

BOLIVIA 2017 OUTREACH MISSION *Submitted by Mariano Gimenez, MD*

OUTREACH MISSION

Sucre - Potosí, Bolivia
March 5-11, 2017

TEAM LEADER

Mariano Gimenez

Professor of Surgery University of Buenos Aires
and Scientific Director of Percutaneous Surgery. University of
Strasbourg

MEDICAL SPECIALITY

HPB Surgeon and Percutaneous Surgery

DETAILS OF PERSONNEL

Oscar Imventarza (IHPBA President)

Javier Lendoire (AHPBA Past President)

Octavio Gil (HPB Surgeon)

LOCAL COORDINATORS

Gary Durán (HPB Surgeon and Percutaneous Surgeon)

With the participation and support of the Bolivian and Argentine chapter of the IHPBA / AHPBA in the city of Sucre we performed HPB surgeries, together with the Bolivian surgeons in the two main public hospitals of the City. (Institute of Gastroenterology and Hospital Santa Barbara)

We shared case discussions with residents and a 3-day HPB course was conducted with the participation of surgeons, residents and a health team. At the end of the week, we moved to the city of Potosi, 160 km away and 4,060 meters (13,300 feet) above sea level. There we participated in discussion of cases with residents and held a scientific day with lectures.

This Outreach Mission was the first where the entire team of surgeons HPB belonged to Latin America.

It is our second mission in Bolivia. We consider the result to be very positive. A possible third mission for the year 2018 has already been discussed.

PERU 2017 OUTREACH MISSION *Submitted by Mariano Gimenez, MD*

Outreach Mission in Cusco, Peru, 18 to 23 June 2017.

PARTICIPANTS

Local surgeons: Eduardo Anchante (President of the Peruvian Chapter) and Victor Hugo Torres (Former President of the Peruvian Chapter)

Foreign surgeons: Oscar Imventarza and Octavio Gil (Argentina), Patricio Polanco (USA) and Daniel Figueroa (Mexico).

Leader: Mariano Gimenez (Argentina).

LOCATION

Hospital Adolfo Guevara Velasco -EsSalud. Cusco's main teaching public hospital.

MEDICAL ACTIVITIES

The team plus local surgeons at the hospital performed 9 surgeries of low, medium & high complexity. All surgeries was successful and represented real learning opportunities for the local surgeons.

We also carried out medical rounds with doctors from the hospital, doctors from the surrounding region, including Bolivia, and nursing staff. Every morning we engaged in discussion of clinical cases with the above mentioned groups. In the afternoons we ran an HPB update course which included lectures and extensive case discussions which were extremely well attended.

IMPACT

The outreach mission achieved a high level of interest and recognition. In addition, members of the Mission were interviewed in various radio and television media.

Moreover, the National Director of EsSalud (the network of public hospitals across the whole of Peru), who has the rank of Minister of State, came to Cusco to meet the members of the outreach mission. We discussed possible future educational activities, such as:

- Consider future Outreach Missions to other cities in Perú.
- Provide free advice and consultancy to help the Cusco Hospital achieve liver transplants.
- Offer, at the Universities and Institutions represented by the International members of the Outreach Mission, scholarships, fellowships and observerships to Peruvian doctors to supplement their training.

These Missions represent a powerful learning experience both for the hosts and mission participants. The experience clearly exceeds the usual educational process of arriving in cities and giving classes and lectures. Living and working with local surgeons and other health workers the whole day for a week creates long lasting bonds leading to future cooperation and mutual enrichment.