

Public Health Practice



Stories from the Field

The University of Texas School of Public Health
Student Practicum Experiences
Spring 2013 – International

The practicum experience is an integral part of the MPH and DrPH curricula. Public health students are provided with the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge to real world settings through which they make a meaningful contribution to a public health organization.

Under the guidance of a community preceptor and faculty sponsor, students from all divisions gain a deeper understanding of public health practice, interact with professionals in the field, and expand their repertoire of professional skills.

This tenth-edition e-magazine showcases student practicum experiences throughout the Spring 2013 semester. (Prior semesters may be accessed through the e-book, a collection of student abstracts and e-magazines describing their experiences.)

Practicum Topics

Serving Size: 1 Practicum per Student

Servings per e-Magazine: 1

Continents/Regions	1
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Countries	1
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Student

International Practicum Experiences

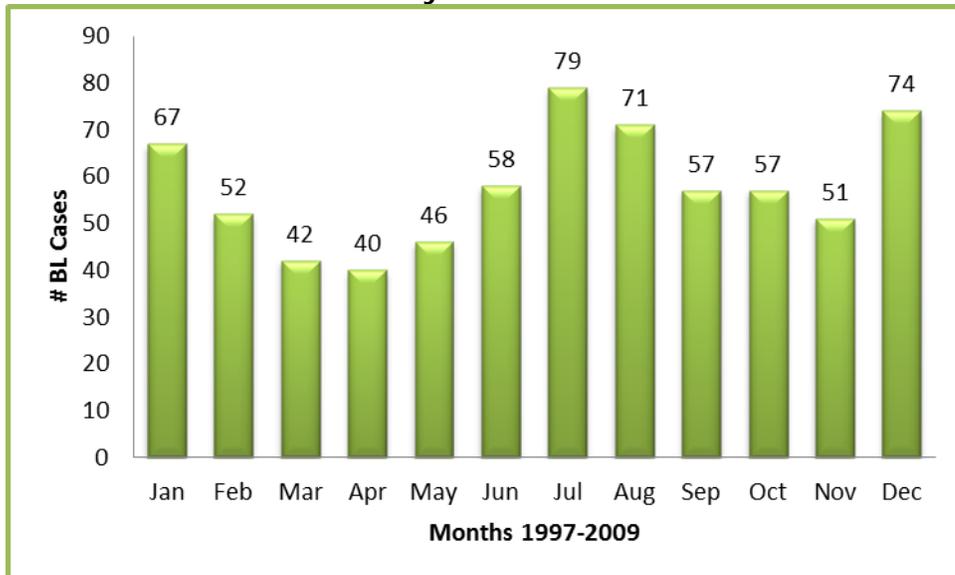
AFRICA

Uganda: Electronic Cancer Registry

Jacqueline Kanywa

Implementing an Electronic Cancer Registry

Total Number of BL Cases by Month from 1997-2009



Source: EMBLEM-St. Mary's Hospital Lacor Historical BL Database

Implementation of an Electronic Burkitt's Lymphoma Registry in Northern Uganda

By: Kanywa B Jacqueline

I worked in Northern Uganda with the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) www.afenet.net in collaboration with the Epidemiology of Burkitt's Lymphoma in East African Children and Minors (EMBLEM) <http://www.emblem.cancer.gov>, a US NIH/ NCI supported study. AFENET and EMBLEM supported St. Mary's Hospital Lacor www.lacorhospital.org in implementing an electronic Burkitt's

lymphoma registry (eBLR). St. Mary's Hospital Lacor has a 482 bed capacity and had 241,900 outpatient contacts with 33,584 admissions in 2012. It is also a Gulu University teaching hospital. In the implementation of an eBLR, I contributed to the creation of the paper based data abstraction charts, abstracted data and conducted statistical analyses using Epi Info version 3.5.4

Public Health Significance

The EMBLEM study directly related to the essential service of public health of research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems. In order to provide reliable and accurate data for cancer surveillance as well as clinical and public health research, the principal investigators of the EMBLEM study pioneered the development of an electronic Burkitt's lymphoma registry. Subsequently an all reportable cancers registry will be established. Burkitt's lymphoma (BL) is

the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among childhood cancers in Uganda. St. Mary's hospital Lacor is the leading BL treatment facility in Northern Uganda. The EMBLEM study aims to evaluate the role of repeated malaria infections, Malaria genetic variants and Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) genetic variants in endemic Burkitt's lymphoma.

Special events/ duties during your practicum

- Implementing an electronic Burkitt's lymphoma hospital based registry in Northern Uganda.
- Cleaning pediatric cancer data and updating the Burkitt lymphoma registry.

Lessons Learned [OR] Advice for Future Students

Attend at least one practicum training session that UTSPH conducts. It helped me a lot.

At St. Mary's Hospital Lacor having an Epi Info demonstration.



For more information regarding
The University of Texas School of Public Health,
Office of Public Health Practice
and the practicum program, please visit:

<https://sph.uth.tmc.edu/practicum/>