



In the next few paragraphs, I would like to introduce myself and take you through a journey on how I became involved and interested in research in general and clinical trials in particular.

I did my master's in public health in 2009 and bachelors in nursing in 2006 from Haramaya University in Ethiopia. I have over 5 years' experience working in different positions in public health research, with national and international organizations.

My career in clinical research has begun in 2012 when I was offered a research assistant position with Intrahealth International, Ethiopia since January 2012. The trial seeks to provide evidence on the non-inferiority of short-term catheterization following fistula repair surgery for vaginal fistula (A vaginal fistula is a devastating condition, affecting an estimated 2 million girls and women across Africa and Asia). It is a multi-centered RCT in 8 African countries. In my current position I was able to gain knowledge and experience in research and clinical trials. I was trained and certified in Good Clinical Practice (GCP), and through working with experienced researchers and key players in the trial; trial sponsors, Clinical Research Organizations (CROs), Clinical Research Associates (CRAs)/, study monitors, Principal Investigator (PI) and other Research Coordinators (CRCs). For example, I improved my proficiency and skills in day-to-day management of the trial and data collection; source document verification, validation of CRF entries, query resolution, study site evaluation and selection, Adverse Events (AEs) and Serious Adverse Events (SAE) reporting and documentation. Through a year and half I worked in clinical trial, I also developed my communication and leadership skills.

Although working in a particular area of research is important successful personal and professional development, cannot be achieved without sharing experiences with other professionals working in different areas of expertise is, remains equally indispensable. I chose the nursing profession, while I had opportunities to join other health as well as non-health related disciplines. I strongly believed then and now that nurses make the closest contact with in making a difference in every aspects of improving the health of patients and of people around the world.

I learned about this site from my colleague Henok Negussie and immediately decided to join as a member. Therefore, for me such a network not only brings professional nurses together to share experiences and talk about the challenges and difficulties faced in daily professional life, but also serves purposes on a par with professional associations, as far as personal and professional development is concerned. I would like to see more and more nurses getting involved in the site and telling their stories as well as contribute to professional discussions!

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