



International Medical Spanish Elective

Our elective provides a broad learning experience, combining great opportunities to learn from:

- **Clinical Instruction:** Volunteers work alongside our staff during their service in the clinic until they are oriented at which time they will work independently with our staff available for consultation. Depending on the education and skill level, medical volunteers will be allowed to take an active role in patient assessment and care. Participants are actively involved in evaluating and managing the care of our patients.
- **Spanish Language Immersion Opportunity:** Our employees speak Spanish and most are bilingual. It is the responsibility of the volunteer to let the staff know their desire to be spoken to in Spanish in order to increase their proficiency in the language. Approximately 80% of our patients are Spanish speaking only. We suggest that our volunteers speak only in Spanish as much as possible. There are also additional immersion opportunities throughout the island.

Participants are asked to purchase the book **"Relatively Painless Medical Spanish"** (about \$20 on Amazon). It is expected that one has an elementary understanding of Spanish and can converse some with others. The text is a workbook which one will be expected to complete 6-10 pages per day outside clinic hours. Our staff can assist with interpretation and questions. It is expected that at the end of the rotation one will have the ability to complete a medical history in Spanish. Please note that all is dependent on your assertiveness in learning and usage. Please ask if you need further information or help. This does not include an immersion stay with a Spanish family. Your housing will be with other volunteers.

Program Objectives:

- Sharpening clinical exam and history taking skills.
- Acquiring and improving upon diagnostic and treatment expertise in a resource-poor environment.
- To become proficient in Spanish, specifically as it pertains to patient communication and the medical H & P.
- Learning about a new culture and how health care extends beyond the exam room.

The cost for this elective is included in the required minimum donation of \$750.