

Scholarship Winners' Reports 2014



Report 2: Ms Itireleng Mokhathi,

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Dates and Programme: 9–10 October 2014: BHIVA Autumn Conference, including CHIVA parallel sessions

13–24 October 2014: Observational placement at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, London

MY EXPERIENCE

On arrival, all arrangements had been made to pick us up from the airport. Everything was so well organized and we didn't have to wait or idle!

The conference was superb, well organized and very informative. For 2 days, we had different presentations from experts at reputable hospitals and universities in the UK and surrounding countries. The presentations were also on time with audience interactions, something to take home. A lot of research is also ongoing with studies that have larger cohorts.

Then it was the hospital experience. Hospitals here seem very advanced. The NHS, which is an equivalent of a government hospital, would look like a private hospital in my country. The clinics are well organized and run by multidisciplinary teams. I liked the way the hospital departments were labelled, as it is not intimidating for patients to go to certain departments because of stigmatization. In my local setting, Infectious Disease Control Centers and TB clinics are demarcated and labelled as such making it very obvious that only HIV-positive or TB patients attend that particular clinic.

The hospitals are also packed with resources for referral when needed, and guidelines are in place. There is much ongoing research, something that Botswana could learn from. NICE guidance and disease management guidelines are also readily available, eliminating the need for any confusion in dealing with cases .

Having the opportunity to travel overseas has given me greater awareness of my potential in caring for our local patients. It has also allowed me to widen my perspective and become more self-sufficient. I am now always thinking about things from a broader point of view. My world has been expanded significantly, and with it, I have expanded as a person. I am now more confident that there is so much we can do here and provide our patients with better services. With the experience I have gained, I am ready to confidently take the lead in my disease management team

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