

**Costa Rica – University of Virginia Pediatrics
Exchange Program
1982-2008**

The Costa Rica – University of Virginia Children’s Hospital Exchange was initiated in 1982 by Dr. Robert Blizzard of UVA and Dr. Alberto Saenz of the Children’s Hospital of Costa Rica in San Jose. This is a brief summary of the now 26-year exchange program between the two children’s hospitals.

In summary, 57 different University of Virginia Pediatric faculty members have, over the past 26 years, taught and seen patients in San Jose, Costa Rica. Nine of our chief residents have attended the exchange and 19 residents have spent one to two months of elective time at this hospital.

Nineteen faculty from the Hospital Nacional de Ninos have visited and taught at the University of Virginia. We have had one fellow in Neonatology complete his three-year fellowship and return to Costa Rica as a Senior Neonatologist and an endocrine fellow complete his subspecialty training here and return as a Senior Endocrinologist. We have had four developmentalists spend months at the Kluge Children’s Rehabilitation Center and many surgeons have spent months in the Pediatric Surgery Department with Dr. Rodgers.

The goals of this program are:

- 1) Formal and informal educational exchange for faculty
- 2) University of Virginia faculty members teach annual postgraduate course
- 3) Resident and fellow educational exchange
- 4) Collaborative research
- 5) Clinical consultation between faculty by electronic mail
- 6) Initiative to develop education and consultative interaction by telecommunication

The formal committee at the Hospital Nacional de Ninos is:

Luis Pinto, Chair
Aristides Baltodano
Erick Richmond
Ana Laura Jimenez
Ivonne Gomez
Rodolfo Hernandez
Seidy Robles
Alberto Saenz
Orlando Urroz

The formal committee at the University of Virginia is:

Richard D. Stevenson, Chair
Steve Borowitz
Robert Boyle
Bradley Rodgers
Frank Saulsbury
William Wilson
Leigh Grossman
Linda Waggoner-Fountain
Chief Residents