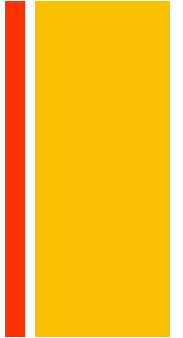


Paulita Lara Mejia '18

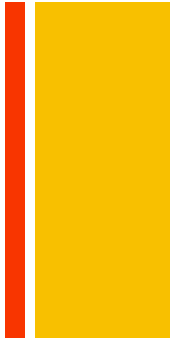
Child Family Health International  
Bolivia



# Work Description



- Placed in a pediatric hospital in La Paz and various medical clinics in Tarija
- Rotated each week to shadow doctors in different areas of medicine
- Observed a wide range of medical procedures, asked questions, and interacted with patients
- Volunteered at an orphanage in the evenings where we helped with homework, led dance workshops, and organized a field trip



In Quirofano with  
Dr. Chamón, Anesthesiologist



Rural Medicine, Tarija



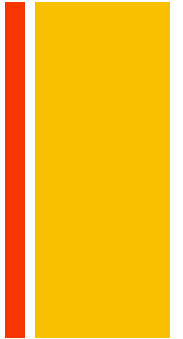
Playing with one of the patients in El Hospital del Niño, La Paz

## Leading a music activity at the orphanage





# Most Rewarding Aspects



- Understanding the Bolivian healthcare system and being able to see its pros and cons firsthand
- Being invited to shadow surgical residents during their night shifts in the emergency department
- Getting the opportunity to observe an extraordinary variety of medical procedures
- Learning about the doctors' education, training, and experiences
- Being immersed in the culture with Bolivian friends
- Traveling



**Biking down Death Road**



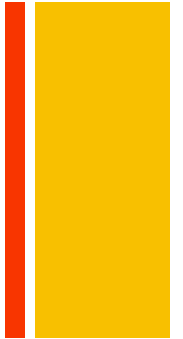
**Coroico**





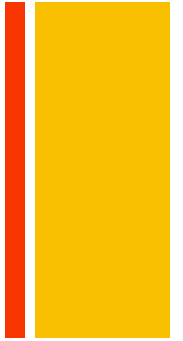
Chorros de Marquiri

Aymarran New Year, Isla del Sol, Lago Titicaca





Casa Vieja



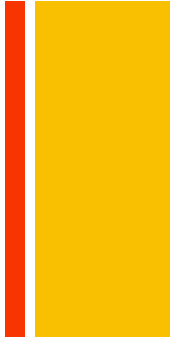
Sunset in Tarija







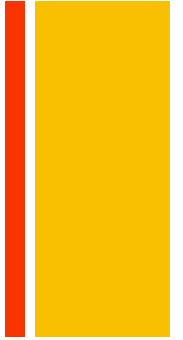
# Impact on the Organization



- Indirect impact on the organization due to the shadowing nature of the program
- My interactions with the doctors and other medical professionals allowed me to share a little bit about US healthcare and culture
- In this way, the CFHI medical professionals were able to feel that they also benefitted from the program



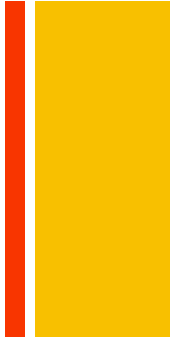
# Academic and Career Plans



- Confirmed my plans to pursue a medical career
- Enforced my passion for emergency medicine
- Appreciated the neurology rotation to continue my studies in the neuroscience major
- Gained an interest in healthcare systems and policies due to my exposure to global health



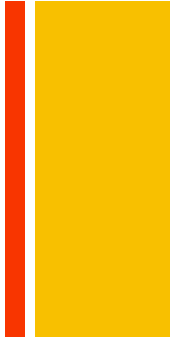
# Personal Growth



- Fell in love with Bolivia, the culture, and the healthcare community
- Would like to go back to further research and experience Bolivian healthcare
- Gained a new perspective in life– I want to travel and experience the world



## Repping Princeton in Bolivia



“The worst mistake in life is not living it.”