



Edson Bernardo, M.D.

M.P.H. Candidate, Global Health Track
edson.l.bernardo.2@vanderbilt.edu

Practicum Site:
Barretos Cancer Hospital
Barretos, Brazil

Practicum Site Supervisor:
Vinicius De Lima Vazquez, Ph.D., M.D.

Leveraging Research Skills and Knowledge at Barretos Cancer Hospital

Purpose: Founded in 1968, Barreto's Cancer Hospital (BCH) is one of the premiere cancer institutions in Brazil and Latin America and it specializes in cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment. In addition to providing free preeminent cancer care to the area's rural population, BCH is dedicated to improving education and research capacity, and providing an opportunity for students to learn and experience the design and implementation of different research techniques.

Objectives: The primary goal of the practicum was to address the foundational competency of designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating clinical research studies. Secondly, the practicum was an opportunity to learn from and engage with multiple professionals within the Clinical Research Unit where the majority of studies are funded by pharmaceutical companies.

Outcomes: Working with researchers provided insight on the array of roles required to carry out clinical research studies at BCH. Insight was gained through participation in different aspects of research design, including study protocols, aims and objectives, inclusion and exclusion criteria, informed consent, patient follow-up, reporting of adverse events, and analysis of preliminary and final. Additional experience was gained in patient engagement through screening and follow-up services along with participating in community-based efforts to encourage to health promotion.

Interpretation: BCH plays an important role in promoting public health strategies and it challenges health professionals to employ evidence-

based policies in the Clinical Research Unit. Additionally, BCH and Brazil have similar challenges and opportunities to embrace the power of data and digital health services that are common in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). The knowledge, skills and abilities developed in Vanderbilt MPH Program and during the practicum will enhance my overall goal of becoming a medical researcher in an LMIC where social and economic challenges require trained and competent human resources.

