Francisco Cartujano came from Mexico to the USA to do his social service year at JUNTOS: Center for Advancing Latino Health, under the mentorship of Dr. Ana Paula Cupertino. Francisco’s activities included working on research projects addressing smoking cessation among Latinos in the state of Kansas. The smoking cessation projects implemented in JUNTOS, utilize text-messaging to help Latino smokers quit successfully. Francisco contributed by culturally and linguistically adapting a text-message library to prompt smoking cessation. He also worked as a quit coach, replying the text-messages participants sent to the program, and helped with data management.

Tobacco is a large and growing problem in Mexico with about 11 million adult smokers. Due to very limited smoking cessation resources, in 2015, JUNTOS began a partnership with two of the most prestigious Mexican institutions: National Institute of Public Health and National Autonomous University of Mexico. These institutions are responsible for developing and implementing nationwide tobacco control efforts and the very first smoking cessation text-message program in Mexico.

Francisco was invited to join the research team in Mexico to implement what he learned working at JUNTOS. “I was really honored when I was invited to join the research team in Mexico. It is really exciting to know that I will be able to apply everything I learned during my time as an International Medical Student at JUNTOS in my home country.”

Dr. Archie A. Heddings, Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, established an award aimed to encourage a cross-cultural and educational short-term experience for orthopedic trauma physicians and residents from Romania.

KUMC physicians and residents in orthopedic trauma will in turn go to Romania and have a similar experience. The first Romanian Award Recipients were Dr. Claudia Malanca, Dr. Radu-loan Malanca, and Dr. Radu Malanca. While here, July 16-August 1, 2016, the doctors observed in Orthopedic Surgery and attended meetings and seminars.

The world’s first medical school was Schola Medica Salernitana in Salerno, Italy. It was founded around the year 950.