CFHI Tarija!

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Internship: CFHI Bolivia
Country/ State: Tarija, Bolivia
Work and Locations

- The internship took place over the course of 8 weeks.
- Every two weeks we had a new rotation at a different clinic or hospital location:
  - Rotation one: Rural Health Clinic
  - Rotation two: Chagas Clinic
  - Rotation three: Hospital Rotation (burn unit, surgery, etc.)
  - Rotation four: Urban Clinic
- We also volunteered at a children center for two hours after eating lunch with our host families.
Working in Tarija
Rewarding Aspects of the Program

- Working with Doctors and Children
  - The first was working at the clinics and with doctors from the country
  - The second was working with children at Libélula (the children's center)

- Living and Working in another language
  - Building new people skills
  - Figuring out what matters in a conversation with patients

- Making new friends!
Impact on CFHI

- Our rotation experience provided insights on improving program productivity
  - The program began to focus more on ways we can both help patients and gain proper work experience

- Through our work at the children's center we augmented the staff's ability to teach and nurture the children
Exploring the Land
Impact on Academic Choices and Career Plans

- Working in Tarija definitely strengthened my convictions on becoming a doctor.
- My time working in a burn unit also made me realize that there is a lot of work to be done within trauma medicine that I want to be a part of.
- I used to want to focus solely on pre-medical studies, but now I realize that studying global health is also essential to becoming an informed physician.
Cultural Awareness and Final Thoughts

- Even though there was a fair amount of culture shock in Tarija, by the end of the program I had built personal ties to friends and my host family living in the country.

- Because of Bolivia's central location, I also gained insight into the cultural dynamics of South America as a whole.