

# Andean Health & Development

*Quality, sustainable health care for Latin America's underserved*

## Fall 2021: An Update on the Work You Make Possible



### From the Field by Dr. David Gaus

Humans aren't the only ones who get fatigued with age. Over time, medical equipment grows weary as well.

Our two hospitals are equipped with medical equipment we received, in some cases, almost 20 years ago, and it was used before it got to us. The good news is that much of our equipment has long outlived the useful lifespan we had hoped for, thanks to the diligence and talent of our Ecuadorian engineers. Somehow, they continually find creative ways to keep the equipment working.

For example, we received our X-ray machine at Hospital PVM in 1999 from a hospital in Milwaukee. It had been retired (and was already pretty tired), yet it still works! I can't begin to tell you how many Ecuadorians have benefitted, or even had their lives saved, by that old fella. That X-ray machine even stepped up during the pandemic. We used it to diagnose COVID-19 before other diagnostic testing became available in Ecuador.

These used machines constitute much of the driving force behind our ability to make great medical care affordable to so many marginalized communities. If not for this equipment, "self-sustainability" would have been a dream at best. But as Hesburgh Hospital continues to operate near capacity, we have created a real stress on these old machines, and we would like to replace or add to what we have. Some of these items are failing and others are close. We would prefer to make these purchases and replace them now before they fail, and we find ourselves in a situation where we must pay higher prices for essential equipment.

A medical supply facility in the U.S. showed us what we hoped for: quality, used equipment for a fraction of the price we could find in the used Ecuadorian market, and certainly much cheaper than what we would pay for new machines. These are all name brand pieces of equipment like GE, Puritan-Bennet, Drager, Ohmeda, Stryker, and Hill Rom.

We have been frugal with our medical equipment purchases all these years. Even so, we couldn't have done it without your donations, and we will continue to be good stewards of your generosity. Thank you!

David

David Gaus, MD, MPH/TM, is the Founder and CEO of Andean Health & Development.



With your support, we have provided 24 years of quality, sustainable health care for Latin America's underserved.

## AHD's Wish List for Hesburgh Hospital & PVM



As David described in his *From the Field* piece, we plan to upgrade much of our equipment at the two hospitals. We are hoping to use donations from the U.S. to fund these items. In the meantime, in-country financing mechanisms, including payments from government partners and out of pocket payments from patients, will continue to fund day-to-day operations at the facilities.

Our wish list consists of the following investments:

1 laparoscopy tower	\$17,000
1 surgical microscope	\$15,000
2 anesthesia machines	each \$11,000
1 Unimac industrial washer	\$9,000
1 Unimac industrial dryer	\$9,000
2 surgical lamps	each \$8,000
2 operating room tables	each \$5,000
2 neonatal incubators	each \$4,000
20 ICU beds	each \$3,500
10 GE portable monitors	each \$1,600
8 wall mount ICU monitors	each \$1,200
6 defibrillators	each \$1,000
4 ambulance stretchers	each \$800

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**TOTAL EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT \$210,800**



Photos from our two communities, Pedro Vicente Maldonado and Santo Domingo



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## Update on COVID-19 in Ecuador



There is still very significant transmission of COVID-19 in Ecuador. That is based more on hospital bed occupancy than on any epidemiologic testing, which is essentially non-existent. Even hospital bed occupancy is not a publicly known number. Rather it is anecdotal through our relationships with physicians and nurses working at government hospitals.

We also know that the Delta variant is widely transmitted here, likely explaining the ongoing significant hospital bed occupancy.

Vaccines are now finally available here. The most prevalent one is the Chinese Sinovac vaccine. But there is also AstraZeneca and Pfizer to a lesser extent. The government has adopted a strategy of allowing medium to large businesses access to the vaccine after providing the government with a list of names of employees and their family members. The government has also partnered with several public and private universities to improve distribution. These measures have led to the vaccination of approximately 10% of the population.

Interestingly, surveys indicate that only about one-third of Ecuadorians desire to be vaccinated at this point. This likely represents a lack of trust in the formal healthcare system, in addition to reasons given in other countries.

AHD will only begin administering COVID-19 vaccines if asked to do so by the public Ministry of Health. So far that has not occurred, but our staff continues to work on the frontlines of the pandemic to provide care and education to affected families.

## Hospital PVM's Intensive Care Unit: *Fully Funded!*

Thank you to our donors for the outpouring to fund Hospital Pedro Vicente Maldonado's ICU.

It was fully funded within days of the last newsletter! We have purchased all of the equipment and are currently working on the installations. The ICU will be open and accepting patients by the time this newsletter is published.

Thank you again for the generous support!



Photos from the community of Pedro Vicente Maldonado



## 10th Anniversary Bike Ride

This year marks our 10th Anniversary Bike Ride!

31 donors and friends of AHD will leave Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Sep. 12 for either 4 or 6 days of riding through spectacular landscapes. Visit [andeanhealthcycling.org](http://andeanhealthcycling.org) to learn more and support their rides!

### Satellite Community Rides: Join us!

Riders from all over the country are biking on their own between now and Sep. 19 to raise funds and awareness for AHD.

**Check out the new AHCT website for more info and to support the riders' campaigns.**  
**[www.andeanhealthcycling.org](http://www.andeanhealthcycling.org)**

On the new site, you can sign up for the 2021 Satellite Community Ride, post on the forum, learn about AHCT's history, view photos and lots more.

Follow us on FB and Twitter

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**[www.andeanhealth.org](http://www.andeanhealth.org)**  
**[info@andeanhealth.org](mailto:info@andeanhealth.org)**

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**Please donate to train local doctors and provide high quality medical care to Ecuador's underserved.**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ _____.				
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to join the <i>Hesburgh Hospital Society</i> by pledging \$1,000 each year for 3 years. Enclosed is my first gift.				

Checks may be made payable to Andean Health & Development and mailed to P.O. Box 7158, Carol Stream, IL 60197-7158 or made online at [www.andeanhealth.org](http://www.andeanhealth.org).

AHD is a 501(c)(3) non-profit; donations are tax-exempt. Tax ID: 39-1809174. AHD's financials are audited annually by Lulloff, Leben & Taylor, LLC. Kindly ask if your company matches donations. Please also consider bequests and planned gifts by beneficiary designation left to AHD, which can ensure long-term impact. Thank you!

fall 2021

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