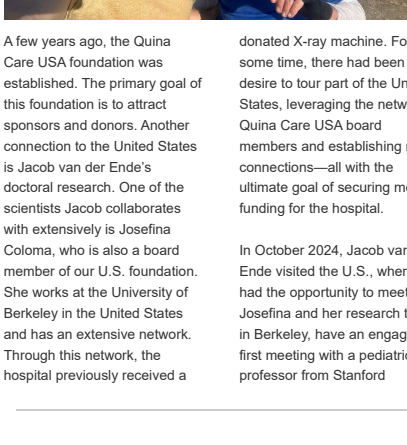


Several months have passed since the last newsletter — months in which many things have happened in and around Quina Care and the hospital. Jacob van der Ende visited the United States, the hospital staff has expanded, and three board members have visited the hospital. Trees have been planted at the hospital as part of a sustainability initiative, and the first publication from the hospital is now a reality. And how much electricity and water does a hospital like this consume? Read all about it in this newsletter.

U.S. tour by Jacob van der Ende

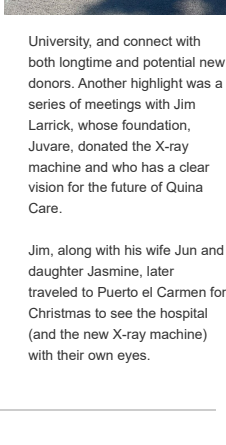
New connections made and old one strengthened.



A few years ago, the Quina Care USA foundation was established. The primary goal of this foundation is to attract sponsors and donors. Another connection to the United States is Jacob van der Ende's doctoral research. One of the scientists Jacob collaborates with extensively is Josefina Coloma, who is also a board member of our U.S. foundation. She works at the University of Berkeley in the United States and has an extensive network. Through this network, the hospital previously received a

donated X-ray machine. For some time, there had been a desire to tour part of the United States, leveraging the network of Quina Care USA board members and establishing new connections—all with the ultimate goal of securing more funding for the hospital.

In October 2024, Jacob van der Ende visited the U.S., where he had the opportunity to meet Josefina and her research team in Berkeley, have an engaging first meeting with a pediatric professor from Stanford



University, and connect with both longtime and potential new donors. Another highlight was a series of meetings with Jim Larrick, whose foundation, Juvare, donated the X-ray machine and who has a clear vision for the future of Quina Care.

Jim, along with his wife Jun and daughter Jasmine, later traveled to Puerto el Carmen for Christmas to see the hospital (and the new X-ray machine) with their own eyes.

Expansion of hospital staff with local doctor and lab technician

Increased operating costs, but reinforcing the hospital's importance.

It is evident in the hospital that medical care is greatly needed for the people of Putumayo and that it is well received. The hospital is getting increasingly busier, with more patients traveling from further away after hearing about the high quality of

care. Due to this growing demand, the hospital has decided to expand its staff by hiring a local doctor and a local lab technician. The application process has now been completed, and both positions have been filled. They started

working at the hospital in February. Naturally, hiring new staff also increases operating costs. As has often been emphasized, this remains one of the most critical focus areas for Quina Care.

Ultrasound project with Wilde Ganzen

So many volunteers with so many different contributions.



In the previous newsletter, we shared that the Wilde Ganzen foundation is supporting the project for a new ultrasound machine with a contribution of over € 20,000 toward the total required amount of € 70,000.

Wilde Ganzen, which itself relies on donations, highlights a different project each week on its website and in a short TV broadcast.

During the week of March 2, the ultrasound project for Quina Care will be the featured project. The broadcast from March 2 can

be rewatched on [NPO Start](#).

However, please note that if more than the pledged amount is raised, the extra funds will not go directly to the ultrasound machine but will instead be allocated to similar projects run by other foundations.

Quina Care board members visit the hospital

A wonderful experience for all three.



Between October 2024 and January 2025 — purely by coincidence in the planning — three of Quina Care's board members individually visited the hospital at their own expense.

They shared their experiences:

Cootje:

'It was a wonderful reunion this past October. Visiting the hospital, the staff, and staying with Carolien and Jacob always feels a bit like coming home, as if I never left. Not that nothing has changed — quite the opposite. The operating and delivery rooms are nearly finished and beautifully set up by volunteers from the Netherlands. And the local staff has expanded once again. It was great to meet these enthusiastic new team members; their energy is so inspiring. In addition, just like

the hospital staff, I had the chance to plant a tree behind the hospital as part of a sustainability project by Equipo Ambiental Mariscal— more about this later in the newsletter. I now feel responsible for the growth of that tree, which gives me yet another reason to return regularly!'

Yvonne:

'This past December, I visited the hospital again. My previous visit was in July 2023, just after the opening of the inpatient wards. At that time, the wards were still in their startup phase, but now they are in full operation. It was wonderful to see and to meet the new staff.

Walking through the hospital and witnessing how much has changed in just a year and a half left a strong impression on me — just like the constant heat and

humidity. I also attended the handover from the night to the day shift, which once again highlighted the importance of the electronic patient record (EPR). Additionally, I received a demonstration from Vanessa in the laboratory, where she explained her work on HPV and Dengue research. It was an intense but incredibly inspiring week!'

Mariska:

'After three years of not seeing the hospital, it was amazing to be back. So much has changed! More departments, more staff, more possibilities in the laboratory—the list goes on.

Attending the morning handover made me realize once again that it has truly become a fully functioning hospital. I've gained plenty of motivation to continue dedicating myself!'

Tree planting for sustainability

Together, we can create change.

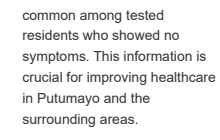
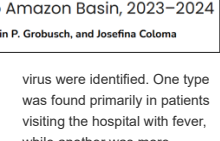
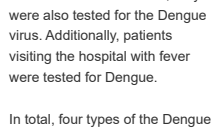
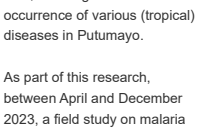
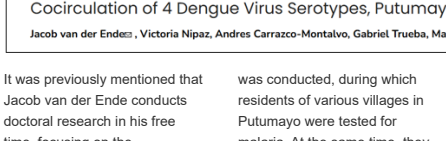
Receptionist Rosa shares the story of a project initiated by Equipo Ambiental Mariscal and the students of la Unidad Educativa San Miguel.

'The idea was to plant wild trees, including the famous chiparo, to create nature-friendly spaces where the residents of Puerto el Carmen and the surrounding areas can relax and enjoy nature.

The team at Hospital San Miguel was also invited to participate in the project. Each member of Quina Care planted a tree, for which they are now personally responsible. This created a space full of life, showing us that together, we can make a difference.

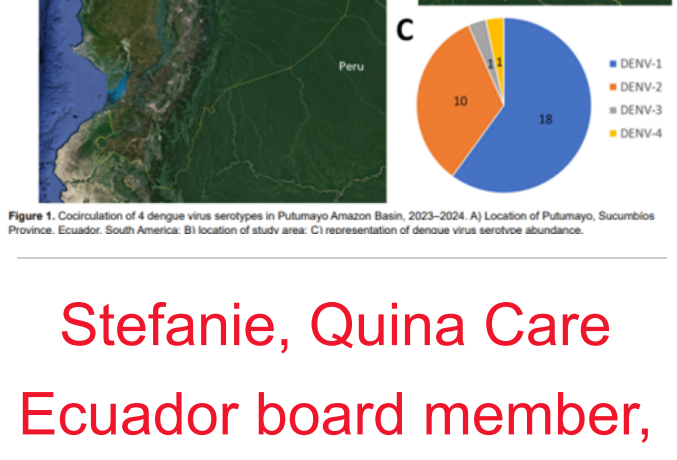
For our team, it was a unique and inspiring experience. The trees were planted very close to

the hospital, on the land next to the sports field behind the hospital. Everyone is responsible for taking care of their trees until they are strong enough to grow independently. The hope is that the roots of these trees will help protect the hospital by preventing landslides and erosion.'



First publication from hospital San Miguel

The presence of the Dengue virus in Putumayo.



It was previously mentioned that Jacob van der Ende conducts doctoral research in his free time, focusing on the occurrence of various (tropical) diseases in Putumayo.

As part of this research, between April and December 2023, a field study on malaria

was conducted, during which residents of various villages in Putumayo were tested for malaria. At the same time, they were also tested for the Dengue virus. Additionally, patients visiting the hospital with fever were tested for Dengue.

In total, four types of the Dengue

virus were identified. One type was found primarily in patients visiting the hospital with fever, while another was more common among tested residents who showed no symptoms. This information is crucial for improving healthcare in Putumayo and the surrounding areas.

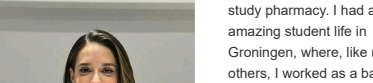


Figure 1. Cocirculation of 4 dengue virus serotypes in Putumayo Amazon Basin, 2023–2024. A) Location of Putumayo, Sucumbios Province, Ecuador. South America. B) location of study area. C) representation of dengue virus serotype abundance.

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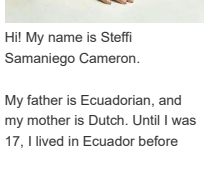
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Donate

Quina Care needs the support of donors. Only with your help we can realize the health care

the people of Putumayo so desperately need. To donate, press the button on the left.



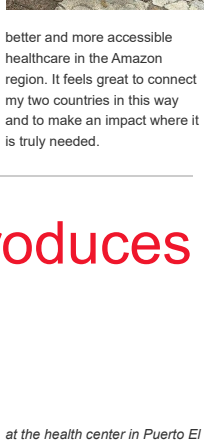
Hi! My name is Steffi Samaniego Cameron.

My father is Ecuadorian, and my mother is Dutch. Until I was 17, I lived in Ecuador before

moving to the Netherlands to study pharmacy. I had an amazing student life in Groningen, where, like many others, I worked as a bartender and waitress.

In 2018, I started my specialization as a hospital pharmacist at Spaarne Gasthuis (Haarlem) and Noordwest Ziekenhuis (Alkmaar). After the pandemic, I increasingly felt the urge to return to Ecuador — to be closer to my parents and to apply the knowledge I had gained in the Netherlands.

Now, I'm happy that through Quina Care, I can contribute to



better and more accessible healthcare in the Amazon region. It feels great to connect my two countries in this way and to make an impact where it is truly needed.

Nurse Jessica introduces herself

This opportunity offers me both professional and personal experience.

"My Experience at Hospital San Miguel"

My experience as a patient taught me that I wanted to focus on healthcare, and over time, I was able to realize my dream of becoming a nurse. My academic journey began at the Helmut Waldmüller

educational institution, where I completed high school. Shortly after, I had the opportunity to study Nursing at the Universidad de las Américas (UDLA) in Quito, Ecuador.

Upon completing my studies, I had to fulfill my rural year, and I was fortunate enough to do this

at the health center in Puerto El Carmen. During this time, I got to know the local people, their culture, and needs, as well as the newly opened Hospital San Miguel. This hospital had equipment that was unavailable at the health center."

You can read her full story [here](#).