



## **Building Children's Nursing for Africa conference 2019: 'Constructs of Care'**

**A participative conference for nurses who work with children, newborns to adolescents, and their families, to consider and celebrate their contribution to excellence in care**

### **An interview with Benjamin Kagina by Winnie Wanjiru (2nd Year MNCN student)**



#### **Question 1: Tell me about your professional carrier.**

I did my honors in Biochemistry and Chemistry at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya which I completed in 2000. Thereafter, I worked for a short period as a medical representative. In 2004, I enrolled for my M.Sc in Medical Epidemiology at the Institute of Tropical Medicine & Infectious Diseases (ITROMID), Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), Kenya. In 2007, I enrolled for a PhD in Clinical Sciences and Immunology at the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa. Broadly, my PhD project was on tuberculosis (TB) immunology and vaccinology. I did my postdoctoral fellowship at UCT between 2011 and 2015, a period where my study focus was on TB immunology, vaccinology and Evidence-Based Research. From 2013 to date, I have been at the Vaccines for Africa Initiative (VACFA) at UCT within the School of Public Health & Family Medicine (SPH&FM). At VACFA, my research work includes conducting

Evidence-Based Research with a major interest on immunization and vaccines.

#### **Question 2: Tell me, how did you get to come to the BCN 2019 conference?**

Through the VACFA director (Prof. Gregory Hussey), I came to know some team members from the Child Nurse Practice Development Initiative (CNPDI) at UCT: Minette Coetzee; Natasha North; and, Nina Power. In October 2018, I was invited by Minette to a final year MNCN Evidence-Based Pediatric Practice Protocol presentation at Red Cross Campus. Thereafter, I met with Natasha and Nina to discuss a possible collaboration on capacity enhancements for Evidence-Based Practice between CNPDI and SPH&FM. I am currently working with colleagues at the SPH&FM to establish an Evidence-Based Healthcare Program (EBHCP) at the school. It is on this background as well as my research experience in Evidence-Based Research that I was invited by the BCN 2019 conference organizers to give a talk.

#### **Question 3: Tell me what you found most helpful or any comment you may have on the brief time you spent today at the conference.**

The conference attendance and organization were excellent-this stood out for me. In addition, the conference programme was highly relevant to the African context. In specific, I was very happy there are ongoing efforts to improve the utilization of Evidence-Based Practices by the nursing fraternity in Africa. I look forward to collaborating with CNPDI on these ongoing efforts.