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**Objective:**

Upon completion of the lecture, attendees should be better prepared to:

- Recognize surgical mission trips can be accredited by the ACGME, and cases performed during these trips can be counted in a resident's case logs

**Abstract:**

**Introduction:** Through the sister-cities program and a series of interpersonal connections, the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center has worked closely with the Hospital De Los Niños in Cochabamba, Bolivia for over ten years. During this time, our department has provided much needed burn care to children of all ages with severe burn deformities. Although the mission itself has remained unchanged, the implementation of care has undergone a shift in focus to provide better patient care and an improved global health experience for the residents and attending surgeons that are able to attend the trip.

**Goal:** Our goal is to provide a description of our current Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited mission trip in the context of the lessons learned during the longstanding relationship between two single centers. In describing the specifics of patient acquisition, surgical planning, and patient follow up, we can pass along the lessons we have learned to improve patient safety. By involving resident physicians in the decision making aspects of these mission trips, surgical trainees gain a unique experience and perspective in global health. In hopes of spreading this unique experience, we will also describe the requirements of ACGME accreditation of mission trips.

**Overview:** Over the past decade of mission trips, two residents per year have attended this week long mission. After one day of clinic visits in which patients are triaged, surgeries are performed throughout the week on triaged patients as well as patients that come to be evaluated daily. Based on ACGME accreditation principles, standardization has been used in patient evaluation, surgical planning, and post-operative care. Cases range from burn scar contractures of extremities to severe facial deformities, and even congenital deformities.

**Discussion:** Mission experiences are popular amongst residents and residency programs alike to provide unique, fulfilling experience and exposure to a wide range of defects not typically encountered in standard clinical practice. While many surgical residents aspire to participate in a mission experience, few gain insight into an effective manner in which to provide care in this setting. By fostering a close relationship between two centers, our program has been able to standardize many

aspects of the patient care experience, allowing us to more effectively plan procedures, provide appropriate follow up, and follow our patients' long term, and provide a safe surgical experience for a very vulnerable patient population. It is our hope that by describing these experiences to like-minded individuals, more opportunities can arise for providers and patients in this much needed area of global health.

**References and Resources:**

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**Disclosure:**

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