



Pampas Grande Medical Mission

2015

1 Introduction

Richmond Global Health Alliance (RGHA) is a non-profit global health organization based in Richmond, VA, USA, led by students and professionals from a variety of backgrounds. RGHA is exempt under IRS section 501(c)(3) and is classified as a public charity in the United States.

RGHA, with the support of the Peruvian American Medical Society (PAMS) and the Peruvian NGO Asociacion Cultural Para Ayudar a la Ninez – Peru (Pan Peru), organized a medical mission in Pampas Grande, a remote district situated in the Central Peruvian Andes, in Huaraz Province, Ancash Region, Peru. Its 1,310 people are spread across eleven towns, some of which are eight hours from the only available medical facility.

The Pampas Grande Medical Mission 2015 consisted of both American and Peruvian volunteers. The team included physicians specializing in pediatrics, internal medicine/pediatrics, and general medicine. Other team members included health professionals (a pharmacist, two dentists, a physical therapist, , a laboratory technician, and a nurse technician), students (medical, dental, pharmacy, law, physical therapy, public health, and undergraduate), and non-medical volunteers.

This mission took place from July 2nd to July 15th. The team traveled to eight different towns in Pampas Grande to provide free medical care. Two days were spent in the District's Health Post, and assistance was provided with triage, general medicine, pediatrics, dental health, pharmacy, and laboratory testing.

The team also participated in a number of community-based activities. For instance, our volunteers actively helped in the construction of two greenhouses, a project that aims to increase the availability of fresh vegetables and fruits in the community.

Our team worked to fulfill our purpose of working with the community to bring medical care to a population in need, while respecting their culture and beliefs.



2 Description of Activities

A description of the team's particular activities follows:

July 1

The team arrived to Pampas Grande and met with various community leaders and Pan Peru staff. We shared a dinner with the local community leaders, including teachers and community members.

July 2

During the first day of our mission, we visited the town of Matara, a town located 20 minutes by foot from the Pampas Grande District. A total of 63 patients were seen. We worked with the Community Health Worker and Municipality Agent to set up the medical mission in a local facility. Part of our team helped construct a greenhouse at the school in Matara.

July 3

During the second day, the team traveled to the community of Shancac, the second most populated town of Pampas Grande District. This town is located one hour by car from the main district. A total of 98 clinical encounters were recorded. Specialists in pediatrics, internal medicine/pediatrics, general medicine, dentistry, and physical therapy were available.

Our pharmacist provided free medication, and students and volunteers helped in triage.

July 4

In a van rented locally, we traveled five hours to the towns of Cullash, San Jeronimo, La Victoria and Huanlla. Thanks to the support of the community leaders, we organized a health campaign in local school. A total of 65 patients went to the clinic and received free medical care.

Patients who needed further treatment were referred to the health post. The majority of patients were older adults.

July 5

Our fourth day was dedicated to learning and spending time with the community leaders. We shared lunch with the Community Health Workers and discussed various topics of interest. One part of our team also participated in a soccer game with the students of Pampas Grande.

July 6

During our sixth day, we conducted clinics in the towns of San Juan and Chorrillos, towns located 2 hours and 30 minutes from Pampas Grande District by car, respectively. A total of 29 patients were seen in Chorrillos, and 6 in San Juan.

July 7

We started our first medical mission at the Health Post and began offering laboratory services. Thanks to the support of the local physician, a total of 88 patients were seen. Our services included pediatrics, internal medicine/ pediatrics, general medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, and pharmacy. Part of our volunteer group also participated in the “Baxter Project,” helping children build shelters for their dogs.

July 8

We spent the last day of our Mission at the Health Post in Pampas Grande. A total of 47 patients were seen.

During the two days of clinics at the Health Post, laboratory testing was available. A total of 25 hemoglobin/hematocrit tests were performed, as well as 9 urinalysis and 7 stool parasitological studies. Patients with positive results were referred to the Health Post physician for further evaluation.

At the end of the day, Pan Peru organized a farewell dinner.

July 9

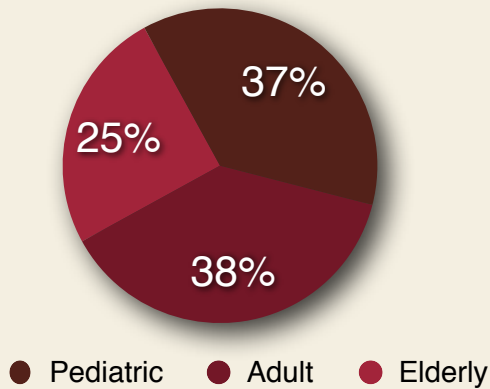
The team traveled to Huaraz early in the morning and then went on to Lima.



3 Results

We conducted 396 patient consultations with ages ranging from 1 month to 98 years old.

Encounters by Age

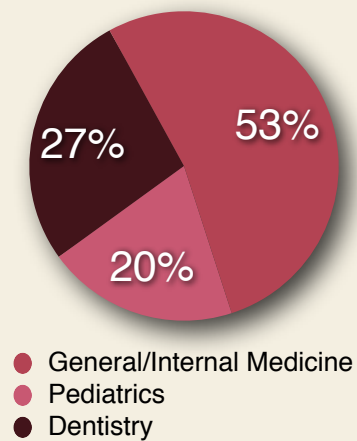


Group	Age	Total
Pediatric	0-19	148
Adult	20-59	152
Elderly	>60	96
		396

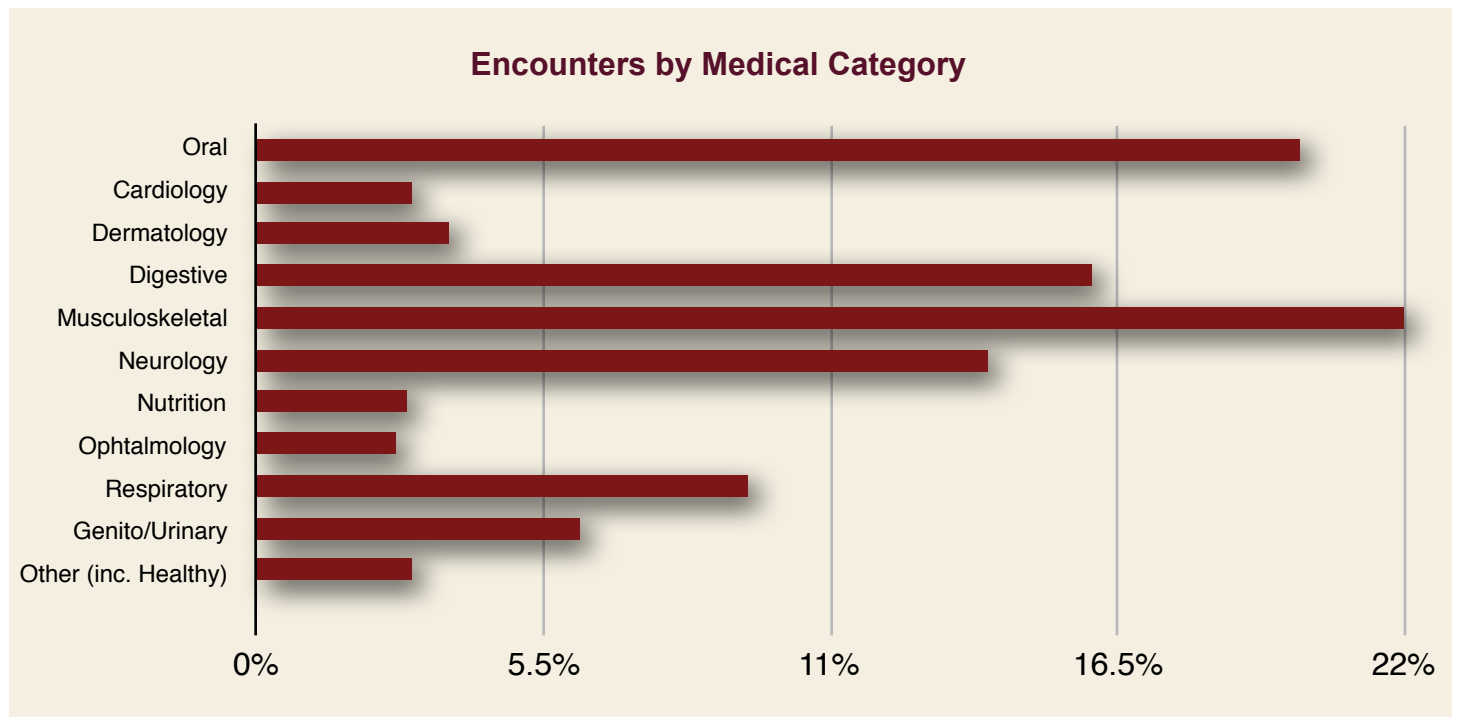
General Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Dentistry were available in our intramural and extramural campaigns.

Encounters by Specialty

Specialty	Encounters
General Medicine/ Internal Medicine	210
Pediatrics	81
Dentistry	105
TOTAL	396

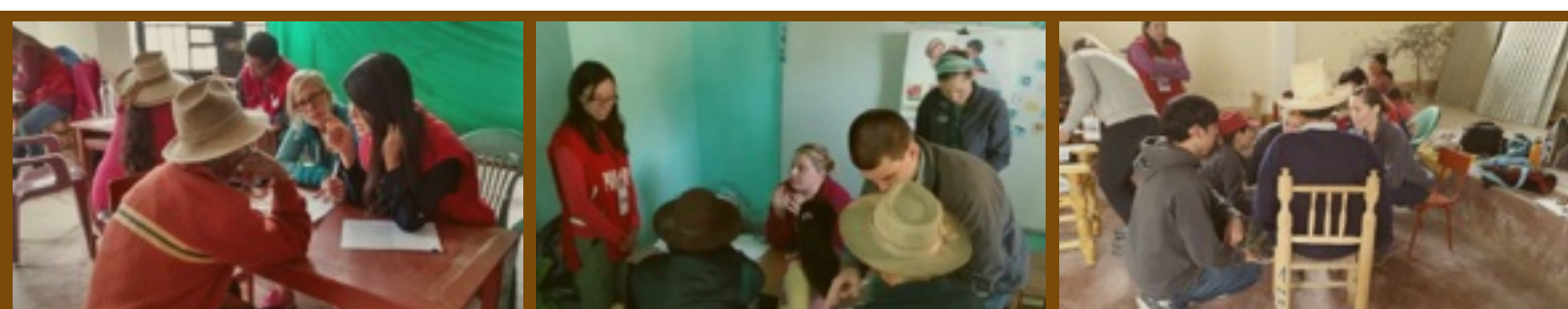


As previous years, we continued to see a variety of medical conditions, and the most common complaints fell under the category of musculoskeletal joint pain, oral health (including dental), and gastritis/abdominal pain.



The medical team consisted of one pediatrician, general medicine physicians, pediatrics and internal medicine/pediatrics residents, one pharmacist, two dentists, and physical therapist, and corresponding students.

During the Medical Mission, students helped with translation and data collection. Medical students, under the supervision of physicians, were able to see patients and discuss diagnoses and treatments.





Thanks to our volunteers from: Children's Hospital of Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Richmond, University of Chicago, PAMS, Pan Peru, University of Colorado, University of San Martin de Porres, University of Ricardo Palma, University of San Marcos, Health Post of Pampas Grande, Medical Center of Pira, Health Department of Ancash, Grupo GESA, Community Health Workers, Municipality Agents, Pampas Grande District, and donors for making this medical mission possible.