



JANUARY 2024

UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE PAMS POLYCLINIC IN CHINCHA. HELP US TO PROVIDE QUALITY SPECIALTY CARE IN THE NEW YEAR.

PAMS POLYCLINIC IN THE NEW YEAR.

Happy New Year from all of us at the PAMS Polyclinic in Chincha. This is a newsletter to inform you of the status of the Polyclinic, including its accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities.

Since its inception in 2011, the Polyclinic has provided general and specialty care to the people of Chincha six days a week. This has been impacted by the evolving effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of the local community, and by limitations on travel from the US which limited our ability to host medical missions. In mid-2020, we hired our Medical Director, Dr. Solania Tello Del Mar, who helped the Polyclinic adapt to the challenge of COVID and then thrive by responding to corporate needs for COVID testing and monitoring. As the frequency and severity of COVID has decreased, the medical attention needed by local corporations also decreased and in 2023 affected us negatively with a reduction in corporate income. We have also been negatively impacted by increased unemployment and inflation following the pandemic, and the proliferation of medical facilities in the area. These economic pressures in the community make payment for specialty care difficult, particularly when consultation costs are rising to cover expenses of recruiting specialists from Lima to provide services at the clinic. As a result, consultations and productivity decreased.

This challenge set in motion a search for alternative ways in which the Polyclinic could continue to provide quality specialty consults and care at affordable prices.

IMPORTANCE OF MEDICAL MISSIONS.

Medical missions provide intermittent strengthening of our care model, and usually three to four missions are hosted per year. Missions have predominantly originated in the US and have made very positive contributions to PAMS Polyclinic and the people it serves.

In addition to the specialists who volunteer on medical missions, donations of equipment and medicines have supported the clinic's service. Over the past twelve years, we hosted forty-two medical missions, during which 1100 volunteers and 183 specialists provided care for 34,480 patients and brought resources to subsidize care for indigent patients.

These medical missions from abroad served as an inspiration for the Polyclinic and its staff to conduct its own medical and educational missions in the highlands of Chincha, especially in the regions of Chavin and Topara.

PRESENT LIMITATIONS OF US BASED MEDICAL MISSIONS.

The US government considers travel to Peru risky, not only due to the pandemic, but also due to security concerns.

The number of specialists from the US who volunteer on medical missions has decreased considerably in the last two years. Their talents, donations of equipment and funds, and the patient care they provided are sorely missed, and are other reasons to find alternative ways of providing specialty consults.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDICAL MISSIONS WITH PERUVIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES.

The Polyclinic developed cooperative agreements with the medical schools of two prestigious universities in Peru, San Fernando of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, and Alberto Hurtado of the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia. The agreements allow the Polyclinic to annually host two week-long medical and educational missions with each school and its specialists, teachers, residents, and medical students.

In 2022 the clinic began implementing this medical mission model. In the mornings, a health fair provided free screening for anemia, bleeding, diabetes, hypertension, and vision acuity. Throughout the day specialty consultations and procedures were provided at subsidized cost, and on two of the afternoons, medical teams went to community medical posts to provide care and supplies free of charge.

The experience thus far of four missions combining Peruvian medical schools and US based specialists has been positive: over 4,500 patients seen, many at no cost or at subsidized cost, and great patient satisfaction.

Approximately \$10,000 was needed for each medical mission, \$5,000 to cover transportation, lodging, and food for a team of about ten medical school members, and \$5,000 to subsidize patient care.

In addition, the clinic has also periodically conducted its own medical missions to the Andean regions of Chavin and Topara to provide care in those areas with poor access to healthcare. From October 9 to 13, and with support from a local mining company, our staff served 458 patients in the smaller communities of Chavin and Topara.

SUPPORT IS NEEDED FOR MEDICAL MISSIONS.

We now plan two medical missions a year with each medical school, a total of four missions per year.

At a cost of \$10,000 per medical mission, we need \$40,000 a year to support these medical missions.

Donations are also needed to make the Polyclinic's medical missions to the Sierra of Chincha possible; approximately \$5,000 a year.

This support will allow the Polyclinic to continue to provide quality specialty care in the community, while serving as an inspiration to medical trainees on how best to meet their social responsibility. Those just graduating from their Residency can explore job opportunities at the Polyclinic. And the medical schools will also benefit by conducting clinical investigations addressing local pathology. It is our belief that the patients served by the PAMS Polyclinic will benefit the most by these medical missions!

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT THE PAMS' POLYCLINIC.



Our recent Medical Director, Dr. Solania Tello Del Mar, completed her contract at the end of December 2023 and went on to pursue opportunities elsewhere. We are pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Sore de Dios Casani, as our new Medical Director effective January 1, 2024. She has a MD degree from the Ricardo Palma University in Lima and has recently completed a three-year Medical Administrative Management program at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia. Let's offer her our support and best wishes in this new position. Bienvenida Dr. Casani!

We need members and friends of PAMS who are interested in becoming members of the Polyclinic's Directory. We need to incorporate new talents and ideas for the benefit of the Polyclinic and the community it serves. To explore these opportunities, please contact Dr. Manuel Valdivieso (m.valdivieso.md@outlook.com).



HOW TO DONATE TO PAMS POLYCLINIC.

Please consider a contribution so that we can assure the availability of quality specialty care to the Chinchá community during difficult times.



Scan this QR code to donate on PAMS Polyclinic Chinchá page, or [click the link here](#).

Make checks payable to
PAMS Polyclinic
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Respectfully submitted,

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