

Leveraging Public Health Competencies in Barretos Cancer Hospital - Brazil



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BACKGROUND

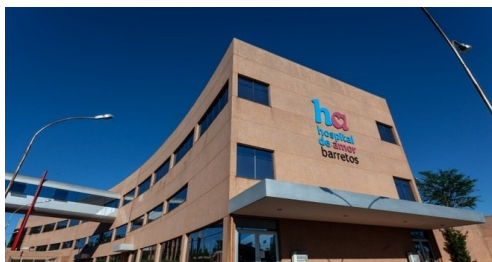


Figure 1. Barreto's Cancer Hospital

Barretos Cancer Hospital (BCH) provides specialized cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment for the populations in Brazil and Latin America.

Dedicated to improve education and research capacity, BCH provides opportunities for students to learn and experience the design and implementation of research techniques.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and improve skills and knowledge through exposure to high level research and community engagement
- Learn how to impact communities and influence policy makers with research outcomes
- Interact with stakeholders to discuss challenges and opportunities to the delivery of health care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMIC)



Figure 2. Discussing future projects with hospital director

METHODS

- Address foundational competencies of designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating clinical studies
- Learn and engage with multiple sections of the Clinical Research Unit
- Learn and engage in community-based prevention projects
- Participate in journal club and actively discuss research projects
- Engage and participate in graduate-level training courses
- Network with professionals



Figure 3. Clinical trials staff at BCH

RESULTS

Research Methods

- Developed study protocols, aims and objectives, inclusion and exclusion criteria, and informed consent
- Experience was gained in patient follow-up, reporting of adverse events, and analysis of results

Patient Engagement

- Shadowed BCH staff as they provided services including screening and follow-up
- Participated in community-based health promotion events

CONCLUSION

BCH plays an important role in promoting public health strategies and challenges health professionals to promote evidence-based policies.

BCH and Brazil have similar challenges and opportunities to embrace the power of data and digital health services that are common in LMICs.

The knowledge, skills, and abilities developed in Vanderbilt MPH Program will enhance my overall goal to become a medical researcher in an LMIC where social and economic challenges require trained and competent human resources.



Figure 4. Minimally invasive surgery to determine inclusion criteria (top) and working with nurses on a community cancer screening program (bottom)

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