



SUMMER 2014

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PROVIDERS AND MENTORS

Jean Burton, NP
Susan Cronin, RN (*not pictured*)
Carol Eckert, MD
Michelle Fitzgerald, NP (*not pictured*)
Gabe Garcia, RN
Dave Hotstream, RN
Whitney Lutz, PNP
Rolinda Mitchell, RN, ATC
James Seely, MD
Lois Tiedeken, NP
Daniel Wendel, RN

INTERPRETERS

Halla Bates
Natasha Jimenez (*not pictured*)
Cora Lubchenco
David Olivares
Emily Summitt
Sabrina Tobarran

SUPPORT

Emmett Huber (*not pictured*)
Sarah LeRoy
Kalianna Lutz
Patricia McLaughlin (*not pictured*)
Danielle Lannuccillo Owenby (*not pictured*)
Sophia Rokas (*not pictured*)

FACULTY AND TRIP STAFF

Jean Burton, NP - Trip Leader
Patricia Ingwersen - Safety Officer
Whitney Lutz, PNP - Trip Leader
David Olivares - Assistant Safety Officer
Lois Tiedeken, NP - Trip Leader
Daniel Wendel, RN - Equipment Manager



VOLUNTEERS

Carol Eckert, MD



Carol Eckert has been a rural family doctor for a community health center in central Maine for over 30 years. She trained at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY. Her special interests are women's health, maternal-child issues, occupational and environmental health and toxicology. She also has a public health degree and is interested in health access and organization. Recently she semiretired from being a PCP and works for Healthreach Community Health Centers as a per diem and also serves as medical director for a health center ACO (a cost and quality Medicare project).

She learned about PRHDR from Cindy Robertson MD, with whom she worked in the past, and who is the PRHDR medical director. Carol has gone on the Dominican Republic nursing outreach 5 times from 2004 until this her 6th trip. In the past she went with her son Sam, previously a USM student who subsequently served in the Peace Corps after exposure to that program on this trip. She really enjoys teaching nurses/ NP's, especially gyn skills, and helping out in a different cultural setting, contrasting the "hill villages" of the DR to rural health in Maine.

Gabe Garcia, RN



Hello! My name is Gabe and I've been a nurse for 5 years. I first learned about PRHDR through a coworker and have been involved with the group every summer. My nursing background includes abdominal transplant, dialysis, wound care, and critical care.

Dave Hotstream, RN



Dave first joined the PRHDR mission as an interpreter while living in the Dominican Republic as a Peace Corps volunteer, doing health promotion projects on the Haitian border. He was so inspired by the PRHDR volunteers and students that after returning to the United States, he went to nursing school in New Orleans and finally became an RN himself in 2007, while returning to both the Dominican Republic and Haiti numerous times (he's actually lost count) with the mission. Dave looks forward to helping new students develop their assessment skills and especially to introducing them to Dominican culture.

Rolinda Mitchell, RN, ATC



Rolinda graduated from the University of Southern Maine in December '09. She worked full time from June 2010-August 2012 as an Athletic Trainer and continues now as a per diem AT. In September 2012, she enrolled in a Direct-Entry Nurse Practitioner program at MGH IHP, successfully completing her generalist coursework to achieve R.N licensure in March 2014.

Her first trip with PRHDR was in January 2010 when she was a student at USM. Due to her compassion for others and from falling in love with the culture and people of the Dominican Republic, she continues to return. This will be her fifth trip, fourth as a volunteer.

Jim Seely, MD



Jim is a family doc currently working at Fair Haven Community Health Center in New Haven, Connecticut. This is his second trip with this group and he did complete and thoroughly enjoyed three previous medical missions in 2012 and 2103 in the same region of the DR. He is eager to return to the area and looking forward to lodging in the mountains instead of at an all-inclusive resort on the beach.

After majoring in Physics at Swarthmore College (with a minor in Ultimate Frisbee, and a concentration in Hacky Sack), Jim then spent time as a brigadista in Nicaragua and with American Friends Service Committee in Mexico doing community development work before teaching for 4 years and finally ending up in medical school at SUNY Stony Brook.

Jim enjoys working as part of group, teaching and empowering and learning from others along the way. He is the proud father of Sophia and Oscar, who will hopefully accompany him on future trips.

Halla Bates



Hallie, a rising senior at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, is an anthropology major and spanish minor also pursuing the pre-health track. In the future, she hopes to combine her interests and work as a medical anthropologist in spanish-speaking countries. This will be her first time volunteering with PRHDR.

Cora Lubchenco



Cora is an undergraduate student at Colorado College studying Sociology and Spanish with a premed track. She has travelled to Mexico and Italy as part of academic programs, and hopes one day to graduate from medical school, working in a bilingual medical setting. Summer 2014 marks her first trip with PRHDR, and hopefully not the last of many abroad volunteer opportunities!

Emily Summitt



Hola! I am Emily Summitt from Denton, Texas. This summer will be my fourth trip as in interpreter/intake person. I am married with 4 kids -- two boys adopted from Russia and 2 girls adopted from China. I work part-time for the local school district as an English as a Second Language teacher for adults. I really enjoy traveling and learning about other people and countries. I love seeing some of the same volunteers and same villagers year after year.

Sabrina Tobarran



Sabrina, a graduate from the College of the Holy Cross studied Biology/Pre-Medicine and took two years of Spanish including Medical Spanish. She is currently working in a Microbiology Laboratory testing for endotoxins in pharmaceutical drugs. This will be her first time volunteering in the Dominican Republic and she is very excited to make a positive difference in their lives.

Sarah LeRoy



Sarah, a current SMCC student, hopes to get her bachelors degree in Psychology at USM and then continue to become a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner. She currently works at Oceanview at Falmouth as an aide, providing elderly folk with one on one care. She has traveled to Australia, Western Europe and Costa Rica, but this will be her first time in the Dominican Republic. Although she is only 19 years old, she has plans to continue her volunteer services throughout the rest of her life.

Kalianna Lutz



Kalianna is a Freshman at Gardiner Area High School. Kali is looking at a career path of Veterinarian Assistant, or Nursing following in the steps of her Grandmother and Aunt. Kali has listened to her Grandmother talk about the experiences of her trips with the Dominican Republic Health care missions and now Kali is excited to have this opportunity for herself. Kali has been saving up on stickers and balloons to take on the trip with her to share with all the children she interacts with while on this trip.



FACULTY AND TRIP STAFF

Jean Burton, NP – Team Leader, Faculty



I first attended the program in 1997. It was an accelerated, condensed and improved version of my Peace Corps Micronesia adventure, 10 years earlier. I have since returned in roles of student, faculty, volunteer provider, and team leader, five times with my daughter Abby, who is interested in international health and medical interpreting. I currently work as a psychiatric NP in Portland. The blend of students and volunteer providers is always inspiring and refreshing. I look forward to seeing old friends and making new friends on each mission.

Patricia Hennessey – Safety Officer



Patricia Hennessey is a Hispanic Studies Major at The University of Southern Maine. She is a native Mainer who currently works and lives in Portland.

Patricia spent her junior year of high school as a Rotary exchange student Obera-Misiones, Argentina. She attended classes at Armadeo Bonapland Nacional. Patty returned home and graduated high school in 2001. From 2002-2004 Patricia studied French at L'ecole Migros in Geneva, Switzerland and worked as a live-in nanny for three young children. She has studied in Spain at Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, as well as at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso in Chile. She has traveled extensively throughout South and Central America.

Patty first joined Partners as a student interpreter in January 2008. As head of the fund-raising committee and a Member of the Board of Directors for PRHDR, Patty will continue to involve her local community in future PRHDR efforts. She is passionate about supporting efforts which promote community health on a global level.

Whitney Lutz, PNP – Team Leader, Faculty



Whitney Lutz is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with over 25 yrs. experience working with children in hospitals and primary care settings. She taught at the University of Southern Maine for 5 yrs, participated in multiple Dominican Republic trips and continues to help lead trips to the DR focusing on pediatric nursing. “Nursing opens so many doors in the international arena and helping those in greatest need is why I went into this profession.” Whitney has participated in medical trips to Tanzania, Mexico, Peru, and recently Haiti. Currently, she works full time in private practice at Waterville Pediatrics in Maine. “This international service learning program is so vital, not only to the Dominicans we serve, but to the nursing students immersion experience into providing primary healthcare in a developing country. Once you experience it, you can’t help but come back again and again!”

David Olivares – Assistant Safety Officer



David (pictured left) first joined PRHDR as an interpreter on the winter 2011 trip. David is originally from Washington State where he attended and graduated from the University of Idaho in 2010. David studied abroad in Chile in 2009. Upon going on the first PRHDR trip as a volunteer interpreter, he was compelled to go to nursing school. David is a recent graduate of the University of Southern Maine with a degree in nursing. PRHDR has been a significant influence on David's life and career path and he looks forward to returning to the Dominican Republic this summer.

Lois Tiedeken, NP – Team Leader, Faculty



Lois is an adult nurse practitioner, working in Internal Medicine in Portland with a focus on Diabetes, Care Management, and Women's Health. She first traveled to the Dominican Republic with USM when she was a graduate student at Simmons College in 1997. Lois is pleased to be part of the adjunct faculty, enjoying her increased interaction with students as well as more involvement with community leaders. She is proud to have been part of this unique program for over 13 years.

Lois is grateful for her family and friends who join with her to enjoy boating, gardening, yoga, shelling, baseball, dancing, the Patriots and the comfort of her home on Peaks Island.

Daniel Wendel, RN – Equipment Manager



Daniel, a graduate of University of So Maine, is working as an RN with the Visiting Nurses Association at Home, Health and Hospice. He went to nursing school with an interest in public health and a hope to be able to work internationally as a nurse in developing countries. He has been to Kenya once and hopes to return. Dan joined the Dominican Republic health care mission in 2006 and now goes every 6 months, thus has been on this trip many times. He has served on the PRHDR Board for several years.