

BMFMS Travel Bursary: Trip report

Trip: 1 month spent at the World Health Organisation, Geneva as an 'intern', working closely with the Reproductive Health and Research team (RHR)

Purpose: To gain experience in reproductive health research methodology in a low income setting, inform my current and future research proposals, identify potential collaborators for a larger study, and establish a Cochrane Review Group "Techniques for blood pressure measurement in pregnancy"

Many thanks for the generous BMFMS travel bursary awarded to support this research trip. I spent 4 weeks working closely with Dr Metin Gulmezoglu and the RHR team at the World Health Organisation. During my stay I registered a Cochrane review, and the protocol is currently being developed. The existing Cochrane review on 'ambulatory versus conventional blood pressure monitoring' was identified by authors and members of the pregnancy and childbirth editorial team as needing expansion to include other methods of BP monitoring during pregnancy (the role home BP monitoring was particularly highlighted in a 2011 amendment), as compared with conventional antenatal clinic monitoring. Moreover, there is increasing evidence to suggest that automated BP measurement has greater sensitivity in predicting pre-eclampsia than conventional sphygmomanometry though this has not been assessed in a systematic review.

The WHO reproductive health library is an electronic review journal published by the Department of Reproductive Health and Research at the WHO. It takes the best available evidence and presents it as practical actions for clinicians and policy makers, to improve health outcomes, especially in developing countries. I was involved in not only observing the practical aspect of editing the journal, but my editorial 'Antibiotics for meconium-stained amniotic fluid in labour for preventing maternal and neonatal infections' is currently in Press for the May edition.

I was given responsibility for preparing and drafting the new WHO PPH International Guidelines. I was then invited to return for the technical consultation (Monteux, March) to assimilate comments from the International guideline development group. It has given me experience not only in critically reviewing evidence, but in the process and intricacies of international guideline development, where achieving a consensus is challenging.

This placement, funded by the BMFMS, has given me experience in international guideline development, systematic review writing and journal editing. I have returned with lessons learned from research in low resource settings, which will inform my research in the future.

Many Thanks

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