



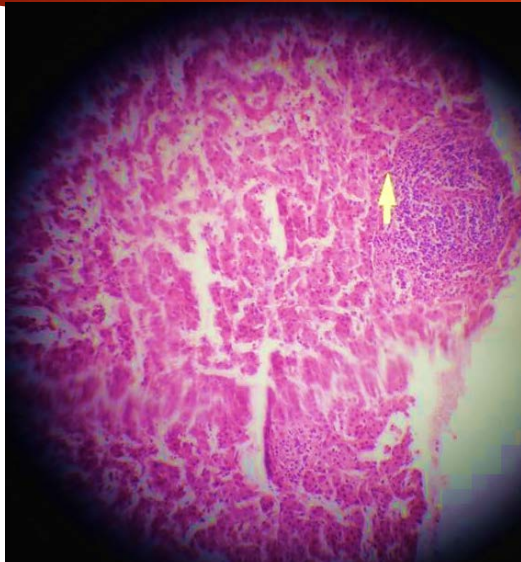
Child Family Health International La Paz and Tarija, Bolivia MARISA SALAZAR '17

Shadowing Experience

- ▶ I shadowed a different doctor each week
- ▶ In La Paz I shadowed in a Pediatric Hospital and in Tarija I shadowed in different clinics
- ▶ I interacted with patients, helped do paperwork, and observed surgery in the OR, learned how to do an EKG
- ▶ I learned about the social and cultural aspects of cases
- ▶ One week I went with physicians in a mobile clinic to the local rural community



Rotation Highlights



Volunteering Experience

- ▶ In La Paz I volunteered at an NGO which worked with the children in a government children's home
- ▶ I helped tutor and do activities with the children
- ▶ In Tarija I volunteered at La Libélula, an after-school tutoring program for children with low resources
- ▶ I helped tutor the children in math and Spanish
- ▶ I translated Spanish letters and composed emails in English for the coordinator who spoke Spanish

Children's home



Perspectives on Poverty



Most Rewarding Aspect

- ▶ Seeing the passion and ingenuity of the Bolivian doctors was the most rewarding aspect of the shadowing experience
- ▶ In volunteering, helping the coordinator of La Libélula compose emails in English for sponsors from the U.S.



My Impact

- ▶ I used my craft skills to help lead some of the activities in the children's home and interested them in origami
- ▶ I was a cultural ambassador to the doctors and helped build understanding of the U.S. system of health
- ▶ I was a cultural ambassador to host families
- ▶ I helped the tutoring center give individualized attention to the children who had trouble in group settings

Academic and Career Impact

- ▶ This experience strongly confirmed my desire to become a doctor and to practice in an underserved country
- ▶ The Spanish I learned and the environment have made me determined to continue taking Spanish



Personal Growth

- ▶ I grew in my identity as a Mexican-American through some of the shared Latin American cultural practices and perspectives
- ▶ I learned about how cultures can impact medicine
- ▶ My bias to assume that the U.S. system is superior was challenged in many aspects
- ▶ I improved greatly in my Spanish fluency and understanding
- ▶ I learned flexibility in dealing with other cultural practices—especially time