

Programa de Cirugia de Torax y Cardiovascular (PCTCV)

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“There were various models throughout the meeting, but the most successful was that of a retiring surgeon returning to his native country to give back and make a difference.”

- Dr. Terrance Davis.

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Program

Dos de Mayo Hospital in Lima, Peru was established in 1875. It is administered by the Ministry of Health to provide care for the poor, the uninsured, and to serve as a teaching hospital for several medical schools. In 1994, when Dr. Efrain Montesinos was Chair of PAMS Medical Missions Committee, this teaching hospital, with 850 beds, did not have a Cardiothoracic Surgery Program. Eighteen million Peruvians had no health insurance and were unable to pay for expensive heart surgery. Government hospitals, available to the uninsured, were only able to operate on 10% of children with congenital heart disease at the Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades del Nino, and no cardiac surgical facilities were available for adult patients diagnosed with either congenital or acquired heart disease. Their only option was medical therapy and the natural progression of their disease.

On *November 30, 1998*, the Servicio of Thoracic Cardiovascular Surgery (TCVS) was created to meet the desperate need of heart patients at Dos de Mayo. Dr. Montesinos was named Director of the new Cardiothoracic Surgery Program, ad honorem, and donations from Dr. & Mrs. Montesinos, Rotary International, World Heart Foundation, U.S. corporations and private individuals equipped an operating theater, adult and pediatric cardiovascular intensive care units, an outpatient office, and hospitalization facilities.

The first cardiac surgery with extracorporeal pump was performed on *February 11, 1999*. Sixty cardiovascular procedures were performed in the subsequent seven months and on *September 18* the first Cardiac Medical Mission was led by Dr. Terrance Davis of Children’s Hospital of Columbus, Ohio. The Ogden Cardiovascular Associates, led by Dr. Michael Buch, also conducted missions for several years and donated heart valves. Within four years, 550 cardiac procedures were performed on both children and adults.

On *June 6th 2001*, an agreement was signed between PAMS and Ministerio de Salud (MINSA), naming the service as the Thoracic and Cardiovascular Program (PCTCV), a PAMS Medical Mission. The Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery became a branch of MINSA on *October 15th, 2008* and PCTCV became allied with the Department as an assistance program for patients unable to qualify for insurance.

The long-term goal of PCTCV has been to equip, organize and train medical and ancillary personnel to secure a solid, efficient, and permanent Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery Program capable of meeting patients’ ongoing needs. To meet that goal, medical and ancillary personnel were sent to medical facilities in Miami, Florida and Columbus, Ohio for training, and on *June 1st, 2000*, the Servicio de TCVS was approved as a Training Center for Medical Residents of San Fernando Medical School. On *December 10, 2006*, Dr. Aldo Rafael became

the first TCVS Resident graduate and in *July of 2009* he was accepted as a Fellow at Cleveland Clinic, Ohio. To date the program has graduated four thoracic and cardiovascular surgeons.

Now patients from hospitals all over Peru are referred to the Cardiothoracic Surgery Program and the success rate of the procedures performed is comparable with standards at major hospitals in the United States. The Program, now directed by Dr. Peralta and a staff of over 50, is also a successful training center for new thoracic and cardiovascular surgeons in Peru.

Dr. Efrain & Maria Montesinos

Dr. Efrain Montesinos was born and raised in Apurimac and began medical school in Cusco before completing his medical education and residency at San Fernando. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1968 and spent fourteen months in the Cleveland Clinic's Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery department. In January of 1970, he began coronary surgery in Hospital Obrero (Almenara Hospital). In 1972 he returned to Cleveland Clinic, with his family, to complete his training in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, and in General Surgery at the Medical College of Ohio. In 1978 he moved to Toledo Hospital as Chief of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, remaining its Chief until retirement in 1996. While at Toledo Hospital he also became part of the teaching staff at the School of Medicine, Medical College of Ohio.

In the early 90s, Maria participated in medical missions sponsored by different organizations in northern Ohio. She planted the idea that she and Efrain, as members of PAMS, might lead a medical mission to Peru. They ended up leading missions to Cusco in 1994, to Arequipa in 1995, to Ayacucho in 1996 and '98 and '99, to Huanuco in 1997 and '98 and '00, to Abancay in 2000 and '01, and to Cajamarca in 1999. Toledo Hospital, Medical College of Ohio, Flower Hospital, and many friends and co-workers generously supported their missions with time, funds and equipment.

In 1998, Dr. Montesinos began exploring the possibility of setting up a Cardiovascular Surgery program at Hospital Dos de Mayo. By working closely with Dr. Gonzalez, the Hospital's Medical Director and Efrain's former classmate, they were able to work through the issues and Dr. Montesinos became the director, ad honorem. When Dr. Montesinos passed away in 2007, the dream of establishing a cardiovascular department at Dos de Mayo was about to become a reality. The department now cares for heart patients, trains cardiovascular surgeons, and hosts medical missions - a dream come true.