

# IHTC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / 2022



Dear alumni,

I am very pleased to report that as of 2022, the International Hemophilia Training Centre (IHTC) Fellowship Program—the longest running WFH program—has trained over 750 healthcare professionals (HCPs) from 98 countries. As per our latest impact evaluation, 86% of fellows continue to be involved in bleeding disorders care and 98% have shared their knowledge and expertise with their colleagues locally. This has led to increased multidisciplinary approach implementation, the launch of registries, and the adoption of other best practices.

Our 34 designated IHTCs continue to provide high quality training to fellows from different specialties, including hematologists, nurses, dentists, physiotherapists, orthopedic surgeons, laboratory technicians, geneticists, pediatricians, psychologists, social workers, and physicians.

2022 was a very important year for the IHTC Fellowship Program, as it marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and also featured the restart of in-person training and the reopening of the fellowships call for applications following the gradual worldwide COVID-19 pandemic restriction easing.

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked with a cocktail during the WFH World Congress in Montreal where a video with testimonials from fellows from around the world was presented. Johnny Mahlangu, MD, IHTC Committee member, hosted the event. Dr. Mahlangu highlighted the achievements of the program and thanked our valued sponsors: Bayer, The Hemophilia Alliance and Roche.

I'm also very pleased to report that in 2022, eight IHTCs celebrated 50 years as designated training centres. This remarkable milestone is proof of their deep commitment to the global bleeding disorders community.

In 2022, the program resumed its pre-pandemic operations, and trained eight fellows from six countries. The new call for applications featured the launch of a multilingual online platform that allows users to easily submit their applications and upload their required documentation.

We are very proud of the IHTC Fellowship Program, and we will ensure it continues to evolve to meet the needs of healthcare professionals around the globe, whether those needs be for in-person or virtual training—or a combination of both.

2023 will bring new enhancements to the program, including online preparation to better position fellows for their onsite training. The IHTC Alumni Network continues to be the go-to place for alumni who are looking for the latest WFH resources and news. We encourage you to register if you have not done it yet at <https://ihtc.wfh.org/log-in/>.

I hope to see many of you at the Comprehensive Care Summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from May 10 to 12, 2023. Registration is now open, and I encourage you to visit the [website](#) for more information.

Sincerely,



**MIGUEL ESCOBAR, MD**

International Hemophilia Training Centre (IHTC) Committee Chair

## IHTCs that celebrated 50 years as designated training centres

Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia Centre and Thrombosis Unit, Royal Free Hospital	London, UK
Orthopaedic Hospital Hemophilia Treatment Centre	Los Angeles, U.S.A
Klinik Medizin Department of Hematology and Blood Coagulation Medizinische Universität Wien	Vienna, Austria
Centre for Molecular and Vascular Biology, University of Leuven	Leuven, Belgium
Hôpital Bicêtre Hôpital Necker – Enfants Malades	Paris, France
Angelo Bianchi Bonomi Hemophilia and Thrombosis Centre	Milan, Italy
Oxford Haemophilia Centre and Thrombosis Unit	Oxford, UK
UNC Comprehensive Hemophilia Diagnostic and Treatment Centre	Chapel Hill, U.S.A

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## CLAUDIA DELMA ESCOBAR COCA

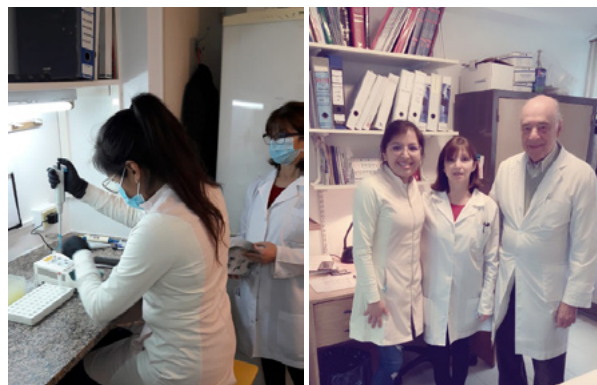
**Biochemist, Bolivia**

**Training Centre: Hemophilia Foundation,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina**

First, I would like to thank the WFH for granting me a fellowship for training in the diagnosis of hemophilia. I would also like to thank my host centre, the Argentinean Hemophilia Foundation, who warmly received and welcomed me during the time of my training. I would especially like to thank doctor Laura Primiani, head of the lab service of the foundation, whom I admire and appreciate very much for her support, and for sharing all her knowledge and experience with me.

During my three-week training, I had the opportunity to acquire practical and solid knowledge of the techniques for the dosing of clotting factors and the titration of inhibitors, which are important in monitoring the treatment of patients with hemophilia. At the same time, my training reinforced my knowledge about hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. I learned to analyze and interpret lab results in order to improve the timely diagnosis of hemophilia in my country. I also understood the key role that a multidisciplinary team plays in the care of patients with hemophilia.

Undoubtedly, my training was the best professional experience I've had, and I will be eternally grateful for this unique opportunity.



## LILIANA MOJICA BALCERAS

**Hematologist, Bolivia**

**Training Centre: Hemophilia Foundation,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina**

First of all, I would like to thank the WFH for granting me the opportunity to receive training in the management of patients with hemophilia, as well as for inviting me to the host Training Centre run by doctor Neme.

I am a hematologist and I have worked with patients with hemophilia since 2017. However, given the poor access to treatments for this group of patients in Bolivia, the experience in proper management is poor. For this reason, I was interested in receiving the training offered by the WFH at different hemophilia training centres.

Over the four weeks of my stay, I had the pleasant opportunity to participate in a workshop for patients organized by the Argentinean Hemophilia Foundation. Topics of great interest to patients, as well as a workshop on self-administration of clotting factor, were included.

One of the most enriching experiences was to be able to witness and be involved in the management and follow-up of patients with hemophilia with inhibitors, especially to be able to see the impact of the use of new therapies (such as emicizumab) in patients, with which we had no experience in my country due to lack of access to this medication at the time.

Obtaining the IHTC Fellowship has allowed me to acquire knowledge by being able to participate in the different activities of the multidisciplinary team (clinical consultation, hematology, psychology, traumatology, physiotherapy, laboratory) that are part of the Argentinean Hemophilia Foundation.

From now on, my wish and purpose are to be able to implement and share the knowledge acquired for the benefit of patients with hemophilia in my country.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## GEBREAMLAK ATIRSAW KEFALE

**Physiotherapist, Ethiopia**

**Training Centre: Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, London, U.K.**

My experience at Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia & Thrombosis Centre (KDHC) at Royal Free Hospital, London, U.K., was an experience of a lifetime for my professional development. I saw a great variety of patients with a wide variety of complications of different age groups, in both the out-patient and the in-patient settings. It is interesting to see colleagues at the centre work in a multidisciplinary team and I learnt the value of teamwork and how it is essential to adopt such a practice in our hospital in Ethiopia.

I learned the clinical practical experience of physiotherapy management of patients from an acute bleed to a more complicated chronic multi joint hemophilic arthropathy. To be specific:

I learned the importance of interactive everyday morning discussion meetings where the team values what others have to say; I saw how that optimizes the team's work and communication.

I learned how the life of patients with end stage joint damage and in severe pain is being impacted by guided physical activities and psychological health support, and about how important major decisions such as joint fusion and joint replacement have a life-changing outcome.


I learned Richard's [the centre's physiotherapist] approach to assessments, and I saw him setting goals and treatment for different age groups and how he guided the treatment in order to achieve goals according to patient's age, activity level, and joint conditions.

I learned the importance of ultrasound in assessing joint status, for early detection of joint disease in patients with hemophilic arthropathy of the joint surfaces, degenerative damages such as osteo-chondral erosions etc. And also, the tools and shared practical clinical experience of assessing hemophilia-affected joints in the pediatrics department at the Evelina London Children's Hospital. I was fortunate to be able to expand my personal and professional network.

Important procedures such as Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) and the clinical practical experience on the procedure of radioactive synovectomy were shown to me, as well as the importance of having a monthly Orthopedic Hemophilia MDT Clinic where major decisions are taken on procedures such as PRP injections, joint fusion, joint replacement etc.

I spent time with my colleagues learning about the importance of using digital platforms for virtual appointments and telephone clinics.



**WFH GLOBAL POLICY  
AND ACCESS SUMMIT**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**JOIN US ONLINE**  
**July 6–7 2023**





Colleagues at the KDHC based at the Royal Free London Hospital celebrating 50 years of being an International Hemophilia Training Centre (IHTC), as designated by the WFH.

# SUPPORTING THE GLOBAL BLEEDING DISORDERS COMMUNITY

*Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, London, U.K.*

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

The Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre (KDHC), based at the Royal Free London Hospital, welcomes fellows from all over the world to train with their team. Thynn Thynn Yee, MD, training program lead, elaborates: "We embrace fellows from all disciplines: physios, laboratory colleagues, doctors, and nurses."

Two IHTC fellows have just completed four weeks of training at the centre. Kgomotso Pearl Semetsa, a hemophilia nurse specialist from Botswana, said that she has learned a lot from her short stay. "It has been so great being here and seeing the variety of patients that come through the centre. It has been an intense few weeks of learning, but the team has been so open to teaching me and so welcoming. I will miss them all."

Gebreamlak Atirsaw, a hemophilia physiotherapist from Ethiopia, says his four weeks with the team have left him feeling empowered. "I've learnt so much about the value of teamwork with colleagues here and how essential it to work with a multidisciplinary team. I've also spent time using digital platforms for virtual appointments and telephone clinics which has been really interesting. I'm very grateful to my generous mentors".

## THE KDHC AND THE WFH

The KDHC is a world-renowned centre for hemophilia care and research. In 1970, it was among the first 8 centres that were selected to join the WFH as a designated International Hemophilia Training Centre (IHTC). Since then, the KDHC has had a long and productive relationship with the WFH. The centre is dedicated to improving the lives of people with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders by providing high-quality care and training to healthcare professionals from around the world.

Over the past five decades, the KDHC has trained approximately 40 IHTC fellows from multiple disciplines. These individuals come from countries with limited resources for hemophilia care, and their training at the KDHC helps them return home with the skills and knowledge they need to provide the highest level of care to their patients. The KDHC's mission is to inspire these individuals and give them the confidence to become leaders in their respective countries, helping close the gap in hemophilia care globally.

The KDHC is committed to providing comprehensive care for people with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders. This includes everything from diagnostic services to treatments and rehabilitation. The centre is staffed by a team of highly trained and experienced healthcare professionals, including hematologists, physiotherapists, and nurses. They work together to provide a multidisciplinary approach to care that is tailored to the needs of each individual patient. The centre's partnership and engagement in different WFH programs like "Train the Trainers" laboratory workshops and the WFH Twinning Program have furthered the impact of their work within the global bleeding disorders community.

The WFH is honoured to celebrate 50 years of collaboration with the Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre. We are eager to continue working together to inspire and empower individuals around the world to become leaders in bleeding disorders care, and work towards our shared vision of Treatment for All.

*"Our partnership with the KDHC is really valued by the WFH. We're privileged to be able to assign fellows to be trained by such a passionate and committed team. Their engagement helps us achieve our strategic goal of having highly trained and well-equipped healthcare professionals who are able to treat and manage people with inherited bleeding disorders around the world."*

**—ANDREINA TOVAR, HEAD, GLOBAL TRAINING PROGRAMS, WFH**



Hydrotherapy sessions in Yangon, Myanmar led by an IHTC fellow trained at the KDHC in 2016.





**WFH COMPREHENSIVE  
CARE SUMMIT**

# **New Developments in Bleeding Disorders and MSK**

**MAY 10–12, 2023**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Attend the WFH Comprehensive Care Summit, a global event taking place in Buenos Aires this May with three tracks: Multidisciplinary, Medical, and MSK. Register now and gain access to leading experts from our international community!

**REGISTER TODAY!** [wfh.org/ccs](https://wfh.org/ccs)

ORGANIZED BY: World Federation of Hemophilia  
HOSTED BY: Fundación de la Hemofilia (Argentina)







# TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Become a **WFH Professional member**  
and gain access to *Haemophilia*\*  
an international journal dedicated to the  
exchange of information regarding the  
comprehensive care of inherited  
bleeding disorders

**INCREASE  
YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE  
TODAY**



\*The Official Journal of the World Federation of Hemophilia and the  
European Association for Haemophilia



For more information on the WFH International  
Hemophilia Training Centre (IHTC) Fellowship  
program visit: [www.wfh.org](http://www.wfh.org)

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