

Guatemala Medical Travel Newsletter August 2014

To Our Medical Providers, Clients, Patients and Friends,

We are pleased to present to you the G.M.T. NEWSLETTER of August 2014. In the attached document, you'll find some of the stories surrounding our recent cases, as one of the premier medical travel advocacy companies in Central America.

Please take a few minutes to read the stories and follow up with us regarding inquiries and comments. As ever, we are here as your personal medical travel experts, providing the finest global-quality medical procedures and personal attention, at very attractive prices.

Stay in touch, and take care....

Please note... Right now, the Miami phone is out of service. You can call our office from the U.S. at 011-502-4701-4520, or write an email here... gracias!

Atentamente,
Licda. Lori Shea

www.GuatemalaMedicalTravel.com
www.CentralAmericaSurgery.com
www.GuatemalaRetirement.com



Guatemala Medical Travel -- August 2014 Newsletter

To Our Medical Providers, Patients, Clients and Friends:

We hope you are enjoying the best of the summer season, in good health, with family and friends. Right now, we are at the height of pleasant summer weather for North Americans, and the beginning of the fertile rainy season in the tropical climate of Guatemala.

Is there a "season" for medical travel? No, not really. During every week of the year, our priority is to provide the finest medical attention, to global quality standards – today, next month, and anytime that our clients are considering important medical choices, and carefully analyzing the related expenses. We want to share with you some of the stories behind our work over the last several months.

For more information, magazine articles and testimonials please see the website...

<http://guatemalamedicaltravel.com/>

Patient Success Stories (a few of many!)



From Bahamian Paradise to Guatemalan Medical Technology

Mrs. S. knew that a hip replacement was in her future, but the hospital limitations of her tropical island home left her with numerous options for surgery in various countries. After weeks of internet research and careful deliberation with the family, she chose to have her joint replacement surgery in Guatemala.

Working together with the internationally recognized surgical specialists, Guatemala Medical Travel nurse-companions offered her the guidance, nursing care and

hospitality that assured Mrs. S. of the best possible outcome.



Helping Guatemalans in Guatemala

Most GMT clients arrive from other countries, but sometimes we have a request from loved ones or guardians to care for local residents who may not have the contacts or resources to navigate the top-notch private hospital system by themselves. Señor P. suffered an industrial accident while working in Florida, but through GMT, his U.S. insurance company can pay for medical procedures close to his home in Guatemala, and at a fraction of the price.

When the son of Señora C. was not able to travel to Guatemala to care for his dying mother, he called GMT to arrange for transport to the best possible healthcare facility, with our known and trusted hospital associates. Both of the GMT

Buying Insurance is No Guarantee

Mrs. B normally enjoys good coverage from her medical insurance in California, but when she experienced astounding life-enhancing results with naturopathic medical specialists, her insurance company refused to pay.

During the course of various medical procedures and consultations in Guatemala, Mrs. B. was moved to tears by the brilliance and compassion of her medical team. The GMT staff pulled it all together seamlessly from contact and preparation, to on-the-ground logistics, to the follow-up reporting for her doctors back home.

patients, and their families, are grateful for the life-changing medical attention that they may not have received without an international medical advocate to intervene.

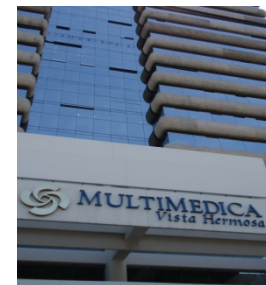
Tourists Need Emergency Care Too

Last year, Mr. W. was happily sailing throughout the Caribbean and Rio Dulce Guatemala when a spinal infection caused debilitating pain and weakness, and eventually limited his ability to walk. His bi-lingual GMT agent arranged for emergency transport and hospital admittance within hours, on a Sunday, and arrived to the hospital in time to handle all the paperwork.

For the next ten days in ICU and three months of IV therapy, we were there with him every step of the way, as trusted caregivers, coordinators, advocates, and friends.

Cosmetic Surgery, Relaxed and Natural

Of course, the lovely ladies and handsome gentlemen patients of GMT are amazed and grateful for the astounding results of their cosmetic surgeries in Guatemala. However, they prefer to remain anonymous so that everyone assumes it's entirely natural to look 15 years younger in just a couple of months. Shhh... Don't tell anyone.



GMT is Branching Out Beyond Routine Surgeries

Prosthetic Limbs – Fitting, Delivery and Maintenance in Guatemala

Nancy has used a prosthetic arm since she was born in the 1950's, and wrote to Guatemala Medical Travel from Connecticut, requesting our assistance with supplies and repairs. We were very pleased to tell her that the finest quality prosthetics are available in Guatemala at very affordable prices.

From her letter....

... All the people in the military coming back with parts blown off has really made this a HUGE industry in the US, so the ruthless capitalists have been capitalizing, to the detriment of those of us

who just need a helping hand (ha, ha, pun intended). As someone who has been battling the system for decades, I can tell you, it's gotten a lot worse.

Even when I had the "Cadillac" of insurance policies, they never covered replacement of my arms, calling it "cosmetic", so I always paid in cash. However, they would have paid for "therapy" (Yeah, right... For the arm that doesn't exist or the one that's made of composite synthetic materials?)

Right now, my prosthetic arm is at the clinic for repairs, but the technician says he's "not allowed" to touch it without a prescription. So I inquired: Exactly what is this "prescription" supposed to say, even if I could find a doctor who would write it? Uh, "I hereby prescribe one arm. Use as needed."??? Oddly, the poor medical assistant I was dealing with didn't even find that amusing. I have a simple routine repair, and the insurance industry won't allow them to do the work -- for REAL dollars in their pocket!

I see this as a huge issue in the US, where people (veterans, in particular) can get help with standard medical services, but have NO resources for on-going maintenance for prosthetics. The administrators are trying to fit something into their standard medical framework that doesn't even belong there....it falls into a "quasi-medical" realm that completely baffles insurance muckety-mucks and actuarial sorts. I'm sure there are many well-trained experts to help us in Guatemala, as in the US, but the bonus is not having the insurance buffoons running the show.

*Ms. N.S.
January 2014*

Lyme Disease Patients are Not Being Diagnosed and Treated in the U.S.

Ms. I. tells us of her history, suffering with Lyme disease in the United States. Could Guatemala be the premier Lyme Disease Treatment destination of the future? We're working on it.

From her letter to GMT....

... I have been sick and unable to work for 11 years... I have been through Hell, and I am a shell of what I used to be. I was VP of Global Development for a Software company at age 30 -- type A, energetic, smart & full of life. I struggle with pain, low grade fevers, dizziness, seizures, nerve damage, profound exhaustion, insomnia, weakness, failed endocrine system, chronic "off the charts" systemic inflammation.....the list goes on. And on. And on.

I was wondering if there may be help for me through your service (Guatemala Medical Travel), in terms of an infectious disease specialist who is familiar with Lyme, or a team of MD's, like a Neurologist, Endocrinologist, Rheumatologist & Infectious Disease specialist who could help effectively treat me. Stem cells? IV's of nutrients & antibiotics?

Lyme is a horrible disease that affects every body system. It's so hard to treat late stage because the spirochetes burrow into the muscles and invade the brain, eyes & heart. That is to say, it doesn't just hang out in your blood, so antibiotics (I'm on 5 currently) can't get to everything to kill it. Then, many antibiotics are resistant or cannot penetrate the biofilms. It's just awful, and makes for a very depressing existence and early death.

*I'm not sure if you are aware of Lyme Disease and the enormous controversy (which is all money related and controlled by big pharma & insurance companies) in the States. Many MD's have lost their licenses for treating patients. It's simply unconscionable. "Under Our Skin" is a **great** documentary that won many awards and will explain the madness behind Lyme and treating it. I think you would enjoy it very much, just based on your mission of wanting to provide affordable and effective health care for people.*

*Ms. I., San Francisco, CA
February 2014*

Cancer Drugs are Effective World-Wide. Not Yet FDA-Approved

“Of course Mr. M., we would be happy to help you to receive the finest global-quality medical attention in Guatemala as soon as you arrive.”

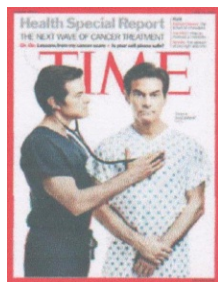
Lori Shea: OK, now let's review please, to be sure that I get this right....

1. The cancer patient has had first class work-ups at the NIH/ National Cancer Institute, Johns Hopkins Cancer Center, Georgetown U. Medical Center and MD Anderson.
2. All of their oncologists agree that a prescription for Yondelis/ Trabectedin chemotherapy will be the best course of treatment for the patient.
3. You have excellent insurance coverage with Blue Cross, and they agree to pay for all the medical expenses associated with the chemotherapy.
4. Yondelis was co-developed by Johnson & Johnson, approved for the European market in 2007, and is successfully used world-wide, but is still not FDA-approved in America?

Cancer Patient: Yes, that's correct. We will need to fly from Virginia to Guatemala every three weeks for the injections.

Lori Shea: I understand. Let's get started right away.

Guatemala Medical Travel Exposure in North America



TIME Magazine Cover Story: Global Leaders in Medical Tourism.

We were very excited to receive a phone call last year from the international account executive of TIME Magazine, asking us to be included in the July issue, together with the

finest medical providers from around the world.

From TIME's press kit: We aim to position the "Global Leaders in Medical Tourism" section as a reference point for the magazine's affluent and health-conscious readers to seek information on alternative health care options abroad."

Well yes, please, with 1.6 million business subscribers (like every doctor's office in America), and seen by a total of 9 million readers, GMT will get a fantastic response!

The issue was pushed back three times and eventually scrapped – never published. No explanations were offered, but my guess is

that “Big Pharma” and the multi-billion-dollar U.S. hospital corporations had something to with it.

The Future of Medical Travel to Guatemala

At Guatemala Medical Travel, we are fighting a noble battle to provide quality medical procedures for individuals who just can't get what they need, at the right price, in their home countries.

Confronting corporate, government, legal, financial and media resistance from the United States, we must maintain our focus on the actual patients who could benefit the most from the top-notch medical providers in Guatemala. VIP care is our devotion – quickly, effectively and economically.

Private Nursing – Elderly Housing - Assisted Living – Hospice Care

What fantastic news that all of our GMT clients and local ex-pat friends have affordable access to the sincere and medically talented physicians and hospitals in Guatemala. However, time continues to pass, and the limitation of our bodies will surface in ways that we just cannot predict years in advance. That's why we are planning now, for the future needs of our clients.

Relaxing in a clean and comfortable home every day, with daily nourishment, care and attention, is out of reach for many elderly North Americans living on a limited income. In Guatemala, we live within an entire culture devoted to assisting and welcoming friends and neighbors into our homes, as our own family. At Guatemala Medical Travel, we are assembling the resources to create an elegant home, in a protected community, with all the professional amenities. Long-term housing will be offered at a fraction of “assisted living” expenses in the US.

In the end, after all treatments have been exhausted, sometimes patients will need the very specialized care of a Hospice, or palliative care nurse. Dying with dignity, peacefully and respectfully, is possible with our highly experienced professionals in Guatemala, without intrusive restrictions or legal interference.

Megan McMillin, RN, is taking the initiative to create the home health nursing and palliative care center associated with GMT. She believes in an integrative, multi-disciplinary approach, providing professional nursing, physical and occupational therapy and social work services to our clients.

Giving Back to the Community

Partnering with the Antigua Musicians Organization, A.M.O.

The arts and the humanities aren't just there to be consumed and enjoyed whenever we have a free moment in our lives. We rely on them constantly. We need them. Like medicine, they help us live.

In the spirit of music as medicine for the soul, the Guatemala Medical Travel staff and management are delighted to work together with A.M.O. since its inception in April 2014. We will promote internationally, to bring the incredible talent of devoted musicians throughout Guatemala to their

appreciative audiences of music lovers. See <http://www.antiguamusica.com/> for the events calendar and all sorts of interesting information about the artists, and the business that support them.

*Lori Shea
Antigua, Guatemala
August 2014*