

Dr. Bujold's trip to Poptun, Guatemala

In March, Dr. Bujold traveled to Poptun, Guatemala on a health care mission organized by Helping Hands, a Christian group based in Seattle, Washington. She and one other colleague, Dr. Genevieve Levesque (from Kelowna, B.C.), provided much needed basic dental care to local villagers. They saw approximately 30 patients a day over a 5 day period and did mainly extractions and fillings. The patients were universally grateful for the treatment they received, and Dr. Bujold said it was very satisfying to be able to improve people's quality of life even through these simple procedures.

The equipment available was rudimentary to say the least, and there was no trained dental staff; however, the volunteers were eager and ready to help out, and Dr. Bujold was very impressed with their ability to learn quickly. Other participants in the mission provided basic medical care and some physiotherapy as well.

There was also some time to explore the Mayan ruins and other interesting destinations. All in all, Dr. Bujold felt the experience was a very positive and valuable one, in spite of some of the difficulties associated with delivering dental care in somewhat primitive circumstances. She plans on completing another mission sometime in the future.

