

Paediatric Neurology Training at Red Cross Children's Hospital, Cape Town.

My name is Pauline Samia. I am a Paediatrician working in Kenya. I trained in Neurology at Red Cross's Children's Hospital Cape Town. My training was made possible through funding support provided by the African Paediatric Fellowship training programme of the University of Cape Town. Gertrude's Children's Hospital, Nairobi where I am now based also provided support during my training.

The African Paediatric Fellowship training programme secretariat is based at the School of Child and adolescent Health at Red Cross Children's Hospital. The Secretariat is well organized and helped co-ordinate all the paperwork that was required including registration with the Health Professions council and the University of Cape Town before I could start my training.

The neurology department's staff members are very highly qualified and experienced in the care of children with various neurological complications. All cadres of staff have kept abreast with advances in general neurology as well as in their particular areas of interest. This makes this department very suitable for training especially for fellows who come from areas that are not well endowed in expertise in child neurology. I received very sound guidance in the management of various child neurology cases.

The day to day running of the Neurology department is very well organized with dedicated time for journal reviews, research and clinical work. Though a neurologist working in Africa is likely to manage the whole spectrum of cases, during training I found it very useful to work in dedicated epilepsy, neuromuscular, Neuro – HIV, Neuro-metabolic, general neurology and Tuberous Sclerosis clinics. This allowed in depth focus on the various sub disciplines. Involvement in the management of complicated cases of central nervous infections has helped me a lot in the management of similar cases which are common in Kenya as well. Experience gained from working in developmental paediatrics has facilitated evaluation and management of children with developmental disorders a common reason for referral where I now work. Overall, my experience at Red Cross Children's Hospital has improved my approach to the care of children that I manage.

I found the neurology department and UCT as a whole to be very supportive of research work. There is easy online access to UCT libraries, relevant journals and data bases as well as programmes such as ref-works. I participated in research training workshops which were relevant and helpful. I participated in a research project in Neuro-HIV and wrote a dissertation on Tuberous Sclerosis during my training.

Prospective trainees who wish to get in touch with me can do so on my email psamia@gerties.org.