



Anesthesia Educational Experience in Lima, Perú

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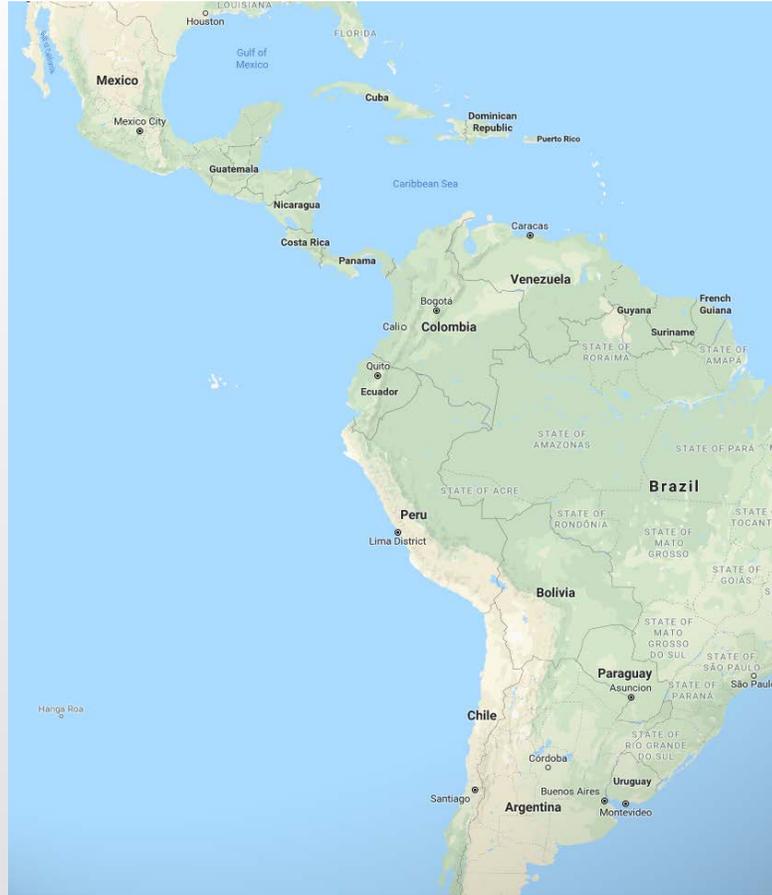
University of Kansas Medical Center, School of Health Professions

Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Class of 2020



Lima, Perú

South America





Learning Objectives

- Gain an understanding of the Peruvian health care system with a focus on anesthesia
- Undergo a Spanish language immersion with an emphasis on medical Spanish
- Experience the culture of Perú
- Present on a topic of interest to anesthesiologists and perioperative nurses



Gardens outside el Museo Larco in Lima, Perú

Background: Peru's Health Care System

- Anesthesia services delivered solely by Physician Anesthesiologists
 - Anesthesiology residency: at least three years (up to five for subspecialty)¹
 - Most work at least 2 jobs due to low pay
- Decentralized health care system administered by five entities²:
 - Ministry of Health (MINSa) – 60%
 - *EsSalud* (similar to Social Security) – 30%
 - Armed Forces (FFAA), National Police (PNP), and private sector – 10%



Two physicians (left) place a central line under general anesthesia while an anesthesiologist (right) holds the mask in place

El Instituto Nacional de Salud del Niño San Borja (INSN)

- Newest children's hospital in Lima – opened in 2014
- Perioperative services include:
 - Neurosurgery
 - Cardiovascular surgery
 - General surgery
 - Burn-related surgery and dressing changes



Dr. Kovac, MD Anesthesiologist from KU with myself – Kayla McClanahan, 2nd year nurse anesthesia student

Anesthesia Educational Experiences

- Shadow experiences in the OR
- Attending rounds with palliative care pain management team
- Presented to anesthesia department on Emotional Intelligence in Anesthesia
- Tours of three different hospitals



From left to right: Dr. Kovac, MD Anesthesiologist; Canaan Coker, 4th year medical student; myself; and Dr. Hansen, MD Anesthesiologist

Anesthesia Challenges in Peru

- Difficulty attracting and retaining anesthesiologists
- Very low pay – anesthesiologists take two or more jobs at different hospitals, including a commute between hospitals in gridlock traffic
- Anesthesia training includes one year of mandatory service in a rural area – 365 days of 12 hour shifts with no days off



Anesthesiologists at INSN posing with KU students and faculty after a well-received presentation on cranial vault surgery from Dr. Jennifer Hansen, MD Anesthesiologist

Anesthesia Challenges in Peru

- Systemic challenges impede delivery of care to impoverished Peruvians
- A law prevents anesthesiologists from working at two different government-run hospitals that serve low-income Peruvians
- However, they still need the second job for the income, so they take a second job at a private hospital that serves higher-income Peruvians with private insurance



Hospital leaders in Peru emphasize that systemic issues (rather than financial concerns) are the most salient challenges in Peruvian health care. Peru has one of the best performing economies in Latin America.³

Cultural Experiences

- Homestay with a local Peruvian family
- Spanish language immersion
- Sampling the incredible variety of Peruvian cuisine
- Tour of el Museo Larco, a Peruvian pre-Colombian art museum
- Exploring Miraflores (a suburb of Lima) on foot and by taxi



A beautiful park in Miraflores, Lima, Perú. The park was full of flowers, walkways, and friendly wild cats



References

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2. World Health Organization. Global Health Workforce Alliance: Peru. 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/workforcealliance/countries/per/en/>
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