

## **Product Progress Assessment**

The course of my final product is nearly complete and I am very excited to have the opportunity to share my progress with my friends and family come the end of the year. What I envisioned for my final product has been altered over the course of the last few months but I still think that the end result has proven to be a great success. As I am writing this assessment, the Salvando Corazones team should be heading over to Lima, Peru -sadly, without me- to commence in saving the lives of the underprivileged.

While my project does not have a vast amount of material evidence that I can showcase my progress with, I have managed to accomplish a lot through interpersonal interactions and Outlook. I have met so many influential people within the Healthcare world as well as in the Baylor Scott & White System. Perfusionists, anesthesiologists, cardiovascular surgeons, CVOR nurses, and many other healthcare professionals have found themselves in my contact list. Other than the amazing networking aspect of this project, Dr. Aldo Rafael and I have come a long way from our initial interaction in late 2018 to now.

The start this journey of planning a medical mission trip was a little rocky due to the difficulties in communication and organization. There was no structure before I came on board so my place on the team was not clear either. After a few cancelled meetings, some unclear instruction, and a bit of frustration, Ellie and I finally sat down, created a project plan, a weekly meeting agenda, and a solid plan for how to continue. Our next meeting with Aldo was tense but much-needed and helped pave the way for a much smoother project. I mostly communicated with Aldo via text, call, or e-mail so the newly-found clarity in directions, tasks, action items, difficulties, and successes made my job easier and allowed for greater success.

One of the material results that I have been able to accomplish over the course of this project was the establishment of an online presence for the Salvando Corazones Medical Mission trip. Before I started working with Aldo, he had no way for people outside the team to really join the cause and donate/support. Through the Facebook page, I was able to advertise the T-shirt fundraiser I also created in addition to the progress of the Salvando Corazones team which I hope to catalogue as they send me pictures from their adventures. In addition to the Facebook, I organized the T-shirt fundraiser myself, raising around \$1,300 for the cause. While the \$30,000 grant my mentor was able to procure greatly overshadows the amount that I raised, I am still quite happy with the result, seeing as it is nearly \$700 more than I expected to raise.

While not many tangible items came from this project, the mere experience of working alongside these healthcare professionals has provided me with more opportunity and knowledge than I could have ever possibly imagined.