**Fundação de Medicina Tropical Doutor Heitor Vieira Dourado**

- **About Manaus, Brazil:**
  - Capital of the Amazonas state in northern Brazil (in the Amazon rainforest)
  - Isolated from the other states of Brazil except by boat or air travel
  - A host city for the 2014 World Cup

- **About the Fundação de Medicina:**
  - Founded in 1970 to treat tropical diseases in the Amazonas, Brazil
  - Current focuses in Amazonas: 1) Providing medical care for all types of infectious diseases and parasites, 2) Researching infectious tropical diseases and parasites, and 3) Educating the public about tropical diseases

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**Objectives of Our Trip**

- Cultural and language immersion (learning how to speak Portuguese)
- Learning more about tropical diseases in their endemic environments
- Gaining clinical experience with the context of the resources available in Brazil

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**Our Experiences in the Fundação**

- **Clinical:**
  - Shadowing in the female wing of the hospital (interacting mostly with HIV-positive patients)
  - Viewing other clinical cases including: localized tetanus, elephantiasis, cutaneous and mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, malaria, dengue dengue fever, and snake bites

- **Research:**
  - A literature study of dengue fever
  - Editing and working on finishing a paper on dengue fever in Amazonas, Brazil

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**Some of Our Experiences In Manaus**

- Images: Left: Cutaneous leishmaniasis (insert: fixed *Leishmania* promastigotes); Right: Elephantiasis in a patient’s left lower limb (insert: fixed *Wuchereria bancrofti* filaria)

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**Next Steps and Future Opportunities**

- **Next Steps:**
  - Continue working on the dengue paper for Dr. Lacerda’s lab (we are submitting another draft for review)
  - Look for opportunities to continue practicing medical Portuguese in the Worcester area

- **Future Opportunities:**
  - Dr. Lacerda is interested in having English-speaking students help his lab members finish papers for publication
  - Other UMass Students are welcome to shadow in the clinic (there is usually at least one intern there who can speak English but it is recommended that visiting students speak Portuguese or at least Spanish)

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**References**

- Data on the Fundação:
- Image of the hospital:
- Image of the Amazonas map:
- Image of *Leishmania* promastigote:
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leishmania_major#/media/Leishmania_major_promastigotes.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leishmania_major#/media/Leishmania_major_promastigotes.jpg)

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