



Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS) EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER NETWORK

Background: EBLS aims to generate interesting, innovative research that can, through various pathways, lead to lasting improvements in family environments and the health and social care systems that influence child development. Focused in middle income countries, we will collaborate with families, communities, health systems and universities to address an urgent need for evidence to improve policies, programs and services.

EBLS has a long term vision to support synchronised birth cohort studies over many years. Central to the success of our work will be to foster a new generation of researchers to carry the work forward to ensure sustainable impact. The EBLS Early Career Network will connect a diverse group of people in the early stages of their research careers. It will include research staff, postdoctoral fellows, PhD and Master Students and early career professional collaborators in each site.

This group will learn from each other scientifically and culturally to gain deep insights into the many complex factors that affect child and maternal health. There will be practical benefits from sharing resources (such as literature reviews, research protocols, data analysis plans and publications). Through regular meetings and social media, we hope strong collaborations develop and new ideas emerge to shape EBLS in the future.

Worldwide, there are many Early Career Networks in health and social sciences. Some start with promise but do not thrive; others create a strong identity, have sustained energy and produce publications and practical benefits. After several rounds of consultation in June -July 2018, the EBLS collaborators nominated individuals from each site. An important next step will be for the group to agree on the vision and objectives of the ECR network.

The Cambridge team and senior co-investigators of EBLS look forward to seeing this network develop into a lively, collaborative community of scholars. Early Career researchers are integral to the success of our combined efforts to improve the evidence needed to make a real and sustainable difference.

The initial members are:



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1. Ghana



Dr. Buruwaa Adomako holds a PhD in Psychology and an MPhil in Clinical Psychology from the University of Ghana. Her doctoral thesis focused on: Perinatal mental health; correlates, birth outcomes and quality of life among women in Accra. She also holds an MSc in Child and Adolescent Mental Health from the University of Northampton, UK. Previously, she has held the position of Assistant lecturer at the University Of Ghana; teaching Child and Family studies. She is an emerging researcher in reproductive, infant, child and adolescent psychology.

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Henrieta Tagoe Dzotsi has an MPhil in Social Work in 2016 at the University of Ghana. She is prospecting for a PhD in Psychology or Public Mental Health with strong interest in the mental health of women living with a chronic condition.

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Beatrice Dwumfour Williams is a prospective PhD student who is also applying for a PhD in psychology at Department of Psychology, University of Ghana, Legon. She has MPhil in Clinical Psychology and is interested in examining cognitive developmental difficulties in children.

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Priscilla Osei-Bonsu is a Teaching Assistant (National Service) who is beginning an MPhil program in Clinical Psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Ghana. Her area of research interest is in children's emotional regulation and mental health.

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2. Vietnam



Ms Do Phuc Huyen, BPH, MPH

Huyen graduated Master of Public Health at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Australia in 2012 and is currently a PhD student enrolled at QUT. She worked in public health research and advocacy roles for the past seven years in Hanoi, Vietnam. She is basing her PhD work in the Institute for Community Health Research in Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam.

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Dr Luong Thanh Bao Yen, MD, MPH

Yen is a medical doctor and gained a Master of Public Health in Khon Kaen University in Thailand. Currently she is a lecturer in biostatistics and a researcher at the Institute for Community Health Research in Hue. Yen is assisting with coordinating the Hue EBLs research group and she will be responsible for coordinating data collection in Hue.

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3. Pakistan



Dr Fahad Abbasi is a medical doctor who has done his masters in public health. Dr Fahad Abbasi is an emerging public health professional in Pakistan. Dr Abbasi completed his master's degree in Public Health from the Health Services Academy, Islamabad. Dr Abbasi has been an intern at the Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination and worked under their prime project Prime Ministers National Health Program. He has been involved in various public health scientific annual conferences as an organizing team member. Dr Fahad Abbasi has worked in the media including Radio and Television for over a decade promoting and disseminating information about social and health issues. His area of research interest includes ECD, Maternal and Child Health.

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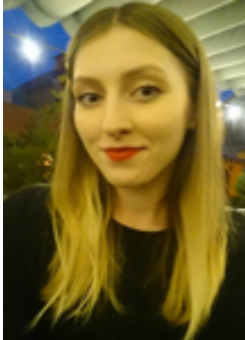


Dr. Kiran Saqib is a medical doctor with a Masters degree in Public Health. Over her career she has provided health services in rural and urban settings in Pakistan. She has been a member of the pioneer team of the Department of Public Health at Alshifa Trust Eye Hospital and has been actively involved in teaching & research activities. She has worked as Project Coordinator on RCT, focusing on Perinatal Depression, based in community settings in Rural Pakistan, funded by NIHM, USA. Her areas of research interest include Women & Child Mental Health.

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4. Romania



Ms. Madalina Filip

Madalina has a Master Degree in Health Psychology at Babes-Bolyai University, Romania. She is working as a research assistant in the project Parenting for a longlife health. Her area of research interest is children's abuse and maltreatment and the impact on its impact on mental health and children's wellbeing.

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Ms. Dorian Silion

Doriana has a Master's Degree in Health Psychology at Babeş Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She currently works as a research assistant in the project- Parenting for Longlife Health. She is interested in parenting practices, on the emotional well-being of children and adolescents and on the psychological impact of diabetes and its influence on treatment adherence.

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5. Philippines



Dr. Nama Villarta-De Dios graduated in Masters in Clinical Epidemiology from the College of Medicine, University of the Philippines and has engaged in consultative work in several research projects for various companies locally. She is a Child Protection Specialist and Paediatrician of the Child Protection Unit at the Philippine General Hospital.

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Dr. Sandra Hernandez

Dr. Sandra Hernandez is a Child Protection Specialist at the Philippine General Hospital Child Protection Unit. She is the Director for Research of the Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc. and a member of the Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Study Group under the Institute of Child Health and Human Development – University of the Philippines Manila National Institutes of Health. She has worked on research on child maltreatment prevention, online sexual abuse and exploitation, and violence against children in the Philippines.

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6. Cambridge



Daniela Kaiser holds a BA in International Studies and a BA in Sociology from Udelar University in Uruguay and completed an MPhil in Criminological Research from the University of Cambridge. She has contributed to EBLS through her work on the translation and cross-cultural adaptation document. She has worked as a research assistant and in advocacy-related roles in Uruguay and her main areas of interest are the cross-cultural study of violence, child victimization and violence in institutions such as prisons and children's residential care centers.

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Dr Sarah Foley defended her Viva for a PhD in Psychology in March at the Centre for Family Research, Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge. Her PhD was on 'Emerging Parental Sensitivity: the Transition to Parenthood Through the Lens of Family Systems Theory'. She currently works on the prospective longitudinal international New Fathers and Mothers Study based in Cambridge (UK), Leiden (Netherlands) and New York (USA), and her main area of interest is prenatal and partner predictors of postnatal parent adjustment and sensitivity.

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Gabrielle McHarg is a PhD student in psychology with a projected finish in early 2020. Her PhD focuses on prosocial screen content and its effects on toddlers' helping, empathic, and sharing behaviour, and is part of the Cambridge-based team for the longitudinal international New Fathers and Mothers Study.

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Laura Campo, MSc

Laura is the EBLS Project Coordinator and is based in Cambridge. She obtained her Bsc (Hons) in Psychology at the University of Barcelona, followed by MSc in Mental Health at Queen Mary, University of London. Laura has conducted research on secondary victimization in sexual assault survivors and has worked on projects that support mental health in young people with disabilities or in risk of isolation.

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Dr. Sara Valdebenito

Sara holds a PhD in Criminology from the University of Cambridge and she is currently a research associate for the EBLS project at Cambridge. She has worked in several research projects targeting the early prevention of crime in school settings with a focus on meta-analytic finding. Sara's work has been supported by the Campbell Collaboration, the Nuffield Foundation and Becas Chile. Her main areas of interest are child victimisation, school bullying, child punishment and parents' mental health.

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7. Sri Lanka



Dr. Shobhavi Randeny MBBS (Sri Lanka) MD (Colombo)

Dr. Shobhavi Randeny is working as a Paediatrician in the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka at present. She is aspiring to join the Department of Paediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. Her area of special areas of clinical and research interest are child abuse & neglect child protection and adolescent health issues. She is a member of the EBLS team of Sri Lanka.

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Ms. Deshani Chaturika BSc (Hons) in Health Promotion.

An enthusiastic researcher who has worked in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Kelaniya for the past 2 and a half years. Has experience working in a special facility at Ragama for children who have faced violence.

She is a member of the EBLS team of Sri Lanka and will function as the full time research associate.

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8. Jamaica



Carene Lindsay, MSc

Carene Lindsay is a Research Project Coordinator at the Epidemiology Research Unit, University of the West Indies, Jamaica. She has a Masters in Nutrition and has been involved with nutrition research primarily working on studies with cohort of stunted children and controls in Jamaica and Ghanaian populations.

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Dr Joanne Smith

Joanne A Smith is a Lecturer at the Epidemiology Research Unit, Caribbean Institute for Health Research of the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. She graduated with a PhD in Nutrition in 2014 from the University of the West Indies. Her interests include developing innovative interventions for the holistic development of children globally with a special interest in those who live in LMICs.

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9. South Africa



Dr. Sarah Skeen

Sarah Skeen is the Programme Director for the Partnership for Alcohol and AIDS Intervention Research (PAAIR). She has a Masters in International Public Health, and is currently completing a PhD as a part of the Child Community Care study. Sarah is also responsible for coordinating the Saving Brains Thula Sana, Child Community Care, and Context Assessment in Community Health projects.

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Marguerite Marlow is a research project manager on the Prevention Research team. She completed her Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities at Stellenbosch University and graduated from the University of Cape Town with a BSocSci Honours degree in Psychology. She returned to Stellenbosch University to complete her MA thesis in Psychology, conducting qualitative research on the barriers and facilitators to safe breastfeeding practices amongst mothers in HIV-affected communities in South Africa.

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EBLS Early Career Network

Email addresses for nominated members, June 2018

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