



Fall 2013

Bolivia Update

A Tu Lado recently returned from leading our third prehospital course in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Hosted by the medical school of the Universidad Mayor de San Simón (UMSS), the course marked an important step in building prehospital training into the university curricula.

We graduated 14 students. Among them were the director and first aid instructor for the flight attendants of the national airline, and an ambulance driver who, having graduated our course, plans to apply to work in direct patient care. Other students included doctors, nurses, police, and firefighters.

Their feedback indicated that this was our most effective course yet: graduates rated their satisfaction as 3.9 of 4.0, and the certificate's external validity as 3.8 of 4.0. Many also expressed how the training would aid their professional careers.

We're confident that the progress we've made with our educational model will pave the way for our partners to continue to grow these programs.

Transition

We're excited to have made an important step toward establishing a prehospital program in the UMSS medical school. After seeing A Tu Lado's training, the Director of Academic Planning shared plans to open a prehospital program dedicated to simulation-based training like A Tu Lado's. As a first step, UMSS has decided to incorporate a 3-day prehospital course for all senior medical students. The program will be taught by A Tu Lado's long-time partner, Dr. Victor Hugo Ortuño.

As they have in the past, our students' perspectives will always shape the future of these programs. In June, we began to explore their perspective through an academic study of why students choose to pursue careers in prehospital medicine and what impediments they encounter upon entering the field. What we find will help us evaluate our courses, and guide the ongoing development of educational programs that address student concerns.

Thank You

Looking back on our impact – training over 180 students and planting the seeds of Venezuela and Bolivia's first university-accredited prehospital courses – we wish to express our heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support.

There are no immediate plans for A Tu Lado to return to Bolivia. We are optimistic our partners will take the next step to strengthen these programs and ensure their success. Should an opportunity arise in which our abilities meet the needs of the community, we would love to contribute.

For now, we want to thank you again for your support. Together, we have acted in solidarity with a community in need to create a sustainable change.

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A TU LADO