



Dr. Marcelo Palis met me on Saturday morning. We spent the weekend together exploring Rio de Janeiro. We visited the botanical garden where I learned that pilocarpine was discovered in Brazil in the leaves of a native plant. Dr. Palis also showed me his private clinic across the bay in Niteroi, which he opened several years ago with a group of other ophthalmologists.

During the week I spent time observing Dr. Palis and others in a private clinic. I saw glaucoma testing and laser procedures performed. I learned that in Brazil there are no optometrists, and unless you are an ophthalmologist, you can't refract, which is obviously very different from what I am used to. I observed many cataract and some trabeculectomy surgeries, which I had recorded to bring back with me. I also saw an Ahmed shunt implanted into an eye of a baby.

On Thursday I went to Niteroi where I saw patients, many of them children with congenital glaucoma, in a public glaucoma clinic. Patients there are taken care of by residents and fellows while supervised by Dr. Palis. I was amazed by how basic the conditions were in the clinic. For example, there were no sinks in the entire clinic area to wash hands between patients. There was no privacy since many patients were examined by many doctors in the same room. However, I thought that the care patients received there was of high quality. Interestingly, since most patients there could not afford medications, a lot of them ended up getting surgery instead. I met several residents and fellows, all of whom were very friendly.

I also spent a couple of hours editing an ARVO abstract with Dr. Palis. I was happy to offer my expertise.

The most valuable thing I gained from spending a week in Rio was establishing a friendship with Dr. Palis. He is a very pleasant, intelligent, and friendly physician. He invited me to his home and introduced me to two of his lovely children. He made my stay in Rio unforgettable.

I took over 500 photos during my trip, some of which I am including with this report. They are images of me in scrubs observing surgery and images of patients being treated at a public glaucoma clinic. Thank you Pan - American Foundation and Retina Research Foundation for this experience.

**Ilya Rozenbaum, MD**  
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