

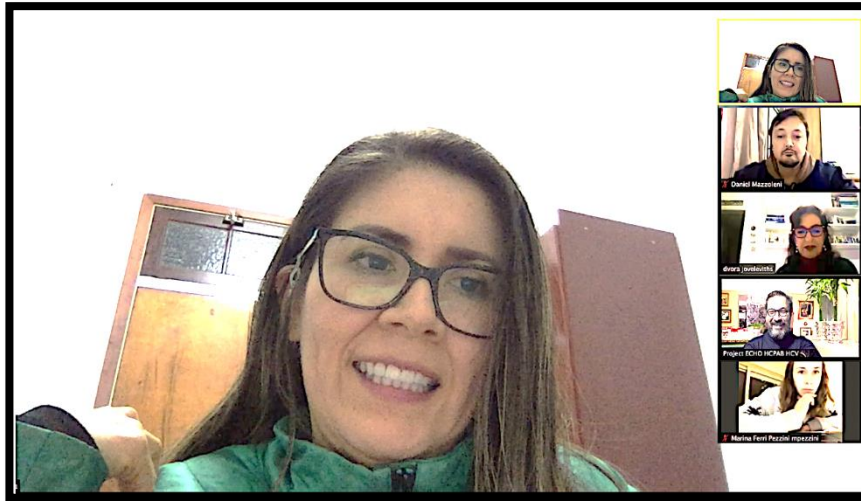


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The opportunity to participate in daily activities at the Porto Alegre Training Center (WGO) is an enriching experience both professionally and personally. The Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre has 792 beds, provides care through the unique health system (SUS) and has a high volume of patients with liver diseases (HCV, alcohol, NASH, metabolic, Transplanted), this has allowed me to evaluate patients and discuss with the assistants in the medical rounds, interact with gastroenterology residents, be at the side of the assistants during the outpatient consultation, review clinical cases in detail, participate in both interdisciplinary clinical meetings (pathology, radiology) and in online meetings with national and international assistants through the ECHO project (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes). These activities facilitate feedback and internalization of concepts and knowledge. The hospital is a university center with varied academic activity, and they have a research center, which is one of its strengths. The organization has the passion with which their post-graduation students develop their projects is admirable, I have had the satisfaction of participating in a research group and sharing with colleagues both Brazilian and foreign. This experience has motivated me to participate in this group.

I am a Peruvian gastroenterologist, eleven days after my arrival at the training center, the WHO declared that we were facing a coronavirus pandemic. A few days later, the pace of the activities were affected, the volume of patients decreased, some activities were suspended. In this circumstance, Dr. Mario Reis as head of the Service as an immediate response, started an online course to be at the forefront with the new virus knowledge and the necessary protection measures to continue with the assistance activities to attend to patients in optimal conditions, clinical rounds, and virtual academic activities began.

Four days after the pandemic was declared, Peru closed the air borders indefinitely and declared a curfew until the end of June. In this situation, my return date has been left open, uncertainty tests my ability to adapt, it is a challenge to see it as an opportunity to act responsibly, in solidarity, and continue with the goals set. It is a challenge to get my best version out and return to my country with tools that allow me to provide timely care to patients with liver disease and open a door for the Peruvian health system to provide everyone with an opportunity for liver transplantation.



Pictured above: Dr. Picon Perez on an online meeting with trainers

I feel happy and fortunate to be in this center, I thank this opportunity given to WGO, Professor Mario Reis director of the Training Center for his unconditional support, as well as assistants, residents and administrative staff, for the experiences and knowledge shared during this period, they are all very friendly and have made my integration to the team possible by making me feel part of them. Maintaining this scholarship is having a door to contribute to the development of professionals with an interest in hepatology, an experience that motivates us to be better in this field, to contribute to the care of our patients, and the development of our care services.

