



# IMU NEWSLETTER



## QUICK UPDATES

InterAmerican Medical University

### SUMMER 2006

#### U.S. OFFICE

The U.S. Office of USA Heart expands into 5 offices, and hires a new research/design employee.

### FALL 2006

#### BELIZE

IMU and BMC staff welcome new professor Dr. Samos to the school for the fall trimester. He will also assist in the clinic when needed.

### FALL 2006

#### U.S. OFFICE

U.S. office prepares and sends off a shipment to Belize with much needed supplies, vehicles and equipment.

### WINTER 2007

#### BELIZE

Shipment from U.S. office arrives! Also we welcome Dr. Gonzales and Dr. Novelo, who will both be joining the IMU staff as professors. Dr. Gonzales is also joining BMC as one of the primary care physicians.

## Washington Firm Equips Belizian Clinic

### G.I. Lab at Bethesda Medical Centre

Last spring at Bethesda Medical Centre in Corozal Town, Belize, a donation of over \$55,000 in medical equipment was made by the Parks Medical Corporation through the International Heart Foundation to open the doors on a new Gastrointestinal Laboratory unit at the clinic. The Parks Medical Corporation donated video systems, endoscopes, and any additional equipment the clinic may need to offer gastroenterology services.

The lab was dedicated to the late Donna Hanson of Spokane, Washington, Bishop's secretary for social ministries and director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Spokane. The GI lab now bears the name of Donna Hanson and features a plaque with Hanson's picture and story on it.

The BMC's most sincere thanks and gratitude goes to the Parks Medical Corporation for such a generous donation to the clinic.

#### Lifeline to Health

### Ambulance Update

The International Heart Foundation is working with Spokane Rotary on

completing and transporting an ambulance to Belize. Medical students of InterAmerican Medical University in Corozal Town, Belize will use the vehicle as a mobile clinic to reach the isolated indigenous peoples of Belize, who otherwise have no access to medical attention.

EMT services in northern Belize have traditionally been in short supply. The Corozal District, which has a population in excess of 30,000 people, could greatly benefit from access to an ambulance.

The IMU ambulance has been outfitted with major modifications to the chassis and suspension, cooling for the engine, adequate lighting, state of the art medical equipment and a GPS satellite communication system. These modifications will allow Bethesda Medical Centre to utilize the ambulance on virtually any road in any part of Belize.

Not only will the ambulance provide a valuable service to the people of Belize, but students from the associated InterAmerican Medical University will have an opportunity to work in these impoverished areas, providing them with





*Inside the ambulance (above)*

a valuable learning experience, and offering services to patients who are not able to reach a bus line or are otherwise unable to make the long journey to a medical clinic.

The ambulance is currently waiting for standard Emergency Response Equipment and medical supplies. As soon as the ambulance is appropriately outfitted, it will be transported to Belize for immediate use.

**New Professors Teaching at IMU**

In the last year three new professors were welcomed to IMU and BMC: Jose Enrique Samos M.D., George Gonzalez Campbell, M.D., and Kent Novelo, M.D.

Dr. Samos received a Medical Doctorate degree from Universidad Autónoma de Queretaro. He practiced pediatrics and general medicine at San Ignacio Community Hospital for six years before moving to Corozal Community Hospital, Corozal Town, Belize. Dr. Samos has completed extensive continuing education in HIV/AIDS care, rheumatology, hematology, and pediatric cardiopulmonary resuscitation. He is fluent in both English and Spanish.

Dr. Gonzalez received his Medical Doctor degree from Instituto Superior de Ciencias Medicas de La Habana in Cuba and completed a residency in General Integral Medicine. He received his diploma in Sexual Therapy and Sexual Orientation from the National Center of Sexual Education in Havana, Cuba.

Since 1992, he has served as a medical instructor for courses in obstetrics and gynecology, biochemistry, dermatologic pathology, sexual education, and emergency medical care. In addition, Dr. Gonzalez has acted as a research coordinator for studies involving hepatic toxicity, diabetes mellitus, and low birth

weight. He currently practices general medicine at Bethesda Medical Centre in Corozal Town, Belize.

Dr. Novelo received his Medical Doctor degree from Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras in Honduras, Central America, and his Pediatrician Specialist degree at Escuela Militar de Graduados de Sanidad, Universidad del Ejercito Y Fuerza Aerea in Mexico. He has participated in trauma and disaster management seminars, courses on pediatric cancers, and workshops helping physicians increase the availability of medical care to mothers and babies. He is a published author and his professional memberships include the Honduran College of Physicians and the Belize Medical and Dental Association. Dr. Novelo is currently Head of Pediatrics at Northern Regional Hospital in Orange Walk Town, Belize, and he practices pediatrics at Northern Medical Specialty Plaza.

IMU is pleased to announce that the new doctors will be staying with IMU throughout the year, and we know that their stay will be appreciated by all the staff and students.

**CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

**IN BETHESDA MEDICAL**

“It’s a lot easier for me to remember the things that I’ve seen in the clinic, and I can relate those to the questions that are on the board. So, it’s a lot easier for me to recall information that way.”

- Cory Boone, IMU student



*Inside the clinic (above)*

For more information on InterAmerican Medical University, to view a video of the school and Belize, or to download an application online, please visit our website:

[WWW.INTERAMERICANMED.NET](http://WWW.INTERAMERICANMED.NET)

*IMU campus (below)*

