

PAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY MEDICAL MISSIONS

The Pan American Medical Society has rededicated itself to the promotion of high quality medical care in Central and South America. Three Medical Missions have been completed to date. The first Medical Mission took place in March of 2002 when 14 physicians, nurses, physician assistants, technologists, and support staff operated on 54 adults and children in Cuenca, Ecuador. This was coordinated with the Fundacion Fe Salud and Hospital Monte Sinai. Two subsequent missions have been completed, most recently in February of 2005 when a group of 28 physicians and technologist operated and provided medical care in Quito, Ecuador.

The results of these Missions were very successful, both in the individuals who received the benefit of surgery and medical care and in cross-border training and experience shared by the participants. We hope to continue to improve upon these initial Missions and extend participation to other groups providing similar services and establish relationships in different places throughout South and Central American countries.

Of course, these missions are not without cost. The most expensive part of the trip is the personal time: vacation and work missed, time away from family and friends, and overhead of offices maintained while away from home.

Next is the out of pocket expenses incurred: airfare, transportation in and out of country, hotels, meals, and other incidentals necessary when traveling in any country.

Medical supplies, while usually donated, are often purchased at the last minute by mission members or out of Society funds.

When totaled, the actual cost of a week long mission to Latin America is between \$15,000 and \$20,000, exclusive of labor and lost work.

We would respectfully request that you to search your souls (and wallets, purses, or other sources of funds), and offer to support our upcoming Mission to the extent you feel we merit this support. Donations are tax deductible when made to PAMS.

Thanks very much for your support

William Chester, MD
Secretary, Director of Missions