

### Public Health | Global Health Report

## Hackett Hemwall Patterson Foundation & World Health Access Team Medical Mission, Honduras

Dr NavYash Gupta\*

\*Professor Of Surgery at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Beverly Hills, California, United States

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Address for correspondence: [navyash.gupta@cshs.org](mailto:navyash.gupta@cshs.org)

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### Organizational Global Commitment

The Hackett Hemwall Patterson Foundation (HHPF), a non-profit organization, is committed to delivering compassionate healthcare to global communities. Through the International Service-Learning trips to resource-poor countries—specifically Honduras and Mexico—teams of dedicated healthcare professionals administer a range of treatments, including treatment of advanced venous disease, wound care and hemodialysis access for patients with renal failure.



Figure 1. The Olanchito Team 2025

## Scope of Medical Mission and Capacity Building

World Health Access Team is a local non-profit organization based in California with a mission to deliver healthcare to underserved communities around the world.

These trips provide essential medical care to those in need, and offer comprehensive training programs for doctors, with an emphasis on supporting healthcare professionals within the country. In addition, HHPF conducts research and makes significant medical donations to clinics and hospitals, further strengthening healthcare infrastructure in underserved regions.



**Figure 2. The Vascular Surgeons**



Figure 3.The Los Angeles Team

## Venous Disease and Wound Care Program

The venous program has been in place for over 22 years and is focused on assisting patients with venous disease and leg ulcers. The program has become one of the largest vein care service-learning trips in these underserved regions. We provide evidence-based treatments for chronic venous insufficiency and leg ulcers.



Figure 4. AV Fistula Creation

## Patient Volume and Multidisciplinary Clinical Team

We treat over 2000 patients a year during our 1-week mission trip to Honduras. Most of our experts come from the United States but we have expert physicians, Vascular surgery fellows, Surgical and Medical residents, and other health care providers from all over the world. Medical directors ensure that the newer physicians, residents and fellows are comfortable treating the patients in a safe and efficient manner.



Figure 5. Prep work in the OR

## Role of Trainees and Innovation in Data Capture

General Surgery residents and Vascular Surgery fellows as well as premed and medical students participate in the mission. Our surgical residents identified the need for electronic data capture and the ability to review large volumes of data for quality assurance and clinical research purposes. They created a unique e-toolbox to capture data. This facilitates data collection and review and allow the residents to continue to present our data at regional and national meetings.



**Figure 6. Ready to operate**

## Expansion into Hemodialysis Access Services

Starting in 2024 we expanded the program to hemodialysis access in patients with renal failure by partnering with local physicians and hospitals in the region to start performing AV fistula creation procedures. Most patients in Honduras with end-stage renal disease dialyze via temporary dialysis catheters and renal transplantation is not widely available.



**Figure 7. The AV Fistula Team**

## Advanced Vascular and Endovascular Interventions

The program rapidly grew in 2025, and in March of 2025 we did a total of 27 surgical procedures and then returned to Honduras in November of 2025 and did a total of 90 surgical procedures. As we garner more resources, this program will continue to expand and provide unique opportunities for surgical residents and vascular surgery fellows.

In addition, our collaboration with the few local Vascular Surgeons in Honduras continues to expand to include other disease processes including peripheral arterial disease and aortic aneurysms and in November of 2025 we performed our first endovascular repair of a large aortic aneurysm.



**Figure 8. The Endovascular Aortic Aneurysm Team**

## Education, Sustainability, and Global Health Impact

There appears to be significant aortic pathology in Honduras and the skill set, especially endovascular, is currently lacking there. A significant part of the mission work is to train the local physicians in both open and endovascular procedures so that they can continue to take care of the local patients in their care.

The mission includes lectures and team activities. Experts teach on topics including physiology and treatment of venous disease, wound care, ultrasound overview and Mesoamerican nephropathy and hemodialysis access.

The lectures are approved as category 1 CMEs and combined with the clinical experience, are now widely considered a renowned Phlebology hands on course with CME credits.

The overall experience is amazing, unique and full of rewarding results all while working with a dedicated team, making lifetime friendships and above all participating in life changing experiences.



**Figure 9. OR Team, Escobar Hospital, Olanchito**