

IHTC ALUMNI NEWSLETTER / 2024



I am pleased to share some of our key accomplishments from 2024. This year, we successfully trained 16 fellows, a significant achievement that underscores our commitment to expanding access to specialized hemophilia care. In April 2024, following a selection process, we welcomed 25 new IHTC fellows who will be undergoing training over the next two years.

One of the highlights of this year was the participation of Mahi Constant Eric Gnemagnon, a Hematologist from Côte d'Ivoire, in the IHTC program. She trained at Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc in Brussels, Belgium, from August 05 to August 23, 2024, making history as the first fellow from Côte d'Ivoire. This milestone reflects our ongoing efforts to reach new regions and ensure broader global representation in hemophilia training.

In addition to our in-person training efforts, we launched a new online training course in 2023, designed by the IHTC Committee to provide a foundational understanding of bleeding disorders. This initiative has already proven to be a success, with several fellows completing the course in 2024, further strengthening our educational impact.

We also encourage all past and current fellows to engage with the IHTC Alumni Network, a dedicated platform for professional development, networking, and access to the latest resources from the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH). If you haven't joined yet, we invite you to register and stay connected with peers worldwide.

As we reflect on the progress made, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our fellows, IHTCs, and sponsors for their unwavering dedication and support. Your contributions continue to shape the future of hemophilia care, ensuring that expertise reaches those who need it most.

This year's newsletter features inspiring stories from our recently trained fellows, along with articles highlighting the impactful work of our IHTCs. We hope you find their experiences as motivating as we do.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We look forward to continuing our mission together in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

MIGUEL A. ESCOBAR, MD

International Hemophilia Training Centre
(IHTC) Committee Chair



30 IHTCs AROUND THE WORLD



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: Academia Nacional de Medicina de Buenos Aires | Buenos Aires, Argentina

IHTC Director: Daniela Neme

IHTC fellow: Yenirellys González Llamozas

Occupation: Psychologist

Country: Uruguay

Training period: June 3–15, 2024 and September 16–28, 2024

It was an enriching experience in every sense. Sharing with other people, both professionals and patients, and realizing the coincidences and differences between the centre where I was welcomed in and the centre where I work, was very interesting for me.

I returned to my workplace with a great desire to continue creating proposals that can improve the care provided in my department. How necessary it is for people who are in constant contact with the disease to have a place where they feel comfortable and cared for! Likewise, how important it is to have this type of fellowships, so that, as professionals, we can reflect on and question our procedures to be able to continue transforming them.

I am very grateful to the World Federation of Hemophilia, the IHTC Fellowship Program, the host centre, the Psychologist Silvina Graña, and all the staff in the Hemophilia Foundation in Argentina, who made me feel very comfortable throughout my stay, while I was learning and sharing in the institution.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: Hôpital Necker - Enfants Malades | Paris, France

IHTC Director: Laurent Frenzel

IHTC fellow: Zoeliarisoa Razanajanahary

Occupation: Nurse

Country: Madagascar

Training period: 5 May to 15 June 2024

- Acquired training rich in new knowledge
- Therapeutic training mastered
- Numerous cases encountered
- Very welcoming IHTC teams, who provided all the necessary knowledge. Many thanks to them!

I would also like to thank the World Federation of Hemophilia for giving us the opportunity to discover how things work in a modern country. I hope to be able to participate in other therapeutic educational activities, as this is very important for people with hemophilia and their families.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: Hospital Universitario La Paz | Madrid, Spain

IHTC Director: Maria Teresa Álvarez Roman

IHTC fellow: Bitty Kurian

Occupation: Laboratory Technician/Technologist

Country: India

Training period: May 27 to June 21, 2024

My time at the Hospital Universitario La Paz in Madrid, Spain, has been incredibly impactful. Here are my key observations and impressions:

- **World-Class Expertise:** The hospital is globally renowned for its expertise in coagulation disorders. The opportunity to learn from distinguished professionals like Dr. Victor, Dr. Maria Teresa Alvarez Roman, Dr. Nora Butta has been invaluable. Their knowledge and dedication to advancing the field have profoundly influenced my training.
- **Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Approach:** The center's holistic approach to patient care, integrating medical management, genetic counseling, and psychosocial support, ensures comprehensive treatment for patients. This multidisciplinary model has provided me with a deeper understanding of patient care beyond just laboratory work.
- **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** The training center boasts cutting-edge laboratory facilities equipped with the latest diagnostic and therapeutic tools. The hands-on experience with advanced instruments such as the ROTEM Delta Analyzer and the Thrombin scope FluoroScan Ascent Analyser has significantly enhanced my practical skills and technical knowledge.



- **Innovative Research Environment:** The strong emphasis on research and innovation creates a dynamic and stimulating environment. Being involved in groundbreaking studies and learning about novel research methodologies has been both exciting and educational.
- **Exceptional Training and Mentorship:** The quality of training and mentorship from experts like Dr. Nora Butta, Elena Monzon Manzano, and Elena G Arias-Salgado, Paula Acuna has been outstanding. Their commitment to teaching and willingness to share their expertise has greatly enriched my learning experience.
- **Collaborative and Supportive Culture:** The center fosters a collaborative and supportive work environment. The teamwork and mutual respect among the staff create a conducive learning atmosphere. The sense of community and shared purpose is palpable and motivating.
- **Emphasis on Best Practices:** The center's commitment to implementing best practices and adopting the latest advancements in coagulation disorder management ensures high-quality patient care. This focus on excellence has inspired me to strive for the highest standards in my work.
- **Opportunities for Professional Growth:** The fellowship has provided numerous opportunities for professional development, including networking with leading experts, participating in conferences, and engaging in collaborative projects. These experiences have broadened my professional horizons and opened new avenues for future collaborations.
- **Global Perspective:** Training at a prestigious institution like Hospital Universitario La Paz has given me a broader perspective on the global challenges and advancements in hemophilia care. This global outlook will be invaluable in improving hemophilia care in my home country.

Overall, my training at Hospital Universitario La Paz has been an extraordinary and transformative experience. The knowledge, skills, and insights gained during this fellowship have equipped me to make significant contributions to the field of hemophilia care. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and look forward to applying what I have learned to benefit patients and advance the field of coagulation disorders.

CENTRE SPOTLIGHT

IHTC Centre: Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre | London, UK

IHTC Director: Professor Pratima Chowdary

The Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre was established in 1964, with the original site being housed in a caravan. The Centre is now housed in a purpose-built facility on the ground floor of the Royal Free Hospital in London. With approximately 3000 registered patients, it is one of the largest centres in Europe, and it is committed to providing comprehensive care for people with haemophilia and other bleeding disorders. The Centre is staffed by a team of highly trained and experienced healthcare professionals, including haematologists, nurses, physiotherapists, and psychologists, supported by a specialist coagulation laboratory. We also work closely with colleagues in obstetrics, gynaecology, orthopaedic, radiology and nuclear medicine to

provide a multidisciplinary approach to care that is tailored to the needs of each individual patient.

In 1970, it was among the first eight centres that were selected to join the WFH as a designated International Hemophilia Training Centre (IHTC). Since then, the Centre has enjoyed a longstanding, productive relationship with the WFH and has trained around 45 IHTC fellows from diverse backgrounds—including haematologists, lab scientists, nurses, and physiotherapists. Fellows benefit from a comprehensive, immersive experience emphasizing multidisciplinary teamwork, with the patient at the heart of all activities. They also witness the integration of clinical and academic work, spanning medical trials, registry data, and rehabilitation approaches.



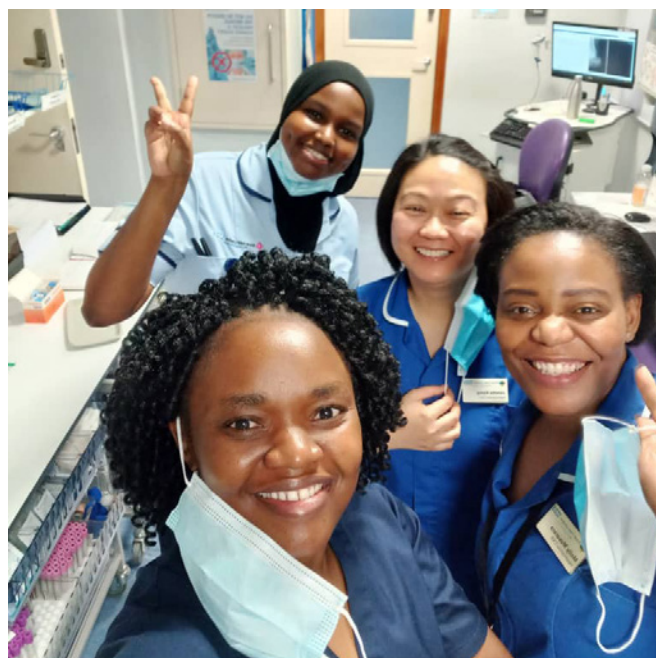


Being part of the IHTC programme is an important part of the ethos of our Centre, which is to be able to provide educational and training opportunities for those Fellows who want to experience them. The goal is to foster future leaders in haemophilia care and help close gaps in treatment on a global scale. In turn, the centre gains from the rich perspectives and insights of these visiting professionals, creating lasting professional ties and collaborations that extend well beyond each fellowship.

Our most recent Fellows were Kgomotso Pearl Semetsa, a haemophilia nurse specialist from Botswana, Gebreamlak Atirsaw, a haemophilia physiotherapist from Ethiopia and Dr Anupam Dutta, a physician from India. They worked alongside the multidisciplinary team, observing a wide range of patient needs, and concluded their stay by sharing their own experiences in a departmental seminar—a highlight for the entire Katharine Dormandy team.

Our team is proud to be a continued part of this program, and we gain a huge amount professionally as well from being part of the programme and learning from our Fellows. By continuing to welcome clinicians from across

the globe, the Centre carries on a legacy of excellence and collaboration that traces back to its earliest days in a caravan and supported by successive centre directors and the MDT team. This commitment to training and partnership remains a defining feature of the Katharine Dormandy Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre, and the team looks forward to extending this legacy for years to come.



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

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