

IHTC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / 2023



As chair of the International Hemophilia Training Centre (IHTC) Fellowship Program, I am delighted to share some highlights from our accomplishments in 2023 with you.

Having successfully overcome pandemic-related challenges, we are proud to report that the fellows from 2018 to 2019 have now completed their trainings. This achievement stands as a testament to our dedication to advancing knowledge and expertise in the treatment of bleeding disorders, and for providing opportunities to healthcare professionals from around the world.

In 2023, we were able to train 17 fellows in total, compared to nine fellows trained in 2022. These results are encouraging, and they will inspire us to continue working with our international hemophilia training centres (IHTCs) to increase the number of trainings in the coming years.

In April 2023, we announced the selection of 20 new IHTC fellows after a rigorous evaluation process. These fellows will be trained over the next two years.

As we reflect on our journey in 2023, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the participants, sponsors, and IHTCs who have contributed to the continued success of this program for over 50 years.

This year, the program ran its IHTC re-designation process, inviting all 34 enrolled IHTCs to confirm their participation in the program for the next five years. For the period from 2024 to 2028, 30 IHTCs have confirmed their availability to continue training fellows under the framework of the fellowship program.

We would like to acknowledge and thank three very esteemed centres—Leuven, Belgium; Manchester, U.K.; and Chapel Hill, U.S.A.—for their dedication and support of the IHTC Fellowship Program over many years. We understand their decision to pause training for now and hope to see them back in the program in the future. Additionally, training at our IHTC in Tel Aviv, Israel, is on hold due to the current situation in the country. We hope to have this centre back in the program soon.

In this year's newsletter, you will find a compilation of stories from the fellows who have recently completed their trainings, as well as articles highlighting the work of our IHTCs, and the experiences shared by their teams.

2024 promises to be an exciting year for us, with a new online training course launching to ensure that all IHTC fellows have a similar foundational knowledge about bleeding disorders. This course has been designed by the IHTC Committee and will include presentations from longstanding WFH volunteers, IHTC Directors and staff members.

I would also like to extend a warm invitation for you to join us at the WFH 2024 World Congress, which will be held from April 21 to 24, 2024, in Madrid, Spain. Registration is now open, and you can find more details [here](#). I look forward to meeting many of you in Madrid this April!

I also encourage you to explore the IHTC Alumni Network, which is the central hub for our alumni seeking the latest resources and news from the WFH. If you haven't already, we invite you to [register for the network here](#) to stay connected with your peers, and to access valuable information tailored to your professional interests.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to advancing bleeding disorders care worldwide. We look forward to continuing this journey together.

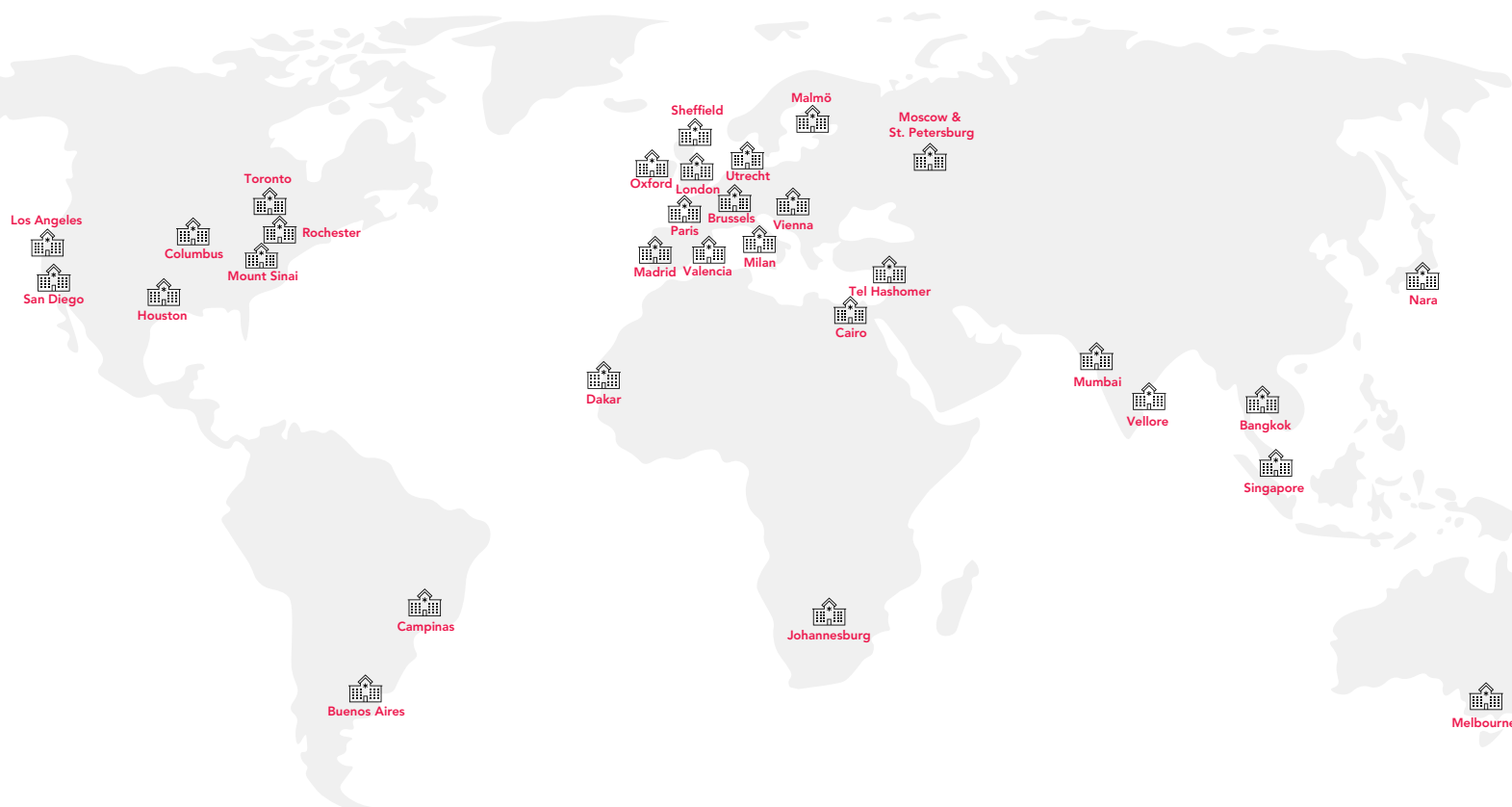
Sincerely,



MIGUEL ESCOBAR, MD

International Hemophilia Training
Centre (IHTC) Committee Chair

30 IHTCs AROUND THE WORLD



Argentina (Buenos Aires)
 Australia (Melbourne)
 Austria (Vienna)
 Belgium (Multiple cities)
 Brazil (Campinas)
 Canada (Toronto)
 Egypt (Cairo)
 France (Paris)
 India (Multiple cities)
 Israel (Tel Hashomer)
 Italy (Milan)

Japan (Nara)
 Netherlands (Utrecht)
 Russia (Moscow and St. Petersburg)
 Senegal (Dakar)
 Singapore (Singapore)
 South Africa (Johannesburg)
 Spain (Multiple cities)
 Sweden (Malmö)
 Thailand (Bangkok)
 United Kingdom (Multiple cities)
 United States (Multiple cities)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: University Hospital Utrecht, Netherlands

IHTC Director: Roger Schutgens

IHTC fellow: Mahmud Mohammed Idris

Occupation: Pediatrician

Country: Eritrea

Training period: May 8 to 26, 2023

When we read the post published in his personal social media by Roger Schutgens, MD, Director of our International Hemophilia Training Centre (IHTC) in Utrecht, we knew we had to communicate his words and experience with our bleeding disorders community at large. The post was titled, "We should all share our knowledge" and with it, Schutgens wrote down his recollections and reflections on what he had learnt from Mahmud Mohammed Idris, MD, a pediatrician from Eritrea who was assigned to be trained as part of the WFH IHTC Fellowship Program at his centre.

With his consent, we are pleased to share this story in his own words:

"The last four weeks, we had the pleasure of hosting Mahmud Mohammed Idris, MD, from Eritrea. For many years, we have been actively involved in the IHTC program from the WFH. Within this fellowship program, we accommodate colleagues from developing countries who care for patients with bleeding disorders. We learn from each other, set up new networks and tried to improve care for rare diseases in places we would normally not reach. A huge thank you to the WFH for supporting this initiative.

But his visit leaves me with a hole in my heart. The gap in medical care between the Netherlands and Eritrea exceeds the level of imagination. He tells me about children with brain tumors and acute leukemia, and especially the complete lack of treatment. They are only left with a diagnosis. Drug treatment for hemophilia is almost impossible, laboratory testing for von Willebrand disease is non-existent, as is DNA diagnostics.

In the Netherlands, we have a vivid discussion on more rigid criteria for the use of very expensive drugs for advanced cancer patients for an extra three-month addition to their life expectancy.

So much for health equity.

It is inspiring to see that Mahmud still has a smile on his face as you can see on this picture, taken in my clinic today. We will be connected from now on."

As we work towards achieving our shared vision of Treatment for All, we see that we are going on the right direction by engaging and connecting healthcare professionals from all over the world to help build medical capacity, as well as greater awareness and a stronger global bleeding disorders community. We thank Roger Schutgens, MD, for sharing his experience and also for showing us that the IHTC Fellowship Program impacts recipient fellows, bleeding disorders communities, and hosting centres and their staff.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, U.S.A

IHTC Director: Rajiv Pruthi

IHTC fellow: Mousa Qatawneh

Occupation: Pediatrician

Country: Jordan

Training period: September 25 to October 30, 2023

I will start with the flexibility the IHTC staff have: they are super helpful and responsive, and they made my fellowship easy.

I was very lucky to have my fellowship in an outstanding hospital like Mayo Clinic under the mentorship of Rajiv Pruthi, MD. The hemophilia centre there is very organized and has a clear and fantastic vision to help patients and the community in Rochester and Minnesota.

At the centre, we started our week by meeting the members of the multidisciplinary team to discuss patients who had complications or had special needs. Then we had a daily bleeding and thrombosis clinic with a detailed discussion about each case. After the clinic, we had a laboratory session to discuss the interpretation of the coagulation tests. There were three to four lectures weekly by an expert doctor in the bleeding and thrombosis field.

During my fellowship, I learned how to interpret the coagulation tests and the treatment plans for bleeding disorders, including emergency cases, prophylactic treatment, and new modalities of treatment.

At Mayo Clinic I realized the importance of the multidisciplinary team to help patients get the best care possible.

Thank you, Mayo Clinic. Many thanks to the wonderful team, especially Rajiv Pruthi, MD, who is the head of the HTC. He was very helpful and cooperative, and he helped make my fellowship unique and very beneficial.

Finally, I am very appreciative of the WFH for giving me this opportunity as this fellowship will help me to improve the quality of care for patients with bleeding disorders in my country of Jordan.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: University of Toronto Hemophilia Centres

IHTC Director: Jerome Teitel

IHTC fellow: Stella Rwezaura

Occupation: Hematologist

Country: Tanzania

Training period: October 30 to November 24, 2023

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the WFH for giving me the wonderful opportunity to participate in the IHTC Program as a Fellow. I am also grateful to all my supervisors at St. Michael's Hospital and SickKids Hospital for their love, caring, and commitment related to my stay at their facilities.

The training was informative and beneficial to me and my country at large. Thank you very much for organizing the training and for supporting me during the whole process.

I have learnt a lot within this short time of four weeks, and I am sure that the knowledge I have acquired will help me to improve care for patients with hemophilia and other bleeding disorders in Tanzania.

Thank you again for everything, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: Churchill Hospital, Oxford, U.K.

IHTC Director: Dalia Khan

IHTC fellow: Nelly Sargsyan

Occupation: Hematologist

Country: Armenia

Training period: November 13 to December 10, 2023

It's an honour to share my experiences from the recent scholarship training trip, and I hope my insights will be beneficial and inspiring to our fellow alumni. During the training, I had several enriching experiences, from mastering advanced laboratory techniques to engaging in multidisciplinary clinical settings.

My experience during the Fellowship was immensely valuable. It offered me a comprehensive mix of clinical, laboratory, and academic learning, enhancing my skills in hemophilia and thrombosis management and enabling me to improve patient care in my field. My general impression of the Fellowship is exceedingly positive. It was an enriching experience that significantly broadened my clinical and research perspectives. I am eager to apply this enhanced expertise to advance hemophilia care in my home country.



CENTRE SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: Fundación de la Hemofilia de Argentina

Buenos Aires, Argentina

IHTC Director: Daniela Neme



The Hemophilia Foundation of Argentina was created in 1944 as a centre for comprehensive treatment and social support for hemophilia patients and their families. The Foundation provides multidisciplinary care for patients, accompanying them throughout their lives.

The Foundation is strongly committed to the education of patients and their families. Numerous workshops are held throughout the year to promote learning about the different aspects of the pathology, to achieve greater knowledge and adherence to controls and treatments.

This education extends to the professional field. Since 1972, the WFH has recognized our institution as an IHTC. Since then, hematologists, dentists, biochemists, kinesiologists, psychologists, nurses, and social workers have participated in 3 to 4 week fellowships to enhance their bleeding disorders knowledge for the benefit of patients with hemophilia. Each fellowship is special and has the added value that the fellows

rotate through all the services of the foundation, and thus get a comprehensive view of the multidisciplinary management of hemophilia patients in a centre that sees many patients per day.

This mutually beneficial activity is a valuable tool for the exchange of knowledge and experience among professionals, promoting training and interest in hemophilia. The fellowship allows us to establish a bond with the professionals, which continues over the long term. We have fond memories of all of them and we are still in contact with many of them. Our most recent fellow is Claudia Cabrera Morales, a hematologist from Cuba, who was trained at our centre for a period of four weeks starting in November 2023.

We are proud to be part of the IHTC Fellowship Program as a training centre, and we hope to continue providing high quality training to international fellows in the years to come.

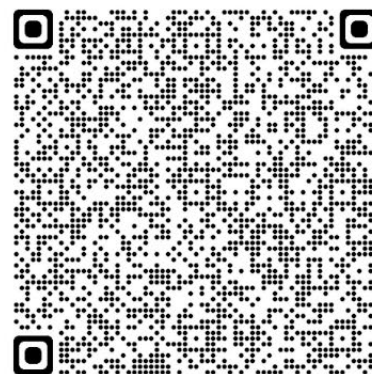




TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL

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



WFH 2024 WORLD CONGRESS

Register now: wfh.org/congress



WFH

WORLD CONGRESS

MADRID • APRIL 21-24, 2024

ORGANIZED BY: World Federation of Hemophilia
HOSTED BY: Federación Española de Hemofilia (Fedhemo)



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

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