**Winter Term in Chile January 3-20, 2023**

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Chile has been in the forefront of **major new issues related to health systems and inequality**. First, most Chilean observers were surprised by the **massive social protests** in October 2019 that challenged the view that Chile was progressing in reducing poverty and increasing equal access to health care for the poor and vulnerable populations. The protests led to a process for a **Constitutional Convention** and a **presidential election,** which led to the election of Gabriel Boric, a young a young progressive, and a plebiscite on the draft Constitution. Reforms of the health system are major parts of both the political campaigns and the Constitution. Most recently, Chileans rejects a newly written constitution, maintaining the constitution that was drafted during the military dictatorship.

Secondly, in the face of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, Chile has gone through periods when it seemed to have applied the best practices for containing Covid-19 and for high vaccination rates but these periods were followed by increasing cases and hospitalizations. Currently Chile is again one of the best examples of COVID policies in the region.

Thirdly, Chile has been an **innovator of health sector reforms** and has been a model for several countries around the world. We will have interviews with many participants in the health system, including current and past Ministers of Health, legislators, health economists, members of professional associations, health providers in the public and private sectors, academic observers and researchers to get their views on the protests, COVID-19 situation and the broader options for health reform. We will also observe Chile's initiatives in primary care including an important public private partnership and the development of a family medicine approach to community health care.

After two years of on-line courses due to the COVID pandemic, we are now again offering the course as an in-person course available for 15 students, with HSPH subsidies for flights and per diem costs. There will also be up to 15 Chilean residents in Family Medicine from the Universidad Católica who will join the course and share in all the course activities. We will have in person interviews with officials and observers and visit the Congress in Valparaiso and facilities in both urban and rural areas.

During the **first two weeks, we will interview key actors in the health system and arrange visits to clinics and hospitals** to learn about:

* the origins of the protest movements and their continuing effects, especially as they relate to health care
* the current political issues of the Constitution and the Boric administration
* their innovative health insurance system which involves both public and private insurance
* payment mechanisms in Chile including their DRG system and how it compares to the US DRG system
* the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, its reflection of on-going inequalities, and the different strategies to control the pandemic
* their experiment in public private partnerships for delivery of primary care (the Ancora Clinics, written up as a Harvard Business School teaching case)
* the challenges of implementing a family medicine approach in primary care clinics
* how municipal governments manage the decentralized primary care systems in urban and rural settings.
* the challenges of both public and private hospitals in Santiago
* legislative initiatives on health form in the Congress in Valparaiso

**During the last week, students will have a chance to do independent or collaborative work or a practicum on topics of their own interest**. During the fall, Drs. Bowser and Bossert can put students in touch with local academics and observers who can help develop the independent projects. Chilean residents in family medicine who attend the course and be available to work with the Harvard students on their projects.

Last year even with the limitations of the on-line course students did studies of the social determinants of Covid cases, Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on the cardiovascular mortality in Chile, that are now in manuscripts for publication. The prior year included studies of trauma treatments during the protests. Earlier years included studies of Chile’s innovative tobacco legislation and of a new abortion law that resulted in op-ed pieces in Chile's leading newspaper. Other studies made impressive use of each student's special interests as applied to Chile. The course offers a special opportunity for MPH students to do a practicum on specific issues on Chile before, during and after the winter term course.

The three week 2.5 credit course involves:

* **Introductory lectures** by Harvard Chan School faculty to orient students to the key issues of health reform and community medicine in Chile and to assist in the selection of MPH practicum topics
* **lectures by key participants** in the health system - past and present
* Interviews with **current and past stakeholders and observers** of the health system innovations
* **Lectures and field visits** to public and private clinics and hospitals in urban and rural settings, including the Ancora public private partnership clinics
* **Individual or collaborative short research projects** on various topics such as pandemic policies and impacts, health reform, community medicine, innovations in obesity, tobacco control, and other public health topics

The course requires a **power point presentation and a brief paper on individual or collaborative research into one of the topics of the course.** Some students gain additional credit through an independent study in the spring term following the course.

**Spanish is not a requirement** since most presentations will be in English or informal translations available by Spanish speaking students and Chilean residents.



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