

# A TU LADO

Collaborations in Paramedical Education



FALL 2012 NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 15, 2012

## First Responders

In June 2012, A Tu Lado led a condensed Emergency Medical Technician course in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

We enrolled 21 of 38 applicants and created an institutionally diverse class. Students included nurses, doctors, police, and paramedics. Together, they formed a network to begin standardizing emergency medical education. Our partners, Mano a Mano and SAR Bolivia, housed the course in their hangars at Cochabamba airport.

The curriculum emphasized hands-on scenarios, which incorporated each day's lessons. Final grades were based on participation, written and practical exams, and homework.

Seventeen of the 21 students passed the course and received certificates of completion co-signed by the University of San Simón; certificates of attendance were issued to the other 4 students.

Many students expressed concern over lack of a recognizable paramedic certification in Bolivia. Our partnership with the University of San Simón is a step toward that goal. The solution, however, lies in fully university-based programs and diplomas.

### Student Course Evaluations

Learned field-relevant skills	3.9 / 4
Improved professional mobility	3.8 / 4
Fostered personal development	3.8 / 4
Provided externally validated cert.	3.6 / 4
Overall satisfaction with course	3.9 / 4

Evaluations and quotes are from anonymous student surveys and were originally in Spanish.

## Partnership

The course was taught in partnership with Mano a Mano, SAR Bolivia, and the University of San Simón.

We collaborated to build a curriculum that is relevant to providers across Bolivia. In the process, we drew on experts from many fields and recruited a diverse roster of guest instructors.

- Nurses from Mano a Mano taught biohazard safety and infectious diseases.
- The captain of SAR Bolivia taught scene management and trauma procedures.
- The president of the Cochabamba Gynecological Society lectured on obstetrics and delivery.
- Federal narcotics police led improvised patient transport.
- The dean of San Simón medical school shared instructional techniques for use in future courses.

Many of these instructors were also participants in the course, learning side by side with their peers.

## New Frontiers

In addition to training, A Tu Lado's ongoing efforts in Bolivia include: research on educational outcomes, resource mapping for Mano a Mano's emergency flight service, and the creation of documentation templates for paramedical care.

We remain committed to establishing standardized EMS education with our partners in Venezuela and Bolivia, and are inspired to see our graduates join the ranks of frontline health workers.

Visit [www.atulado.net](http://www.atulado.net) for more updates and a short video about our work in Bolivia.

***"The importance of this type of training is undeniable... please don't let it be the last time."***

– Student, June 2012

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Each of our initiatives grows from an invitation extended by a local organization.





Beginning January and February 2013, A Tu Lado's partners in Venezuela and Bolivia will launch their respective countries' first university-accredited EMT courses.

*"Thank you. This course was an example for other courses, a model to follow."*

– Student, June 2012

