

Divya Patel
Zaragoza Clinical Rotation Global Health Program

This past summer I visited Zaragoza with three other medical students in order to gain clinical experience in a different cultural setting. I had a phenomenal experience during the three weeks that I was there. While in Zaragoza, we were in contact with Dr. Rosa Magallon through whatsapp and she guided our experience in Zaragoza. I discussed my interests in various fields in medicine such as pediatrics and gynecology with Rosa, and she did her best to contact doctors in Zaragoza with experience in that field so that I could make the most of my time there. I rotated with a Pediatrician at a local clinic for a couple of days, a family physician at a slightly different clinic, residents in the urgency hospital, as well as with surgeons and gynecologists at another local hospital. Furthermore, I had the most unique experience travelling to the rural outskirts of Zaragoza with a family medicine doctor and spending the day at a local clinic practicing rural medicine. This experience was unlike any other and the warmth of community medicine certainly resonated with me.

Moreover, one of the most moving aspects of my experience in Zaragoza was observing the immense amount of trust and respect that the patients had for their doctor. All of the doctors I worked with possessed a great passion to help the community, establish a relationship with their patients, and an overall zeal to make a difference. There are certainly stark contrasts in the healthcare and lifestyle of doctors I observed in Spain, when compared to those of the United States and this is something I want to further explore while writing my independent project.



This photo was taken with Dr. Rosa in the center and all of us who participated in this program together! Dr. Rosa took us out one night to explore Zaragoza, learn about its history, and she also treated us to tapas as well as authentic Spanish cuisine.



This is a photo I captured while walking around the center of town in Zaragoza. This is the famous and beautiful Plaza del Pilar. Families gather in this area in the evenings for tapas, gelato, or to just mingle. We visited often after our days at the clinic/hospital to just relax and take in all the wonderful sights Zaragoza has to offer. One evening we even attended a demonstration for refugees at the Plaza. A sight of cultural and historical landmarks, the Plaza del Pilar is the star of Zaragoza. Nearby, we also explored the artistic aspect of Zaragoza by visiting the Goya museum as well as The Aljafería Palace. We enjoyed grocery shopping and interacting with neighbors, truly getting a unique cultural experience.