

# Andean Health & Development

Quality, sustainable health care for Latin America's underserved

Winter 2021: An Update on the Work You Make Possible



From the Field by John Burchett, Chair of the AHD Board

COVID-19 has forced so many changes in the world, and AHD is no exception. The pandemic significantly changed the patient mix at our hospitals, had a substantial impact on our staff, and generally has exhausted everyone. It also prevented any of us on the AHD Board from visiting the hospitals and staff for the last two years. As we approach AHD's 25th anniversary, Mike Heisler (AHD's Former Board Chair) and I decided that the time was right for a much needed visit, so in early November, we went down for a series of meetings with our team on the ground.

It was clear that while much has very visibly changed at our two hospitals, much has also stayed the same. The biggest change we saw was in the way our hospitals are being used. Outpatient services remain slow



New ICU rooms at Pedro Vicente Maldonado.

(people are either still afraid to come into hospitals, and/or money is tight) so people have delayed all but the most urgent care. But while the waiting rooms are less full, the inpatient services are very busy. We are treating more seriously sick people than ever before. Our critical care (ICU and neonatal ICU) wards are near capacity, and these services are in great demand. This change in demand is one of the reasons we have done a major remodeling of our hospital at Pedro Vicente Maldonado, which now has its own ICU. The Neonatal ICU at Hesburgh Hospital was particularly impressive. When we were there, five precious babies were in the neonatal ICU. There are very few things more moving than seeing these tiny children being treated and given a chance at life that would likely have been impossible without us.

hospitals - both of which are 100% Ecuadorian - and came away inspired by their commitment to their work and their vision for AHD. We talked a lot about the future of the organization, and they were full of energy and ideas. They hope to expand the reach and impact of SaludesA beyond our existing footprint and services. They are particularly interested in expanding to additional communities that are in need of hospitals like ours and in developing programs to train many types of healthcare workers (not just medical residents).

The visit also allowed Mike and me to have deep discussions with David and Diego Herrera, the Director of both of our hospitals, about how AHD can leverage the strengths and expertise we have developed over our first 25 years to further enhance our impact in the years to come.

As Mike and I boarded the plane to return to the states, we both were filled with gratitude and hope for this extraordinary organization, and the amazing and dedicated team on the ground who really are transforming rural healthcare across the region.

John



Hesburgh Hospital staff and AHD Board Members.

Despite these changes, the fundamental work of AHD has stayed the same. David Gaus, Mike Heisler and I met extensively with our teams at the two



Neonatal ICU doctor and nurse in front of a room where a baby is being ventilated.

## In Memory of Advisory Board Member, Paul O'Hop



Paul Albert O'Hop Jr.  
October 13, 1962 - August 26, 2021



We are all saddened by the recent sudden loss of our dear colleague and friend, Paul O'Hop. As a member of our advisory board for 15 years, Paul made very significant contributions to our work in Ecuador.

Paul's intelligent insights and direct manner guided us on many occasions. One that stands out occurred when we were contemplating writing a book about the project. We sent three books—similar in style and content to what we envisioned—to each board member and asked them to comment at the next board meeting in Fr. Hesburgh's office. In Paul's usual style, he sat silently as the rest of us went back and forth about the books and how to proceed. After 30 minutes, Paul simply said, "Great story but average author means average book. Good story with a great author means a great book. It's all in the author." We all stopped, looked at each other, and completely agreed. The search for a writer began.

Paul had the ability to digest large amounts of complicated components and synthesize them into an understandable format that helped guide our decisions. That gift is likely what also made him a highly successful attorney.

More importantly, Paul was a very good friend. You knew when you were talking to Paul, you had his undivided attention. He was completely focused on you at that moment.

Our team in the US and in Ecuador take pause as we remember Paul's many contributions to our work. He is responsible for many of our successes. I, the AHD staff, and our advisory board offer our deepest condolences to his wife Rossana, and his two children, Francesca and Pablo. May he rest in peace.

David Gaus, Founder and CEO of Andean Health & Development



## Congrats and thanks to the AHD Cyclists!



After postponing last year's group ride, the Andean Health Cycling Team (AHCT) hit the ground running with a new bike challenge in 2021. During the end of August and beginning of September nine cyclists rode from Bozeman to Santa Fe. From there 31 cyclists rode through New Mexico, from Santa Fe to Taos.

During the same time as the New Mexico Ride, 45 cyclists were riding throughout their own communities as part of the Satellite Community Ride to raise funds and awareness for AHD.

Thanks to the support of our cyclists' families and friends we were able to exceed our goal and raise more than \$527,000 for Andean Health & Development!

Pictured here are just a few of the riders that took part in the 2021 bike ride.



## Update on COVID-19 in Ecuador

Thanks to collaborations between the public and private sector, both national and internationally, Ecuador expects to have 70% of its population vaccinated by December 2021. This is among the highest coverage rates in South America. The government has also begun vaccinating school age children.

There has been a corresponding decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations during the past two months as well. That said, there was a recent uptick in COVID-19 hospitalizations during the past two weeks.

Our hope is that COVID-19 vaccine coverage results in an ongoing plateau or decrease in weekly hospitalization totals. However, we are prepared to handle more COVID-19 patients should the country experience new outbreaks.

## AHD's Wish List for HH & PVM

As described in our last newsletter, 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. Please consider making a contribution to support our wish list, which consists of the following investments:

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

**TOTAL EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT NEEDED \$92,000**

**Thank you to all that helped purchase the funded items!**

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## AHD Management

**David Gaus, MD, MPH/TM**  
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**Diego Herrera, MD**  
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**Laura Brown**  
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**Alicia Acker**  
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**Please donate to train local doctors and provide high quality medical care to Ecuador's underserved.**

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<b>card type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MC	<input type="checkbox"/> AMEX	<b>card expiration date</b>		
<b>card #</b>					<b>3-digit code</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to make a one-time donation of \$ _____.					
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to join the Hesburgh Hospital Society 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!

winter 2021

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