

**REPORT OF THE 1 YEAR FELLOWSHIP IN PAEDIATRIC HAEMATOLOGY/  
ONCOLOGY AT THE RED CROSS WAR MEMORIAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL  
FROM 25th JUNE 2012 – 24th JUNE 2013.**

**By Dr Vivian Paintsil**

The Haematology/Oncology fellowship is a one year sub-specialty training programme held at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital and sponsored by APFP.

The Haematology/Oncology is one of the dedicated paediatric oncology training centres in South Africa. All haematological cases and childhood cancers are seen by this service.

I started my training on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2012. I was shown around the hospital and the ward where I was supposed to work. I was given about 2 weeks to settle into the routine of work and during that time, I reviewed patients with the team and went on ward rounds. After these 2 weeks, I started doing weekend rounds.

The training involved my participation in patient management. Apart from the ward work, I had the opportunity to take part in the haematology and oncology outpatient clinics. I also spent time in the procedure room mastering the skills for both investigative and therapeutic procedures. This really helped me a lot and sharpened my skills.

I had one-on-one tutorials with my supervisor and the other consultants when they were available. Weekly tumour board meetings were held and the clinical meetings and journal club helped to enrich my knowledge.

During my training, I had time to go to the radiotherapy unit, the haematology unit and the bone marrow transplant unit. This emphasized the shared care aspects of Haematology/Oncology.

I also did a research "Audiology Surveillance among children receiving Cisplatin for osteogenic sarcoma and hepatoblastoma at the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, Cape Town" during the time I spent here.

The team of dedicated consultants were always around to teach and give advice and made the environment conducive for learning. I will commend my consultants for their good work.

This training has helped me learn about the care of the oncology patient as is done internationally. It has also given me the opportunity to learn how to take into consideration the limitations in a resource limited country like mine in the management of the patient.

This programme has really given me an in-depth knowledge of paediatric Haematology/Oncology and also given me the skills to implement what has been acquired.

This training will really help me in my subspecialty practice in my country.