



Summer 2011

PRHDR-Summer 2011

Providers

Cindy Robertson, MD
Charles Danielson, MD
Ben Towne, MA ATC
Whitney Lutz, PNP
Jean Burton, NP
Lois Tiedeken, ANP
Michelle Stirling, FNP
Daniel Wendel, RN
Dave Hotstream, , RN
Elizabeth Ballinger, RN
John Jacobs, RN
Gabriel Garcia, RN
Linda Brouwer, RN
Mary Connolly, ATC
Rolinda Mitchell, ATC

Support

Theresa James, Esq
Steve Markesich
Jeff Nagel
Alex Eaton
Emily McCue

Faculty/Leaders

Whitney Lutz, PNP - Trip Leader
Jean Burton, NP- Trip Leader
Lois Tiedeken, ANP – Team Leader
Cindy Robertson, MD – Medical Director, Med Room Leader
Ben Towne, MA ATC –Safety Officer
Janice Jaffee –PHD- Interpreter Leader
Daniel Wendel, RN – Equipment Manager
Patricia Ingwersen– Safety Officer Assistant

Interpreters

Janice Jaffee, PHD
Patricia Ingwersen
Emily Summit
Abby Rivers
Carrie Vogelsang



VOLUNTEERS

Michelle Stirling, FNP



Hi! My name is Michelle Stirling, I am a Family Nurse Practitioner and this is my 6th trip with USM/PRHDR. I started on this trip as an RN student, then an NP student, then a volunteer provider and finally as a team leader for two trips.

I think that the most wonderful thing about this trip is that we endeavor to listen to the needs of our communities, rather than imposing what we think they need on them. I love working with great students, providers and volunteers and seeing how the trip impacts first-time participants. I think that everyone in the world should go on this trip, no matter what your profession is... all you need is generosity of spirit and you will have much to offer! :)

I live in Portland, ME and work at Orthopedic Associates in Portland. I love working with the acutely ill, inpatient and outpatient, and am always up for some wound care. I am into sports, dogs, chocolate and reading and spending time with friends and family.

Dave Hotstream, RN



Dave first joined the PRHDR mission as an interpreter while living in the Dominican Republic as a Peace Corps volunteer, doing health promotion projects on the Haitian border. He was so inspired by the PRHDR volunteers and students that after returning to the United States, he went to nursing school in New Orleans and finally became an RN himself in 2007, while returning to both the Dominican Republic and Haiti numerous times (he's actually lost count) with the mission. Dave looks forward to helping new students develop their assessment skills and especially to introducing them to Dominican culture.

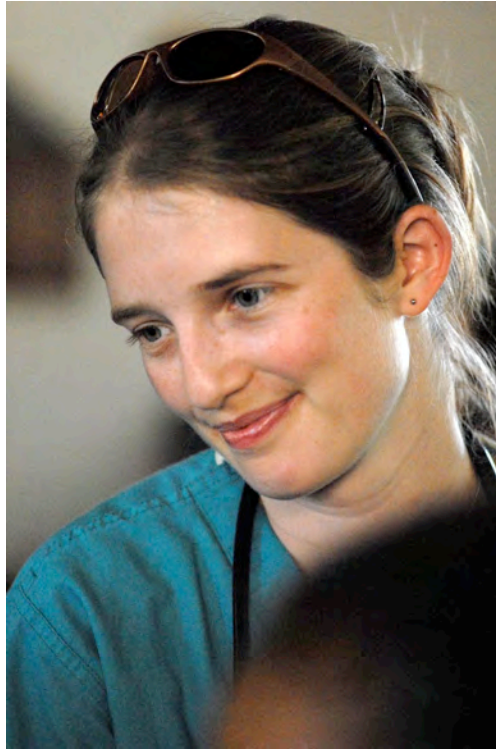
Mary Connolly, ATC



Mary is a graduate of the Athletic Training program at the University of Southern Maine. She recently passed her certification exam.

Mary is currently working at Cocheco Valley Humane Society in Dover, New Hampshire, as an animal care technician. While she is very passionate about caring for animals she hopes to continue her education in the near future.

Elizabeth Ballinger, RN



My name is Elizabeth Ballinger and I have been a nurse in the emergency department at the Children's Hospital of King's Daughters in Norfolk, VA for a little over a year. My first trip to the DR was in January 2009 as a nursing student and it changed my life in ways I never thought possible. I returned in August 2009 as a volunteer. It was in the DR where I met the love of my life, Edward. He died in a motorcycle accident on May 5, 2010. For him and for us I hope to continue volunteering. It is a beautiful thing to help others and I know he would want me to continue. The people of the Dominican Republic are very special beautiful people and it brings me joy to be a part of their lives.

John Jacobs



This is my 4th trip with the PRHDR. The question of hometown is a challenging one. I have my home in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, but I am very rarely there. I am in school at Wright State University working toward my Family Nurse Practitioner degree but it is a mostly online program so I am there less than I'm in Colorado. I currently work as a travel nurse so that as well leads me to have a difficult time answering the question of where I work. I spend a lot of time working in Rhode Island and at times in the Boston area. I like to tell people I have worked in 7 hospitals and 3 countries in the last 2 years mostly because it sounds interesting. I spend my free time when I have it traveling the world and learning to kite surf. So now that I have given very vague answers to all the standard questions, you will find I am very talkative so feel free to ask me any questions you have when we are working together in the DR.

Emily Summitt



Hola! I am Emily Summitt, age 38, from Denton, Texas. I found out about this program through my cousin Lucy Katzen, also going on this trip and joined on the Summer 08 trip. I am married with 4 kids -- two boys adopted from Russia and 2 girls adopted from China. I am fluent in Spanish and will be serving as one of your interpreters there in the Dominican Republic. I work part-time for the local school district as an English as a Second Language teacher for adults. I really enjoy traveling and learning about other people and countries.

Abby Rivers



My name is Abby Rivers, AKA Habichuela. I am 19 years old and am from Cumberland, Maine. Jean Burton is my mama. I just finished my freshman year at UMass Amherst. I am majoring in Public Health, minoring in education, and considering getting an interpreter's certificate. This will be my sixth trip? I can't remember... I also graduated early from high school to stay with Mother's Wish for 3 months in my senior year of high school. I plan to be working in intake on this trip, as well as doing some interpreting. I really love this trip and program, I'm excited to be going again!

Charles Danielson, MD



Charles (Chuck) is a pediatrician practicing in Waterville for many years, and is actively involved in public health. He has extensive experience in global health initiatives and has traveled extensively.

Gabe Garcia, RN



Gabe works as a transplant nurse at Tulane Medical Center in New Orleans. He moved from Southern California to Louisiana to earn his nursing degree at Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge, and to help rebuild the city of New Orleans. He first learned about PRHDR through a coworker and was excited about joining the team this summer.

Linda Brouwer



Linda is a registered nurse who has worked at Penobscot Bay Medical Center for the twenty years. Presently I am a family nurse practitioner student at USM, and looking forward to transitioning to primary care from acute care. Having traveled to the Dominican Republic a few times over twenty years ago, I look forward to returning to help deliver health care and learn more about delivering primary care.

Rolinda Mitchell, ATC



Rolinda graduated from the University of Southern Maine in December '09. She began working with Salem Sports and Rehab (Salem, NH) in June '10 as an Athletic Trainer in the clinic and as the Athletic Trainer at Pelham High School.

Her first trip with PRHDR was in January 2010 when she was a student at USM. Due to her compassion for others and from falling in love with the culture and people of the Dominican Republic, she vowed to come back in the future. This will be her first trip as an ATC, second overall.

Theresa James, Esq



Theresa, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and the University Of Wisconsin School Of Law, is working as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Abilene, Texas. She has lived overseas as a child, spent time in China while adopting two children and fell in love with the people of the Dominican Republic while on her honeymoon. She is excited to have an opportunity to return to the Dominican Republic as a volunteer helping to improve the health of the Dominican people.

Carrie Vogelsang



Carrie is joining PRHDR as an interpreter. She is a graduate of the University of Southern California and currently works as a Regional Manager for Innovatix, a group purchasing organization that helps healthcare organizations save money on their operational expenses.

She studied International Relations and Business and is currently pursuing her MBA at Concordia University in Irvine, CA. Carrie served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the DR from 2002-2004 and has interpreted for two medical missions in the DR and Mexico. Carrie was also a volunteer doula at UCSD Medical Center in San Diego. She has done extensive international travel and has a passion for public health work. She is excited to return to the DR and be a part of the amazing work of this team of volunteers.

Jeff Nagle, PhD



Jeff is a professor of chemistry at Bowdoin College. He received his PhD in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1979 and has been at Bowdoin since 1980. His daughter, a family practice nurse practitioner, is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine. He enjoys hiking, biking, running, and playing soccer. Jeff spent yearlong sabbatical leaves with his family in Germany and the Netherlands. This will be his first trip to the Dominican Republic.

Alex Eaton



My name is Alex Eaton and I am a sophomore at Dover-Sherborn High School in Dover, Massachusetts.

As a student, I have always enjoyed the challenge of learning as well as the feeling of helping others, particularly people less fortunate than myself.

Reading Tracey Kidder's book, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, Paul Farmer's story about setting up his clinic in Haiti made me realize that I greatly admired Mr. Farmer's desire to help others.

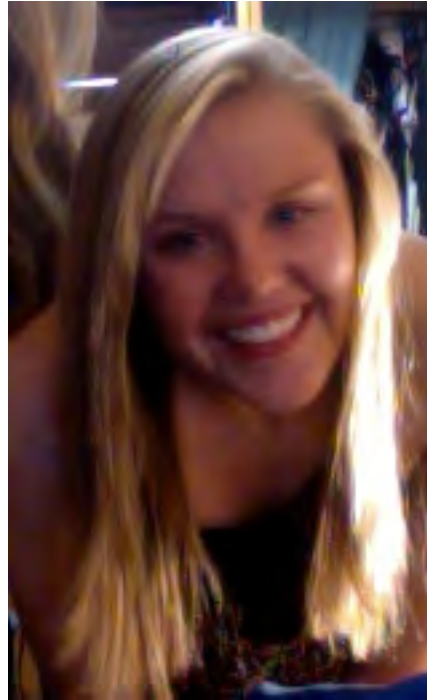
My interest in learning more about medicine has helped me focus on taking more classes about human anatomy and the sciences. I now know that I'd like to pursue medicine as a career, as I start to prepare for college in the next two years.

I have also had both friends and family influence me to pursue medicine and helping others. Michelle Stirling, my cousin, has been traveling to the Dominican Republic for several years with Partners in Rural Health. Her experiences have had such a positive influence on me and got me excited about the possibility of joining her on one of these humanitarian trips.

Additionally, I have an aunt in California who at age 52 is in her third year of nursing school, a family friend who is an orthopedic surgeon in Maine, my mom's best friend is a PICU nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital and my best friend's mother is an RN at Milford Hospital here in Massachusetts. All of these people have been powerful role models for me.

I look forward to this opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic with Partners in Rural Health this July.

Emily McCue



Hi, my name is Emily and I live in New Jersey. I just finished my freshman year at UMass. I am a psychology major pursuing a degree in occupational therapy. I have volunteered locally many times but never abroad! I love working with people and have heard many great things about this trip. I cannot wait to go and I am hoping this will be the first of many trips to come!



FACULTY/LEADERS

Whitney Lutz, PNP – Trip Leader



Whitney Lutz is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner with over 25 yrs. experience working with children in hospitals and primary care settings. She taught at the University of Southern Maine for 5 yrs, participated in multiple Dominican Republic trips and continues to help lead trips to the DR focusing on pediatric nursing. "Nursing opens so many doors in the international arena and helping those in greatest need is why I went into this profession." Whitney has participated in medical trips to Tanzania, Mexico, Peru, and recently Haiti. Currently, she works full time in private practice at Waterville Pediatrics in Maine. "This international service learning program is so vital, not only to the Dominicans we serve, but to the nursing students immersion experience into providing primary healthcare in a developing country. Once you experience it, you can't help but come back again and again!"

Jean Burton, NP – Trip Leader



I first attended the program in 1997. It was an accelerated, condensed and improved version of my Peace Corps Micronesia adventure, 10 years earlier. I have since returned in roles of student, faculty, volunteer provider, and team leader, five times with my daughter Abby, who is interested in international health and medical interpreting. I currently work as a psychiatric NP in Portland. The blend of students and volunteer providers is always inspiring and refreshing. I look forward to seeing old friends and making new friends on each mission.

Lois Tiedeken, ANP – Team Leader



Lois is an adult nurse practitioner, working in Internal Medicine in Portland with a focus on Diabetes, Care Management, and Women's Health. She first traveled to the Dominican Republic with USM when she was a graduate student at Simmons College in 1997. The January 2011 trip will be her 7th. Lois is pleased to be part of the adjunct faculty, enjoying her increased interaction with students as well as more involvement with community leaders. She is proud to have been part of this unique program for 13 years.

Lois is grateful for her family and friends who join with her to enjoy boating, gardening, yoga, shelling, baseball, dancing, the Patriots and the comfort of her home on Peaks Island.

Cynthia Robertson, MD – Medical Director, Med Room Leader



Dr. Robertson fell in love with Latin America at 16 as an exchange student in Ecuador. Her junior year from the University of Rochester was spent in Spain at the University of Madrid, and she earned her MA in Latin American Studies at Stanford University in 1966.

Cindy and her husband Bob McLaughlin devoted 10 years to the War on Poverty, then to teaching English in Maine 's public schools. Teaching remains an important focus in her life as part time faculty at UNE medical school and preceptor to more than 50 medical students for clinicals.

She graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1980 and completed residency at Maine Dartmouth Family Practice in 1983. As a National Health Service Corps Scholar, Dr. Robertson has served at the Bingham Area Health Center in a town of 1000 for 26 years, currently in practice there.

Having first volunteered with PRHDR in 2001, she has had the privilege of sharing the experience with their two sons, James and Tim, and her husband Bob (past president of PRHDR) and with many colleagues and friends. She has been on the PRHDR Board for several years.

Cindy feels strongly that the benefit of this project is multifactorial:

- to provide quality health care every 6 months to people who without it would have little or none
- to demonstrate to students the value of hands on medical skills
- to strengthen commitment to transdisciplinary team work
- to help us all become more responsible neighbors and citizens of the world.

Ben Towne, MA ATC – Safety Officer



Ben joined in 2007 and has been on six previous missions to the Dominican Republic. Ben immensely enjoys working with interdisciplinary health programs and promoting the athletic training profession. He currently leads students twice yearly to the Dominican Republic for an International Service Learning Course and also serves as an athletic trainer for the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Teams, traveling regularly around the globe. He also serves on the International Council for the National Athletic Trainers Association and is active in the World Federation of Athletic Training & Therapy. He has presented at the state and national level on International Service Learning in Athletic Training Education. He was the recipient of the 2008 USM Faculty Service Award, and was also awarded the 2008 Mike Linkovich Grant and the 2009 OA Centers for Orthopaedics Professional Scholarship Award. Ben earned his MA in Physical Education at Western Michigan University and a BS in Sports Medicine at Lyndon State University in Lyndonville, Vermont.

Janice Jaffee – PHD – Interpreter Leader



Janice Jaffe has been a professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies since 1988, and began interpreting, for Latin American refugees seeking asylum in the United States, when she was a Ph.D. student at the University of Wisconsin in the 1980s. At Bowdoin College and USM she has taught translation courses and supervised students in translating documents for the Hispanic immigrant communities in Maine. She also teaches the Basic Skills of Interpreting course to immigrants for the United Way's Language Access for New Americans program.

She deeply admires the dedication of the USM nursing students and health care professionals associated with PRHDR, and is honored and humbled to have the opportunity to interpret for them in their work with our Dominican patients. Janice also loves supervising students of Spanish as they practice and enhance their interpreting skills. She looks forward to returning to the D.R. in January to greet old friends and meet new ones in the villages where PRHDR works.

Daniel Wendel, RN – Equipment Manager



Daniel, a graduate of University of So Maine, is working as an RN with the Visiting Nurses Association at Home, Health and Hospice. He went to nursing school with an interest in public health and a hope to be able to work internationally as a nurse in developing countries. He has been to Kenya once and hopes to return. Dan joined the Dominican Republic health care mission in 2006 and now goes every 6 months, thus has been on this trip many times. He has served on the PRHDR Board for several years.

Patricia Ingwersen– Safety Officer Assistant



Patricia Ingwersen is a Hispanic Studies Major at The University of Southern Maine. She is a native Mainer who currently works and lives in Portland.

Patricia spent her junior year of high school as a Rotary exchange student Obera-Misiones, Argentina. She attended classes at Armadeo Bonapland Nacional. Patty returned home and graduated high school in 2001. From 2002-2004 Patricia studied French at L'ecole Migros in Geneva, Switzerland and worked as a live-in nanny for three young children. She has studied in Spain at Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, as well as at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso in Chile. She has traveled extensively throughout South and Central America.

Patty joined Partners as a student interpreter in January 2008 and again in January 2009. She will be attending the July 2010 trip as a volunteer interpreter. As a member of the fund-raising committee at PRHDR, Patty will continue to involve her local community in future PRHDR efforts. She is passionate about supporting efforts which promote community health on a global level.