Global Health Elective Profile: Dr. Emily Bartlett; Guatemala

Dr. Emily Bartlett is a fourth-year resident on the UW EM Population Health Pathway with interest in international emergency medicine (EM). Dr. Bartlett recently traveled to Guatemala for her Global Health Elective to work with the residency at the Instituto Guatemalteco de Seguridad Social (IGSS) in Guatemala City.

Dr. Bartlett chose Guatemala because the country is undergoing an epidemiological transition with an increasing burden of public health issues. The country lacked formal EM training until two EM residencies were established in 2019 which presented Dr. Bartlett with a unique opportunity to join the development of EM as a specialty in the country. Having previously lived in Guatemala and being certified as a bilingual English-Spanish healthcare provider, this project was a perfect fit.

Dr. Bartlett wanted to learn about the current health care system in Guatemala and understand the educational and professional development needs of EM physicians there as the specialty continues to develop. Her goal was to help implement the curriculum developed for the new EM residency and provide feedback to guide future decisions while also serving as a clinical educator and mentor for the residents.

Dr. Bartlett implemented several new initiatives for the residency: the first journal club session, the first case conference discussion, and the first hands-on ACLS simulation case. For the journal club and case conference, EM faculty from the US, Costa Rica, and Chile were able to join via teleconference. Additionally, Dr. Bartlett delivered lecture content and held ultrasound workshops for the residents using a loaner ultrasound provided by SonoSite.

The ability to provide hands-on practice and mentorship on ultrasound use provides a foundation for the residents to understand the utility of ultrasound. Dr. Bartlett also spent time in a clinical observership role in the ED at the residency’s main hospital which helped her understand the current processes for emergency care and resources available within the health care system.

This trip was very meaningful for Dr. Bartlett. She recalls the impact it had on her: “I was struck by how motivated, intelligent and engaged the current EM residents are.” She continues: “this trip also impressed upon me the importance and value of medical education as a component of strengthening health systems and capacity-building in global health.” (See next page for pictures)
Residency group photo after our last conference session together.

Airway Procedure Lab

Residents discussing point-of-care ultrasound findings

Journal club with international faculty from US, Costa Rica, and Chile joining by teleconference.
Case conference with international faculty from US, Costa Rica, Chile joining by teleconference.