POINT OF CARE ULTRASOUND IN LOWER RESOURCE SETTINGS

My experience providing care and education in Guatemala

Andrew T. Trout, MD
Disclosures

• Equipment I use in the field was in-part donated by SonoSite to the organization I work with
How I got involved

- Prior mission work – recognized value of US
- Existing mission organization with limited to no imaging capability
- Borrowed an ultrasound
- Joined team with goal to prove value of POCUS
Background
Background

- Population ~16 million
- Historically Mayan
- Spanish conquest
- One of the poorest countries in Latin America
  - ~60% live in poverty (< $1.60 / day)
  - ~15% live in extreme poverty (< $0.70 / day)
- Median age = 20 years = lowest in western hemisphere
- Among worst healthcare outcomes in Latin America
  - Highest infant mortality
  - Shortest life expectancy
  - Inadequate public health system
Proving the value of POCUS

• Bring a machine
  – If you bring it… they will come
• Try anything
• Add value
Proving the value of POCUS

- Bring a machine
- Try anything
- Add value
Proving the value of POCUS

• Bring a machine
• Try anything
• Add value
Proving the value of POCUS

• Bring a machine
• Try anything
• Add value
Role of POCUS

• Pretty much anything
• Making a diagnosis
• Triaging
• Procedures / postsurgical
Equipment challenges

- Electricity
- Climate
  - Heat
  - Moisture
- Multiple users / abusers
- Cleanliness…
The “foreign savior”

• Value added by travelling as part of a mission team
• What happens when you leave?

• Making lasting change through education
Resources

• Vendors

• Partners in Health ultrasound manual

QUESTIONS?