

Didier Mugabe, MD¹, Troy D.Moon MD,MPH¹, Rui Manuel Vieira Reis, PhD², Luis Eduardo Zucca, MD², Vinicius de Lima Vazquez, MD, PhD²

Vanderbilt Institute of Global Health ¹, Barretos Cancer Hospital ²

Background

Barretos Cancer Hospital is a public-private institution specialized for treatment and prevention of cancer. The mission consists of delivering a humanized high-quality clinical care to patients with cancer from the national public health system. This is accomplished through prevention, treatment and research. This practicum aimed to achieve hands-on experience in designing and implementing clinical trials in a state-of-the-art institution located in a resource limited setting with an epidemiological profile similar to Mozambique, where I am based.



Methods

Activities were structured in a rotational model to take place in three departments that conduct clinical research at the hospital: 1) the Clinical Research Unit (*Unidade de Pesquisa Clínica - UPC*) that conducts and coordinates studies financed by the pharmaceutical industry; 2) the Research Support Center (*Núcleo de Apoio ao Pesquisador - NAP*) that conducts studies initiated by the local researchers; and 3) the Department of Prevention that engages with communities for screening and early detection of cancer. Finally, I also attended both masters and doctoral classes that were offered.



Results

I engaged in different stages of clinical trial activities conducted at Barretos Cancer Hospital and experienced relevant aspects of clinical trial implementation such as patient recruitment, obtaining informed consent, screening for eligibility criteria, randomization, data collection, patient follow-up, study files and patient's chart organization, registration and report of adverse events, case report forms (CRF) fill out, administration of study medications, resource management, local and international study regulations, ethics issues in clinical research, and community engagement.

In addition, I interacted with the community and learned how research impacts community's health and has the potential to improve medical care services and patient satisfaction in the organization.

Conclusions

The clinical research implementation skills acquired from this practicum at Barretos Cancer Hospital, along with taking MPH courses, equipped me with fundamental and necessary tools to successfully design, conduct, and coordinate clinical research within Good Clinical Practices and ethics in research.

References

1. Prata HD. Acima de tudo o amor: como a fé e a solidariedade construíram o maior polo de referência nacional contra o câncer.; 2012
2. Soubhia Scannavino, C. S., Batista Sorato, D., Polidoro Lima, M., Junqueira Franco, A. H., Paschoal Martins, M., Morais Júnior, J. C., & Iguimar Valério, N. (2013). Psico-Oncologia: atuação do psicólogo no Hospital de Câncer de Barretos. *Psicologia USP*, 24(1).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all health professionals at BCH who provided the support needed to fulfill the practicum goals. Special thanks to my BCH site supervisors Dr Vinicius Vazquez and Dr Rui Reis, my MPH mentor Troy Moon, PRISM administrative lead Holly Cassell, MPH program and VIGH, Carolina Jorgetto, Viviane Andrade and Joao Paulo.

This practicum was supported by the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number D43 TW009745. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health

