

Field research on malaria

Mapping the occurrence of malaria and other tropical diseases.

As part of his doctoral research, Jacob van der Ende, in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam/Amsterdam UMC and the University of Quito, is mapping the prevalence of tropical diseases in the area where the hospital is located. It is already known that there are many parasites in this region, primarily due to issues related to hygiene. People often drink water from the river and frequently do not wash their hands. However, diagnosing these parasites is often not

feasible, and even when it is possible, treatment is not always readily available. Through field research the investigation into the occurrence of malaria has begun. Every two months, several villages on the east and west sides of the hospital's vicinity are visited. Blood samples are collected from the residents and examined for the presence of malaria. The same is done with blood samples collected from residents of Puerto el Carmen. Two different tests are used, a rapid test and a

thick blood smear test, to compare their accuracy and time efficiency. The rapid test is conducted immediately during the village visits. If someone is found to have malaria, treatment is initiated right away. Additionally, research is being conducted on how parasites in feces can be better diagnosed and how infections can be prevented. The possibility of investigating the dengue virus, which causes dengue fever, is also being explored.



Deposit system Netherlands

Collecting bottles and cans for a good cause.



In the Netherlands, bottles and cans are being collected with a deposit system in more and more places. Not only in supermarkets but also in businesses, you can often find collection points nowadays. Companies that have registered themselves as collection points with 'Statiegeld Nederland' (Deposit System Netherlands)

can choose to donate the deposit to a charitable cause, including Quina Care! How does it work? A company registers itself as a collection point via the 'Statiegeld Nederland' website, and during this registration, they specify what should happen with the deposit. They can indicate that the deposit may be donated to a charitable cause. Quina Care is listed among the charitable organizations and can be selected in this manner. The company then delivers the

collected bottles and cans to 'Statiegeld Nederland', and they ensure that the money is transferred directly to Quina Care. It's also possible to order a so-called donation bin from 'Statiegeld Nederland'. Everything collected in this bin also goes directly to the chosen charitable cause.

For more information, please visit the [Statiegeld Nederland](https://www.statiegeld.nl) website.

Nursing wards open for 3 months

Already assisting 33 patients.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the nursing wards in the hospital were opened on July 1, 2023. So far, a total of 33 patients have been admitted. Among them were individuals with infections that couldn't be treated on an outpatient basis. The patients have found the care they received during their stay to be highly valuable. For the hospital staff, it has been gratifying to provide care in this manner.



In cases where patients come from a distant location, it's possible for a family member to stay at the hospital's inn, which is specifically intended for this purpose. Of nine of the admitted patients one family member

utilized this accommodation. A noteworthy example of a highly successful admission has already been shared through our social media. Julio presented himself at the hospital with very high blood sugar levels and a severe urinary tract infection. He had been using a catheter for several weeks. He was admitted for treatment for nearly a week, after which he was able to leave the hospital in much better condition and without the need for a catheter. In appreciation, he even created a painting for the nursing staff.

Experiences of a Dutch doctor at the hospital

Hanna Hazenberg, a doctor from the Netherlands, worked as a volunteer in the hospital for 6 months.

We have previously shared stories about Dutch doctors who work in the hospital for a duration of 6 months. From January to June 2023, Hanna Hazenberg volunteered at the hospital. Hanna is a specialist in tropical medicine trained in the Netherlands, and she had previously worked at a hospital

in Sierra Leone. She will share her own experiences at Hospital San Miguel.

"07.40. The front door buzzes. I quickly pick up my mug of coffee to head to the entry gate via the hospital patio, enjoying the sunlight that shines in through the adjacent trees. As I walk

past, a frog slowly leaps through one of the side doors and two birds fly out of the patio into the blue sky. On my way to the door I hear someone whistling a happy tune. Seems doctor Jacob is already in the laboratory arranging things."

Read more [here](#).



Employee Vanessa introduces herself

I am looking forward to everything we will experience at Hospital San Miguel.

In this newsletter, it's Vanessa's turn to introduce herself. She works as a laboratory technician at the hospital.

"I am Vanessa Dávila, born on October 20, 1993, in Barinas, Venezuela, in a region known for its beautiful nature, "a flat landscape with a path lined with palm trees and sun." I am the third of four siblings, and my parents, Flor and Gerardo, work as teachers. From a young age,



they taught me the importance of pursuing an academic education and instilled good values in me.

My life story has been strongly influenced by the inspiring life of my grandmother, Cecilia. She was a nurse and dedicated her entire life to her community as a midwife in a small rural town. Her work and dedication led me to follow in her footsteps and become part of a team of healthcare professionals committed to the well-being of society."

Read more [here](#).



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