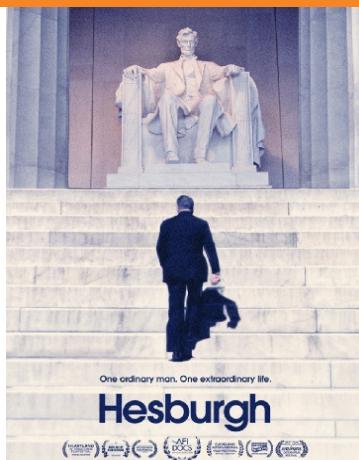
come from the Southern Hemisphere. They presented topics like medical hegemony, the challenges with positivism, doctors without philosophy, and the need for social sciences in medicine.

They also introduced the Andean Health Institute and shared the medical resources that AHD’s doctors have created for the larger global health community: the AHD Clinical Manual and *Salud Rural*, the quarterly online medical journal.

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## Hesburgh Now on DVD!

The inspiring documentary is now available on DVD and select streaming services, and AHD is one of two recipients of its proceeds. The film offers a unique glimpse at US history seen through the eyes of the long-time president of Notre Dame. Fr. Hesburgh helped countless world leaders tackle the most challenging issues of the day and strove to build bridges and find common ground between often bitter enemies.



As a co-founder of AHD and its Board Chair for 17 years, Fr. Hesburgh would be very proud of where the organization is today and how it continues to live its mission of serving quality health care to the poor.

## Other Ways to Give

- Stock donations
- Required minimum distributions from IRAs
- Bequests and planned gifts

Please contact [laura.brown@andeanhealth.org](mailto:laura.brown@andeanhealth.org) for more information on these giving options.

## AHD Advisory Board

**John Burchett, CHAIR**  
Washington, DC

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

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University of Notre Dame

**Jorge Boada**  
Quito, Ecuador

**Jim Conway, MD**  
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**Rachel English, MD**  
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Watersound, Florida

**Tim Willis**  
University of Notre Dame

**Rev. Theodore Hesburgh (1917-2015)**  
FOUNDING CHAIR University of Notre Dame

## AHD Management

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

**Diego Herrera, MD**  
VP OF SALUDESA

**Laura Brown**  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

**Alicia Acker**  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT



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

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<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ _____.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to join the <i>Hesburgh Hospital Society</i> 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 is a 501(c)(3) non-profit; donations are tax-exempt. Tax ID: 39-1809174. AHD's financials are audited annually by Lulloff, Leben & Taylor, LLC. Kindly 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!

winter 2019

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