



SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

This report should be completed by recipients of awards and scholarships from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow on completion of the activity for which they received their award or scholarship. Please complete all sections of the report form.

Please return your completed report via email to: scholarships@rcpsg.ac.uk

Or via mail to: **Scholarships Committee Administrator, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow,
232-242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RJ, UK**

Please use typeface when completing this form.

SECTION 1 PERSONAL AND AWARD DETAILS			
Title	Dr	PID	61507
Surname	Acquah	Forename(s)	Rebecca Ruth
Scholarship/award awarded	Travelling Scholarship	Amount awarded	£2000

SECTION 2 PROJECT/VISIT DETAILS	
Name/Title	East African Tropical Medicine Diploma
Location	Moshi, Tanzania and Kampala, Uganda
Aims and objectives	Complete and graduate from the East African Tropical Medicine Diploma
Summary <i>Include methodology, results and conclusions if applicable</i>	I travelled to East Africa and studied the East African Tropical Medicine Diploma which is a collaboration between the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Kiliminjaro Christian Medical University College, Makerere University, John Hopkins University and the University of Washington. We were 72 students, a third of whom were East African Scholarship students. I passed the course, and am awaiting my final mark.

<p>Learning outcomes</p> <p><i>Detail here how the aims and objectives were met</i></p>	<p>The curriculum was followed. In addition to the core units I chose 3 student selected components: doing qualitative research with traditional healers in the Usambara mountains, learning about the healthcare needs of the Batwa Pygmies of the Great Lakes Region and learning about Ebola - from doctors who were present throughout the outbreak in Sierra Leone.</p>
<p>Evaluation</p> <p><i>How has this scholarship/award impacted on your clinical/NHS practice or equivalent?</i></p>	<p>I was at a turning point in my career, having become slightly disillusioned with my chosen specialty of genitorurinary medicine. I had always considered a career in global health and work in subsaharan Africa and in terms of UK training had never quite forgotten the option of infectious diseases. This course gave me the chance to consider all of these options. The curriculum and the teaching were fantastic, and I feel privileged to have received teaching from a variety of incredible tutors and lecturers. My knowledge of tropical medicine, public health and parisitology has been enhanced greatly. But the skills I have learned go beyond that. The practicalities of working in a resource limited setting were presented to us on a daily basis and I have learned how to overcome or work through the many challenges that arise. Prioritising tests and using my clinical skills more definitively will be useful not just for my further work in resource limited settings but here in the NHS also. I have been exposed to many different pathologies that I am less likely to see in a UK setting. In addition I have been exposed to patient groups that I have less experience with for example children and expectant mothers. Other practical skills I have developed include microscopy, having spent a week identifying parasites in Tanzania.</p> <p>I think most of all I have developed as a person, I have worked with people from all over the world, and we learned from each other. Everyone brought experience from their own background and setting, and it was invaluable to spend such an intense few months in each others company. I have made friends for life, and have a phonebook of contacts of inspirational people doing fantastic work and research around the world. We were taught to think differently about approaching problems or health issues and think of the bigger picture.</p> <p>I refound my initial love and interest for genitourinary medicine and was inspired and motivated by the need for contraception and womens health, and the impact gender inequality is having worldwide.</p> <p>My decision whether to complete my UK training in genitourinary medicine or in infectious diseases hasn't quite been made yet but I will spend a couple of years putting my skills into practice in subsaharan Africa, firstly in rural South Africa where I start work in January. Surprisingly the other thing that this course has brought me is a consideration of going into clinical research, and I am looking into doing a masters in epidemiology. An academic training job may be the next step after that.</p> <p>Being in the heart of East Africa, I took every opportunity aside from studying to travel and see some of this beautiful region. Scuba diving in Zanzibar, safari in the Ngorogoro crater, gorrilla and chimp spotting in the impenetrable national park and climbing a live volcano in the Democratic Republic of Congo are among the many adventures I had alonside the serious side of my trip.</p> <p>I would like to thank the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Glasgow for their support with this scholarship, and I would urge anyone considering working in a resource limited setting, or anyone with an interest in infectious diseases, public health or tropical medicine to do this course. It was my best life decision to date and I believe it will continue to influence me and I will continue to use the knowledge I gained throughout my career.</p>

SECTION 3 | IMAGES



This was graduation day with my class from Bwindi where we studied the Batwa Pygmies. I am 3rd from the right.



Receiving joint 1st prize for an oral presentation on work I did in Glasgow on combined HSV and Syphilis PCR testing. I presented this work at the courses associated international conference. I received the prize from Professor David Mabey.



Performing malnutrition screening in a rural community health clinic in Uganda

SECTION 4 | EXPENDITURE

Breakdown of expenditures
Please demonstrate how the scholarship/award funding was used to support your project/visit

The course cost £7000 which I funded myself. The scholarship award of £2000 paid for my visas to both countries, accommodation for my 3 month stay as well as my flight costs.

SECTION 5 | PUBLICATION

Scholarship/award reports

I give permission for my report to be published in College News

may be published in College News. Please tick here if you agree to your report being published.

If your report is selected for publishing, the editor of College News will be in touch to discuss this with you.

All Information we hold concerning you as an individual will be held and processed by the College strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998. Such data will be used by the College to administer its relationship with you as a Fellow or Member. We will not, without your consent, supply your name and address to any third party except where (1) such transfer is a necessary part of the activities that we undertake, or (2) we are required to do so by operation of law. As an individual you have a right under the Data Protection Act 1998 to obtain information from us, including a description of the data that we hold on you. Should you have any enquiries about this right please contact Membership Services Administrator at the College.