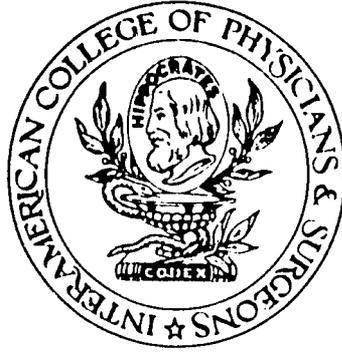


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INTERAMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

**Briefing on USAID/ICPS Physicians' Exchange Program
"Apreton de Manos Curativas"**

for

**USAID Health, Population and Nutrition Officers
Latin America and Caribbean Bureau**

**February 14, 1989
Annapolis, Maryland**

INTERAMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

LEGAL STATUS:

The Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons(ICPS) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, non-governmental organization incorporated in the District of Columbia as an educational, charitable, medical corporation. Articles of Incorporation were filed on February 23, 1979.

GOVERNANCE OF THE CORPORATION:

ICPS is an independent organization accountable to its governing body, the Board of Regents, consisting of eight members, presided over by a Chairman.

PURPOSE:

To promote greater communication and understanding among Hispanic physicians practicing in the U.S. and Latin America.

To develop a professional communication network, providing mutual information, cooperation and support, to all Hispanic physicians and health institutions, government agencies and U.S. Hispanic medical societies in order to enhance economic growth, health care and cooperation throughout the Americas.

To identify health issues facing Hispanic communities in the U.S. and promote equitable policy development.

To stimulate new cooperative health ventures, and focus new interest in existing programs that serve the above-mentioned purposes.

FELLOWSHIPS:

Fellowships in the College are available to distinguished physicians practicing in the United States, Latin America and Spain. Some distinguished College Fellows include: Severo Ochoa, M.D., Nobel Prize in Medicine (1959); Cesar Milstein, M.D., Nobel Prize in Medicine (1984); Jaime Lusinchi, M.D., President of the Republic of Venezuela; Major General Enrique Mendez, Jr., M.D., Dean of the School of Medicine, Ponce, Puerto Rico.

PUBLICATIONS:

MEDICO Interamericano is the official publication of the College. It is the only Spanish-language medical journal in the U.S., and is distributed on a monthly basis, free of charge, to over 24,000 Hispanic physicians practicing in the U.S and Puerto Rico.

Buena Salud, a health-oriented magazine in Spanish, was launched by ICPS in 1987 and is aimed at the general Hispanic population of the U.S. This publication is filling a void in the area of health information available to Hispanics.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS:

Medical Congress: Professionals from all areas of health are invited to participate annually in this Congress. This event provides participants with an opportunity to present scientific papers, programs and projects as well as to examine health issues affecting Hispanic communities and to develop recommendations for Hispanic health policy. The Congress serves as a vehicle for all Hispanic health professionals to come together.

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USAID/ICPS Physicians' Exchange Program, "Apreton de Manos Curativas":

Purpose:

In its efforts to build a bridge of technical knowledge and human understanding, in September of 1985, the Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons (ICPS), in cooperation with the Agency for International Development (AID), Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Health and Nutrition Division, created a physician-to-physician exchange program to serve the inter-American medical community entitled "Apreton de Manos Curativas".

The purpose of the USAID/ICPS Cooperative Agreement is to design and implement a medical technology exchange program between members of ICPS practicing primary care medicine in the U.S. and physicians in Latin America.

ICPS is uniquely prepared to facilitate technical training exchanges both in the U.S. and Latin America because its membership is characterized by bilingual individuals who are aware of the culture, customs and behavior of the peoples of the Americas.

Many ICPS members are directly involved in the training of medical students and the delivery of primary care services to underserved populations in the U.S. This is why some of the training for the exchange physicians takes place in the states with the largest Hispanic populations.

ICPS views the Physicians' Exchange Program as an opportunity to develop health care leadership in the U.S. and in Latin American as a hemispheric resource.

Funding:

The Agency for International Development gave funding to ICPS, to develop and implement this four year (1985 - 1989) pilot physicians' exchange program called, "Apreton de Manos Curativas."

PHASE I:

Phase I of the Project is designed to bring exchange physicians from Latin America for short term training in the U.S. (from two to six weeks), and includes the following activities:

- o The placement of Latin American physicians with Spanish-speaking primary care practitioners in rural and urban areas, to observe and participate, where possible, in the delivery of medical services.
- o The design and conduct of informal/formal structured training programs supervised by ICPS physician preceptors. Both clinical and non-clinical skills are incorporated into the preceptorship program which includes the following specialties: Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Emergency Medicine, Ophthalmology, Rehabilitation Medicine, Hospital Administration and Public Health.
- o Placement of physicians in innovative service delivery environments wherever possible.

Since 1986, "Apreton de Manos Curativas" has brought thirty physicians, from ten Latin American countries (Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia) to train in the following specialties: Family Medicine, Hospital Administration, Rehabilitation Medicine, Rehabilitation Administration, Public Health Administration, HMO Management, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics.

These physicians have trained at many outstanding medical institutions and universities throughout the U.S. such as: the Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center (NY), North Shore Hospital - a teaching center of Cornell University Medical College (NY), the University of Pennsylvania Medical School (PA), Ohio State University (OH), the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center (MD), the Washington Hospital Center (DC), Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Center (CA) and Miami Children's Hospital (FL).

Costs Covered by Scholarship:

The short-term scholarships offered include the following:

1. Round Trip Airfare (coach): from country of origin
2. Travel Within the U.S. and Puerto Rico: to cities involved in the training plan
3. Per Diem/Monthly Allowance: to cover housing accommodations, food, in-city transportation and incidentals.
4. Book Allowance: \$60
5. Shipment of Books: books will be shipped to the trainee's home country at the end of his/her training period, maximum of 60 lbs.
6. Health Insurance and Accident Coverage: \$40 per month for the duration of the training. Medical exam required prior to acceptance. No previously existing medical conditions will be covered. Emergency dental care is covered.

Certificates:

Each participant will receive a certificate upon completion of the training and a letter of certification from ICPS

How to Apply for a USAID/ICPS Scholarship:

Physicians in Latin America, interested in applying for a scholarship, may do so by contacting the AID Mission at the American Embassy in their country, and inquiring about the USAID/ICPS physicians' exchange program "Aprenon de Manos Curativas"

PHASE II:

Phase II of the project provides the funds to send U.S. physicians (mostly Hispanic) to Latin America and the Caribbean to give short-term technical assistance. These physicians have served as faculty, lecturers and consultants at the request of former Project trainees, preceptors, AID Missions in Latin America, universities and medical institutions. The request for this type of assistance must come from the AID Mission at the American Embassy in the country in question.

By mid 1989, the Project will have provided forty-eight weeks of technical assistance to the following countries: Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Chile.

Volunteerism:

"Aprenon de Manos Curativas" is made possible through the volunteer efforts of a network of mostly Spanish-speaking physicians throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. These preceptors freely share their time, knowledge and experience with the exchange physicians so that when these trainees return home they can translate/adapt the knowledge and

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experience that they have gained during their training in the United States and apply it to their national/local primary health care needs.

For many Hispanic physicians, living in the U.S., this project offers an opportunity to contribute, in a personal way, to the growth and development of the Latin American health care delivery system.

For Further Information:

If you would like additional information or would like to participate as a preceptor in the U.S. or would like to provide technical assistance in Latin America, please write or call:

Luis Patiño
Director
ICPS: Physicians Exchange Programs
515 22nd St., N.W. Suite 60
Washington, D.C. 20037
(202) 223-3607

National Hispanic Youth Initiative in Health and Policy Development: This yearly program has been designed to enhance the awareness of Hispanic youth on national and international health and scientific research, foreign policy, and the role and impact of the federal government in health policy development. The goals of the program are to prepare, motivate and encourage young Hispanics to actively pursue a career in medicine or the health sciences by 1) Providing a broad perspective on the health needs of the Hispanic communities; 2) Introducing young Hispanics to national and international health and scientific organizations and their role in health care delivery; 3) Providing nationally and internationally known Hispanic role models; 4) Introducing young Hispanics to Congress and the legislative process; 5) Meeting with congressional leaders who impact on domestic and foreign health policy decisions. In 1988, twenty-seven Hispanic high school students were selected, nationwide, to participate. They were chosen because of their academic excellence and their commitment to education and social responsibility. In 1988, this program was supported by an educational grant from the Upjohn Company, Medical Sciences Liaison. U.S. Hispanic Medical Associations/Societies provided transportation scholarships.

Meetings of the Presidents of U.S. Hispanic Medical Associations: Meetings of the Presidents of U.S. Hispanic Medical Associations are held three times each year. ICPS initiated these meetings for the following purposes: 1) To develop a communications network among U.S. Hispanic medical associations; 2) To encourage active involvement of participants in the democratic process of health care policy making and delivery and 3) To develop the means of emphasizing the need to focus and work actively on national health policy issues. ICPS acts as a liaison between these associations and other national and international medical organizations. These meetings have been supported by an educational grant from the Upjohn Company, Medical Sciences Liaison.

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