

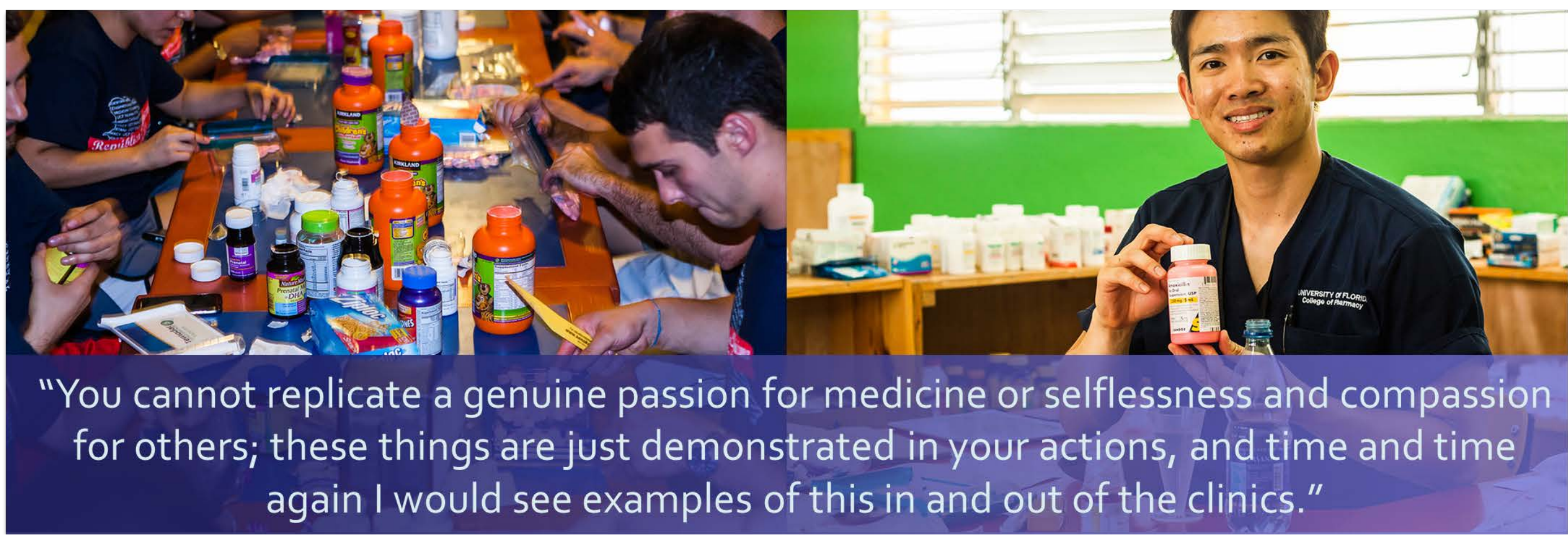
Interdisciplinary Service Learning in the Dominican Republic

Medical Students Providing Across Continents (MedPACt): Faith Villanueva, Denise Feradov, Antoinette Birs, Alexander Lim

Preparation

Medication Collection

MedPACt holds a **large-scale collection drive** for medical supplies and medications by reaching out to local medical practices as well as UCF Colleges of Medicine and Nursing faculty, students, and staff. Medical supplies are also donated from organizations such as the Brother's Brother Foundation.



"You cannot replicate a genuine passion for medicine or selflessness and compassion for others; these things are just demonstrated in your actions, and time and time again I would see examples of this in and out of the clinics."

Service Partners



We partner with **Clean the World**, a non-profit that recycles unused hotel amenities, to provide hygiene products to every patient we see in the DR. Prior to the trip, and our entire service team volunteers with Clean the World to package all of the hygiene packs that we distribute in the DR.

Fundraising

Fundraising is essential to the trip to raise awareness and to help with the increasing cost of medications we bring to the DR. We receive monetary donations from the community, and this year, we partnered with two local Orlando businesses, **Rice & Beans** and **4 Rivers Smokehouse**, to hold two school-wide fundraising lunch events.



Medical Spanish

- Spanish Lunch Hour:** Throughout the year, students are provided with the opportunity to improve their medical Spanish proficiency through a student-organized curriculum complemented by a trained medical translator.

- Standardized Patient Encounters:** Students are given the chance to practice their medical Spanish with trained bilingual standardized patients before the trip, giving them experience in taking a medical history in Spanish and integrating the EHR.



Objectives

The goals of the MedPACt Dominican Republic (DR) trip align with the UCF College of Medicine's longitudinal curricular themes which include **culture, health and society, medical informatics** and **medical nutrition**.

Students were given the opportunity:

- To offer medical care to an underserved population in a unique culture and country.
- To be exposed to a different health care system and adapt to different cultural and societal standards.
- To gain experience with healthcare informatics and technology through the EHR.
- To develop patient education skills by developing educational posters that provided information on basic hygiene, nutrition, and preventative care.
- To learn how to work as a part of an interdisciplinary team consisting of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, a chaplain, engineers, and Dominican community leaders.



"I am amazed by the unifying experience of caring for a patient in bringing together students of different disciplines, languages and cultures. The American and Dominican students worked well together and enjoyed their professional collaboration as much as friendship building. I am moved by the deep faith and courage of the Dominican people in very challenging conditions of daily living."

Community Impact Through Interprofessionalism

Over a week, we visited **5 different communities** in the northeastern DR to provide **health care services**: Mata Larga, Comunidad de Jaya, Cuaba Arriba, La Joya, and Genimo. In 2014, **we served over 570 patients**, all of whom were successfully entered into the electronic health record.

A unique aspect of our project is how American students across multiple disciplines (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, information technology, and engineering) learn and collaborate together alongside local Dominican medical students from la Universidad Católica Nordestana to best provide comprehensive and sustainable patient care.

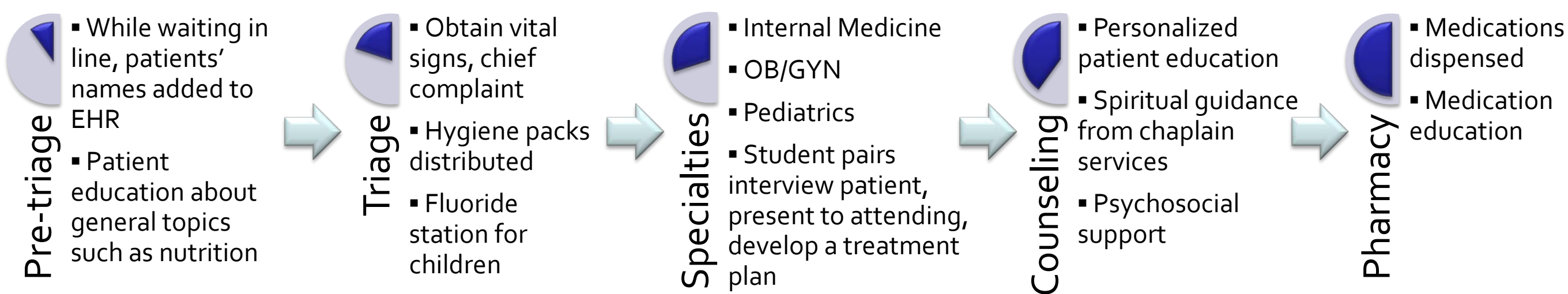
Table 1: Interprofessional student roles in the Dominican Republic, by discipline

Institution	# of students	Role
UCF College of Medicine	20	Medical interviewing, generating differential diagnoses, developing a plan, patient education
UCF College of Nursing	5	Patient-centered care, triage, patient education
UCF Information Technology	1	Electronic health record maintenance
UCF Engineers Without Borders	3	Identification of projects to improve sustainability and local infrastructure based on need and community input
UF College of Pharmacy	3	Medication organization/distribution, patient education
Universidad Católica Nordestana	12	Translation, cultural exchange, cultural competency
Total	44	Comprehensive, collaborative patient care

Clinic Flow

Patients begin in triage where a focused history regarding their chief health concern is taken and vital signs are assessed. Patients who cannot be treated in triage are sent to see an OB/GYN, Pediatrician or Internal Medicine physician/student team within the clinic.

Students then take medical histories, perform physical exams and develop a plan which they present to the physician for final approval. Patient concerns are addressed with a multidisciplinary approach, and treatment is coordinated, including medications, patient education and psychosocial counseling.



Patient Education & Counseling

- An interdisciplinary team of students provides patients with individualized educational sessions on various topics according to need.** Topics include sexual health, domestic abuse, wound care, nutrition and personal hygiene.
- This year, we introduced sessions on **Chikungunya**, a mosquito-borne viral disease that reached epidemic levels in 2014, affecting many of our patients.
- Our team expanded this year to include a certified hospital chaplain to provide spiritual care and psychosocial counseling.

Electronic Health Record (EHR)

One major success of this year's trip was the seamless integration of a portable, customizable electronic health record into 100% of patients seen, allowing students to best provide continuity of care as our medical team serves the same communities each year.

Visions Forward

- Electronic Health Record:** Our future goals with the EMR include further customization towards a more student-friendly format to bear a larger patient intake, and establishment of consistency and continuity of patient information to best track patients long-term.
- Dentistry:** While we were able to provide fluoride treatment and/or toothbrushes to all patients who came through the clinic, dental care remains a major health concern for this patient population: we hope to expand our team to include a faculty/student team from a dentistry school.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Dr. Judith Simms-Cendan for her guidance and support. We would like to thank the Diebel Legacy Fund at Central Florida Foundation for their support through the International Medical Samaritans Program Scholarships. We would also like to thank Dr. Casler, Dr. Baca, Dr. Simmons, Geraldine Martinez, and Chaplain Simmons for their time, service and knowledge, as well as la Universidad Católica Nordestana, UCF College of Nursing, UF College of Pharmacy, and UCF Engineers Without Borders for working with us throughout the trip.