



Didier Mugabe, M.D.

M.P.H. Candidate, Global Health Track
didier.mugabe.1@vanderbilt.edu

Practicum Site:
Hospital de Câncer de Barretos
Barretos, Sao Paulo, Brazil

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

Gaining Skills in Clinical Research at Hospital de Câncer de Barretos, Barretos, Brazil

Background: Hospital de Câncer de Barretos 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 through prevention, treatment, and research. This practicum aimed to achieve hands-on experience in designing and implementing clinical trials in an advanced institution located in a resource limited setting with an epidemiological profile similar to Mozambique.

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 local researchers; and 3) the Department of Prevention that engages with communities for screening and early detection of cancer. Finally, both masters and doctoral classes were offered.

Results: I engaged in different stages of clinical trial activities conducted at Hospital de Câncer de Barretos 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, organizing study files in the patient's chart, registering and reporting adverse events, filling out case report forms (CRF), administration of study medications, resource management, study regulation, ethics issues, and community engagement. In addition, I interacted with the

community and learned how research impacts on the community's health and has the potential to improve medical care services and patient satisfaction.

Conclusions: The clinical research implementation skills acquired from Hospital de Câncer de Barretos, along with taking of MPH courses equipped me with fundamental and necessary tools to successfully design, conduct, and coordinate clinical research.

