

# Salud Juntos Winter 2011 Brigade to Punta Ocote



## Thursday 6 January 2011

Our more discerning readers may have noticed that yesterday's edition recorded 35 patients as the final tally, down from 55 the day before. Unfortunately, it was not a typo; fortunately, the community rebounded today by showing up *en masse*. A total of 79 patients walked through our doors—the highest single-day count in the three years that the Brigade has come to Punta Ocote—and nearly cleaned out our supplies of glasses, sunglasses and drops. Here are some highlights from this happily exhausting day.



These two sisters can't keep from smiling after seeing themselves in their new sunglasses, courtesy of CLEERE. Mom looks on approvingly in the background.

### Sunglasses Station

The volume demands of the day forced us to become more efficient. The most obvious example of this streamlining was the sunglasses station in the waiting area. Since nearly all

Hondurans are at high lifetime risk of cataracts and pterygia, why wait until a doctor says they need sunglasses to pick out sunglasses when we already know we'll say they do? Furthermore, patients frequently asked the doctors if they could pick a different pair of sunglasses, lengthening each patient encounter.



At any given time, a narrowed selection of sunglasses was laid out on the stage. Shown here are groups organized by (left to right) men's frames, children's, and women's.



Patients could choose from the offered selection on stage (left), or occasionally the selection came to them in the form of Joe Miller, MD (right).

## Images from Around Clinic



A young girl on an oxcart pauses from playing with her ball to greet us as we approach the clinic, which is pictured in the upper right.



A posse of idle youths loiterers in front of the clinic. Apparently we offered the best entertainment in town during their winter break!



These ladies peruse yesterday's Brigade postcard. They say they read it for the articles but we suspect they were looking at the pictures!

## Dog Day in Punta Ocote

It wasn't just oppressively humid today. Por ejemplo:



Dr. Miller: Look at that happy little dog.

Dog: Grrrr.

Dr. Miller: What are you grrrr-ing at?

Dog: You look tasty.

Dr. Miller: Did you just bite me??

Dog: Yes. Now you know who's the boss.

(Note: dog shown at actual size.)



Here's the dog who checked on the length of the line every few minutes.



Here he is again, looking pensive. Or perhaps he too was looking to take a bite out of Dr. Miller.

## Case of the Day



This 20-year-old woman was very self-conscious about the asymmetry between her eyes. First we established that the right eye was nanophthalmic (structurally normal, just smaller than normal) rather than the left eye being buphthalmic (larger than normal, often related to glaucoma). Her vision was 20/20 in the normal left eye but 20/80 in her smaller, far-sighted right eye.



We demonstrated how the magnification from a sufficiently plus lens (for far-sightedness) could make her smaller eye appear more similar in size to an observer.



Balanced glasses would also magnify the normal left eye, defeating the purpose. Because of this and her 20/20 vision in the left eye, our plan is to custom order glasses with a plus lens on the right and a plano lens (without power) on the left.

## Follow Up of the Day



(Left to right) Dr. Miller has followed this 8-year-old boy with congenital glaucoma for three years now. Shown also are Dale Reiger, Salud Juntos President, and the boy's mother, who saved the clinic notes from the last two years and brought them with her today.



At this first visit, during the 2009 Brigade, the boy had the symptoms and signs of congenital glaucoma: buphthalmos, tearing, and photophobia. After supplying him with glaucoma drops, we are pleased to report that he was symptom-free this year. Shown here is Matthew Feng, MD, checking his optic discs, which showed no signs of progressive damage.



He isn't blind today thanks to this medication, generously donated by Alcon.

## Clinical Mysteries



Three years ago, this 25-year-old diabetic woman sustained a right cranial nerve 7 palsy which has not improved since. Is Bell's palsy or diabetes to blame?



This 60-year-old woman was found to have a left corneal scar with an irregular pupil, posterior synechiae, dense cataract, and counting fingers vision. Were we looking at the result of an old penetrating trauma or perforated corneal ulcer?

## Picture of the Day



Standing room only on the road to Punta Ocote.

## Salud Juntos Staff of the Day



Thiripurasundari "Thiri" Pugazhendhi, MD and Pat Broyles, roommates together in Room 306, Hotel Marquez, Yoro, Yoro.



Thiri is a second year Ophthalmology resident at UA/UPHK GME Consortium. She completed medical school in her hometown, Chennai, India. Thiri has been volunteering since medical school. As an ophthalmology resident in India, she volunteered in diabetic and cataract screening camps.

After coming to the USA, she moved from health care to assisting in the school library where her son and daughter attended. Thiri has participated in diabetic screenings in Mexico. The best part of the Honduran experience has been seeing the smiles on the patient's families after receiving their eye care. And she's even received a few hugs. Thiri would like to thank the department faculty for the opportunity to be here in Honduras.

Pat Broyles has been a member of the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science at the University of Arizona since 1993.

Pat grew up in the DC-Virginia area, where she was the fourth fastest typist and was offered a job working for President Ronald Reagan. Pat promptly turned him down.

Subsequently, she moved to Arizona, where she moved up the rankings as the second fastest typist in the state. Pat won't tell us her age or weight or explain her fascination with chickens but her words-per-minute typing rate is 157. Her talents landed her in the Dean's Office at Northern Arizona University. Pat worked her way south and arrived at the University of Arizona in 1986. Today, we take her dictation!

Pat decided to join the Brigade out of a strong desire to help people, a trait that she inherited from her mother, Helen.

Thiri and Pat make a good team. Thiri giveth and Pat taketh away.

### **Pat the Chicken Stalker Returns**



Little did we know that Pat is also the chicken whisperer (explaining her skill as a residency coordinator).

### **Chicken of the Day**



### **Geotag of the Day**



The original clinic space used by the medical team during the 2009 Brigade.



Across the street, there is now a brand new clinic building.



An interior view of the new clinic's central great room.

N 15 degrees 11.577'

W 87 degrees 17.337'

## Thursday Statistics

Of the 79 patients seen (excluding one Gringo), 28 (35%) were men and 51 (65%) were women.

Age	Hyperopia	Emmetropia	Myopia
<= 40 yrs	14	3	2
>40	41	1	0

Diagnoses:

57 REFRACTIVE ERROR  
 50 DRY EYE  
 36 CATARACT  
 28 ALLERGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS  
 15 PTERYGEA  
 5 NON-PROLIFERATIVE DIABETIC RETINOPATHY  
 2 TYPE 2 NON-INSULIN-DEPENDENT DIABETES MELLITUS WITHOUT RETINOPATHY  
 1 HYPERTENSIVE RETINOPATHY  
 1 NANOPHTHALMOS  
 1 CN 7 PALSY  
 1 EXOTROPIA  
 1 PRIMARY OPEN ANGLE GLAUCOMA

1	GLAUCOMA SUSPECT
1	CONGENITAL GLAUCOMA
1	CORNEAL OPACITY
1	NON-EXUDATIVE AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION
1	DRUSEN
1	PSEUDOPHAKIA
1	ERM
1	RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA
1	CHALAZION
1	PTOSIS



Thiri checks a visual field by confrontation.  
 Peace and good night from Punta Ocote!