

Cleft Palate Film Production for Hearts In Motion Guatemala Mission



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Population Served

Since 2011, Speech and Hearing Sciences (SHS) students and faculty have participated in a Mission Trip to Guatemala coordinated by the US non-profit Hearts In Motion (HIM). Patients receive free cleft lip and palate surgery (heartsinmotion.org); see poster below. Families often have low levels of literacy and limited or inaccurate knowledge of the cause and impact of cleft.



Purpose

To overcome language and educational barriers, this project was initiated to generate a Spanish-language educational film for families to view while waiting for their child's cleft palate surgery. In the image below, families and student volunteers view the film.



Cleft Palate and Speech

Cleft is one issue that impacts speech production. Many professions contribute to a cleft palate team (cleftline.org). Surgeons repair the structures to improve functionality. After recovery, Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) teach individuals to produce speech sounds more accurately (asha.org).

Production Process

The Unit Production Manager (UPM) utilized previous film production experience to lead and edit the film, volunteering over 150 hours.

- ▶ Interviewed previous HIM Mission Trip participants to develop the content scope
- ▶ Established a project timeline (see below)
- ▶ Recruited student volunteers for all teams

Twenty students from University Programs in Communication Disorders (UPCD) collaborated, volunteering 50 hours. Students were divided into teams that were responsible for generating the content, interviewing surgeons, translating the script into Spanish, gathering images, and recording the narration.

Final Product

The ~40 minute film containing 18 chapters structured as a Q&A captured the following topics:

- ▶ Anatomy and physiology of the speech production system
- ▶ Impact of cleft on speech production and hearing
- ▶ Etiology and incidence rate
- ▶ Most common surgeries and advice for a successful recovery

Initial Findings

The March 2016 Mission Trip optimized the presentation of the film. Greatest comprehension of content was demonstrated when Q&A breaks were provided at regular intervals.

The film's impact on the population served included:

- ▶ Improving the comfort level of families. They felt more prepared to care for their child post-operatively.
- ▶ Clarifying the causes of cleft. Pre-film, the majority believed an eclipse caused their child's cleft.
- ▶ Some families began to recognize the role of genetics and environmental factors.

Future Direction

This creative endeavor will be followed by a research project to assess the impact of the film via pre- and post-viewing surveys.

Production Timeline

Unlike a typical film project in which the individual production (pr.) phases are consecutive, concurrent phases were necessary for this 25-week project due to the short deadline. The image at right compares the actual (solid) project timeline and the projected plan. Although finalized after the original estimate, the film achieved the deadline of March 2016.

Production Stage	Sep 2015		Oct				Nov				Dec				Jan 2016				Feb						
	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Pre-Production																									
Scope & Recruit	x	x	x																						
Script			x	x	x	x	x																		
Interview			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x											
Translation								x	x	x	x	x	x	x											
Pr.																									
Images				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
Narration													x	x	x										
Post-Pr.																									
Edit													x	x	x										
Review																		x	x	x	x				
Update																						x	x		

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Acknowledgements

This self-funded project was completed by UPCD student volunteers in SHS (WSU) and Communication Disorders (EWU). Content sources are acknowledged in the credits at the end of the film.

Film production equipment provided by Sarah Vest (In The Key of SV Studios). Photos provided by Amy Meredith.



The subtitled version of the film (medium resolution) is available online. vimeo.com/inthekeyofsv/vp1

