

A week with the fledgling radiology residency in Haiti Rebecca Stein-Wexler

I just returned from a week teaching at the pediatrics residency and at the 10-month-old radiology residency at Hôpital de l'Université d'Etat d'Haiti (HUEH), in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti. I'd developed contacts with the residency directors during my first visit to Haiti in March of this year, as part of ACR's *Radiology Education Days* international outreach program. The second visit was under the auspices of the *University of California Haiti Initiative*, partly funded by a grant from the University of California, Davis to the *Global Health Pediatric Subspecialty Access Program*. Jennifer Chang, a senior radiology resident (and chief resident) at UC Davis, accompanied me, funded by UCD's Radiology Department. Before the trip, faculty at UCD donated 8 boxes of new and lightly used radiology texts to send via *Direct Relief International*, an NGO that works with the *Haiti Initiative* and that also supported us on the ground.

We were the first visiting radiologists to spend a week with the brand new radiology residency. I lectured for between 3 and 4 hours per day, dividing my time between the radiology and the pediatrics residents. Topics included newborn GI, GI emergencies, non-accidental trauma, and head ultrasound. Dr Chang lectured on basic ultrasound. We also participated in afternoon read-out sessions and toured other hospitals and imaging facilities in the city.

We transported a refurbished portable ultrasound unit, donated by *SonoSite FujiFilm*, and gave a basic demonstration on its use. The pediatricians will use this device, predominantly in their NICU.

During their first year, radiology residents see only radiographs and US, as HUEH no longer has CT (among other problems, rats ate the wires). They will eventually rotate through a nearby private practice that has CT and mammography. There is currently only one MRI in Haiti (population: 10 million). The hospital has one full-time radiologist, a dedicated teacher who is also a political dynamo and hence often called away to meetings. A few of Haiti's 20-plus practicing radiologists work there on a part-time basis. Despite these limited resources, the four radiology residents—as well as all the radiologists I met—are enthusiastic about learning and teaching, and dedicated to providing high quality health care.

Teaching tomorrow's teachers offers the potential for sustainable impact. I treasure this opportunity to make a difference in a country that's been repeatedly brutally traumatized, and to help rebuild a scarred medical system. Bringing a resident with me has also helped realize one of my goals as residency program director at UC Davis—expanding resident understanding of the vast differences in medical care and providing an opportunity for residents to contribute where help is needed most. I hope to repeat this trip—with a resident—every year, and to develop long-term collaboration between the radiology departments at UCD and HUEH. Despite our vastly different resources, I found we shared a great deal with our Haitian colleagues.