



Evidence for Better Lives Study (EBLS)

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER NETWORK

Background: EBLS has a vision 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 on middle-income countries, we will collaborate with families, communities, health systems and universities to address the urgent need for evidence to improve policies, programmes 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 and ensure sustainable impact. The **EBLS Early Career Network** will connect a diverse group of people in the early stages of their careers. It will include research staff, postdoctoral fellows, PhD and Master Students, and early-career professional collaborators in each site.

Groups 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 engagement, we hope strong collaborations will develop and new ideas will emerge to shape EBLS in the coming years.

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 practical benefits. After several rounds of consultation in June 2018, the EBLS collaborators nominated individuals from each site (listed in the following page).

Next steps: We need to formalise this group and gain agreement on the Terms of Reference. There are several key steps:

1. Gather photos and bios for all members for EBLS working documents and the website. Drafts of some biographical statements are included here. This document will be subject to updates as we progress.
2. Have an initial 'getting to know you' online meeting.
3. Gain suggestions regarding the vision, objectives and terms of reference of the network. It will be helpful to study the purpose and functioning of other similar networks that enhance research capacity development in low- and middle-income countries for mental health, maternal and child health and related fields.



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Initial nominees

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. Email: briwaa2001@yahoo.com



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 a strong interest in the mental health of women living with a chronic condition. Email: naadei14@gmail.com



Beatrice Dwumfour Williams is a prospective PhD student who is also applying for a PhD in psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Ghana, Legon. She has an MPhil in Clinical Psychology and is interested in examining cognitive developmental difficulties in children. Email: bdwilliams585@gmail.com



Priscilla Osei-Bonsu is a Teaching Assistant (National Service) who is beginning an MPhil programme in Clinical Psychology at the Department of Psychology, University of Ghana. Her area of research is children's emotional regulation and mental health. Email: prissybonsu97@gmail.com



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2. Vietnam



Do Phuc Huyen, BPH, MPH, graduated as Master of Public Health at QUT in 2012 and is currently a PhD student at QUT. She worked in public health research and advocacy roles for the past seven years in Hanoi, Vietnam. She has visited the ICHR and her main data collection will be in the Hue's EBLs site. Email: phuchuyen@gmail.com



Dr Luong Thanh Bao Yen, MD, MPH is a medical doctor and gained a Master of Public Health at Khon kaen Unievrsity in Thailand. She is a lecturer in biostatistics and a researcher at the Institute for Community Health Research in Hue. Yen is assisting with organising the Hue group's EBLs meetings and she will be responsible for coordinating data collection in Hue. Email: ltbyen@huemed-univ.edu.vn

3. Pakistan



Dr Fahad Abbasi is a medical doctor and emerging public health professional. He 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 its Prime Minister's National Health Program. He has been involved in various scientific annual conferences as organising team member. He has worked in the media industry, including radio and television for over a decade, promoting and disseminating information on social and health issues. His area of research includes ECD, maternal and child health. Email: idrfahadabbasi@gmail.com



Dr. Kiran Saqib is a medical doctor with a Master's degree in Public Health. Over her career, she has provided Health Services in rural and urban settings in Pakistan. She was a member of a pioneer team at the Department of Public Health at Alshifa Trust Eye Hospital and has been actively involved in teaching and research activities. She has worked as Project Coordinator on RCT, focusing on Perinatal Depression, based in rural settings, funded by NIHM, USA. Her areas of research includes women's and child's mental health. Email: saqib.kiran@gmail.com

4. Romania



Madalina Filip has a Master's 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 is children's abuse and maltreatment and its impact on mental health and children's wellbeing. Email: Madalina.filip02@gmail.com



Doriana Silion has a Master's degree in Health Psychology at Babeş Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. She 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. Email: Silion.doriana@yahoo.com

5. Philippines



Dr Nama Villarta-De Dios has a Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology from the College of Medicine, University of the Philippines. She has engaged in consultative work on 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. Email: nama.villarta@yahoo.com



Dr Sandra Hernandez is a Child Protection Specialist at the Philippine General Hospital's Child Protection Unit. She is the Director for Research of the Child Protection Network Foundation 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. Email: sandra.stuartherndz@gmail.com



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6. Cambridge



Daniela Kaiser holds a BA in International Studies and a BA in Sociology from Udelar University in Uruguay. She completed an MPhil in Criminological Research from the University of Cambridge and has contributed to EBLs through her work on the translation and cross-cultural adaptation of documents. She has worked as a research assistant and in advocacy-related roles in Uruguay. Her main areas of interest are the cross-cultural study of violence, child victimisation and violence in institutions such as prisons and children's residential care centres. Email: ksr.daniela@gmail.com



Dr Sarah Foley defended her Viva on 'Emerging Parental Sensitivity: the Transition to Parenthood Through the Lens of Family Systems Theory' in March at the Centre for Family Research, Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge. She currently works on the prospective longitudinal international New Fathers' and Mothers' Study based in Cambridge (UK), Leiden (Netherlands) and New York (USA). Her main area of interest is prenatal and partner predictors of postnatal parent adjustment and sensitivity. Email: sf412@cam.ac.uk



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. She is part of the Cambridge-based team for the longitudinal international New Fathers' and Mothers' Study. Email: ggm25@cam.ac.uk



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 victimisation in sexual assault survivors and has worked on projects that support mental health in young people with disabilities or at risk of isolation. Email: lc749@cam.ac.uk



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Dr Sara Valdebenito holds a PhD in Criminology from the University of Cambridge and is currently a research associate for the EBLs project in Cambridge. She has worked on several research projects targeting the early prevention of crime in school settings with a focus on meta-analytic findings. 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. Email: sv331@cam.ac.uk

7. Sri Lanka



Dr Shobhavi Randeny MBBS (Sri Lanka) MD (Colombo) is working as a Paediatrician in the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka. She is aspiring to join the Department of Paediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya. Her area of clinical and research interest are child abuse, prevention of child's neglect and adolescent health issues. She is a member of the Sri Lanka EBLs team. Email: ranshobhavi@yahoo.com



Deshani Chathurika BSc (Hons) in Health Promotion. An enthusiastic researcher who has worked in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Kelaniya for over two years, she has experience working in a special facility for children who have faced violence. She is a member of the Sri Lanka EBLs team and will act as the full-time reasearch associate. Email: deshaniechathurika@gmail.com

8. Jamaica



Carene Lindsay, MSc is a Research Project Coordinator at the Epidemiology Research Unit, University of the West Indies, Jamaica. She has an MA in Nutrition and has been involved with research working on studies with cohort of stunted children and controls in Jamaican and Ghanaian populations. Email: carene.lindsay@uwimona.edu.jm



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Dr Joanne Smith is a Lecturer at the Epidemiology Research Unit, Caribbean Institute for Health Research, at 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 LMIC countries. Email: joanne.smith02@uwimona.edu.jm

9. South Africa



Dr. Sarah Skeen is the Programme Director for the Partnership for Alcohol and AIDS Intervention Research (PAAIR). She has a Master's in International Public Health and is currently completing a PhD as part of the Child Community Care study. She is also responsible for coordinating the Saving Brains Thula Sana, Child Community Care, and Context Assessment in Community Health projects. Email: skeen@sun.ac.za



Marguerite Marlow is a research project manager on the Prevention Research team. She completed her BA 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 among mothers in HIV-affected communities in South Africa. Email: margueritemarlow@gmail.com