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Preclinical Exchange in El Salvador

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In July of 2012 I traveled from Mexico to Santa Ana, El Salvador in my first exchange with IFMSA. My service was Paediatrics. At the beginning I had fear because I only coursed the first two years in my Faculty. I never studied Paediatrics, or a similar signature, I only know the anatomy, physiology, preventive medicine and basic areas of medicine. However since kinder garden I wished to study medicine, and I realized I wanted to study pediatrics. At my arrival to this magic paradise full of jungles, forests, beaches, delicious food and interesting diseases, I had in mind only the questions: what will I do in this area of the hospital? Answering, what I know, Asking myself? Do I have the basic skills to survive in pediatrics?.

Well the first day in the National Hospital San Juan de Dios de Santa Ana, my contact person and the NEO-IN of IFMSA El Salvador, gave me a travel in the hospital. They showed the different services, the most interesting for me was the maternal milk bank. When they finished the tour the NEO submitted at my tutor Dr. Guevara and Dr. De Santos, they were excellent Tutors because they taught me how to elaborate a prenatal clinic history, the neonatology physiology, electrocardiogram on paediatric patients, paediatric pharmacology, propedeutics general and specifically in neurology, in the end I learned everything I had to survive in that department. Apart from the teaching program I formed part of the paediatrics class in the university, I realized an exposition, in the library I could borrow books, realized many practices and studied interesting diseases. I realized a night shift to improve the knowledge and have more practice. The Salvadorian students and doctors always resolved my doubts, supported me in my first stitch in

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human skin, had the possibility to view a birth labor, enter to a surgery, I interpreted some radiographs, I learned all the data provided for basic laboratory studies and it's clinical significance, I had knowledge of all the benefits of breastfeeding and the Salvadoran policies that exist.

There are many cultural differences, the most important for me was the diversity of religions, recreative activities, have an important ambience.

My truly thanks for the contact persons, for an excellent social program, because of them, I know the typical costumes, many cities, I enjoyed a beautiful scenery in the lakes at Coatepeque, Paradies Beach, Volcanoes and the best memory for this experience was building a great friendship.

At the end of my Clerkship I can only say thanks at my Contact person Marielos, NEO-IN Cesar, Dr Guevara and Dr. De Santos for teaching me, for their patience, for introducing me to the wonderful world of paediatrics. I say goodbye not before inviting all students to realize an exchange in El Salvador, it's really a wonderful country, with polite people, it has many medical practice and excellent tutors.

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