Our purpose is to describe our experience of a virtual immersive medical Spanish program during our summer break following our first year of medical school.

**PURPOSE**
- We were awarded a Global Health Scholarship to participate in an intensive summer medical Spanish program at Pop Wuj Clinic in Xela, Guatemala.
- We were paired with personal one on one Spanish tutors learning more about the Guatemalan culture in addition to standardized patient experience for 8 weeks.
- Our sessions varied from 90 minutes to two hours, averaging about 8-10 hours a week.
- Due to COVID the program was a virtual format.

**METHODS**

**THEMES**

- "It allows for less of a language barrier"
- "I want to be able to communicate with the patient to make them feel more comfortable"
- "I've had many experiences where I wish I could translate with this population on the future"
- "I want to be able to communicate with the patient to make them feel more comfortable"
- "We can integrate the knowledge of patients' social and culture beliefs into care"
- "We should understand that patients come from all different backgrounds"
- "As the Latino population is growing in the U.S. we have to be more aware of health trends and practices in the Latino community"

**BARRIERS**

- Virtual Learning: We both felt like the best way to learn a new language is to visit the country and have hands-on experience with the community and volunteer in the clinic.
- Internet Connection: There were times when our tutors had no internet connection due to electricity outages or floods, but we were always able to reschedule.
- Language Continuation: Finding ways to keep up with learning Spanish while not practicing in clinic is a challenge.

**CONCLUSION**

- We had many similarities during our summer intensive immersion program, and themes that we both experienced were empathy, a sense of community, and improving our clinical skills.
- This experience has allowed for us to develop our language learning skills for our third year of medical school and beyond.
- We plan to participate in the Pop Wuj Clinic Program during our fourth year as an away rotation.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We want to acknowledge our Spanish instructors, Zulma Mendez, Francis Sapon Lopez, Pop Wuj for their instruction and guidance throughout the summer. Additionally, we would like to thank the Office of Global Health Education at DUCOM for supporting us.