**Dr V. Bhargavi Rao**

**MA (Cantab); BM BCh (Oxon); MRCP (Lon); DTM&H (Liv); MPH (Harvard); MFPH (UK)**

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EDUCATION

**IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON,** Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology: **PhD** 2010 - 2013

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, School of Public Health: **MPH** (International Health) 2004 – 2005

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY**, University College: **BMBCh** (clinical medicine) 1996 – 1999

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY**, St. John’s College: **MA (Hons): CLASS I**  1993 – 1996

ADDITIONAL POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS

Membership of Faculty of Public Health: MFPH (London, UK) 2008

Membership of the Royal College of Physicians: MRCP (London, UK) 2003

Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene: DTM&H (Liverpool, UK) 2001

ACADEMIC PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Wellcome Trust Clinical PhD Studentship (Imperial College/London School of Tropical Medicine) 2010 - 2013

Carson Family Scholarship (Harvard School of Public Health: merit-based scholarship) 2004

Radcliffe Infirmary Prize in Public Health (Oxford) 1998

Radcliffe Infirmary Prize in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Oxford) 1998

University College Prize for Medicine (Oxford) 1997

Rolleston Scholarship of St. John’s College (Cambridge: merit-based scholarship) 1996

St. John’s College Prize for Medicine (Cambridge) 1996

St. Johns College Research Prize (Cambridge) 1995

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

**Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Fellow (Imperial College London)** 2010 to current

* Supervisors: Professor Azra Ghani (Imperial College London) and Professor David Schellenberg (LSHTM)
* PhD title: Barriers to Effectiveness: Health System, Service Delivery and Artemisinin Combination Therapies
* **Summary**: Using mathematical modelling techniques to understand the impact of health systems factors, such as access to and quality of care on the effectiveness of interventions such as Artemisinin Combination Therapies (ACT) in reducing malaria transmission, morbidity and mortality.
* The analysis includes public sector health facilities, community health workers and private sector sources of care. I aim to model improvements in health system performance with an aim of developing a tool to estimate the most cost-effective bottlenecks to target in delivering treatment interventions.
* Additional work on the impact of case management on non-malarial febrile illness (NMFI).
* **Skills**: Mathematical modelling of infectious diseases, malaria, health systems, international health, cost effectiveness analysis, statistical analysis
* Fieldwork including assisting health facility, household and outlet surveys in Tanzania (IMPACT 2 study)
* Contributed to the health systems section of the Department for International Development “Malaria: Burden and Interventions. Evidence Overview 1.0: published December 2010.

PREVIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH EMPLOYMENT

**Academic (Walport) Clinical Fellow in Public Health** 11/2007 – 01/2010

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Imperial College NHS Trust (London Deanery: TPD - Zach de Beer)

* Academic Trainee in Public Health in North/Central London (Imperial College) and LSHTM
* Training Placements: Camden Primary Care Trust (Professor Anthony Kessel); North East and Central Health Protection Unit (Dr Deborah Turbitt and Dr Tania Misra) and Centre for Infection, Health Protection Agency (Flu pandemic response, Norovirus reporting evaluation, gram-negative antibiotic resistance and invasive Group A Streptococcus national guidelines)
* Currently on OOPR (Out Of Programme: Research) time for PhD – return to training Sept 2013

**Clinical Advisor at SA NGO: BroadReach Healthcare (Harvard Faculty: Instructor in Medicine**) 06/2005 – 11/2007

BroadReach Healthcare South Africa: Director Dr Ernest Darkoh

Harvard Medical School (Division of AIDS): Professor Bruce Walker & Dr Lisa Hirschhorn

* Seconded from HMS Division of AIDS to BroadReach Healthcare (SA) – full time position
* Clinical advisor to a PEPFAR-funded HIV/AIDS treatment programme in South Africa with two main streams:
  + Public-private partnership approach to expand the ARV rollout in 5 provinces of South Africa
  + Capacity building approach in public sector hospitals to improve service delivery with extension into down-referral, PMTCT and TB services.
* Responsible for clinical programme design, training and management of programme implementation.
* Capacity building team focussing on needs analysis and devising interventions for public sector facilities.
* Lead for clinical quality assurance programme and overseeing clinical monitoring and evaluation.
* Helped to devise and implement a medical capacity building programme on HIV/AIDS management, including remote clinical decision support for all network providers, didactic teaching and workshops, an internet-based course and regular scientific and medical updates.
* Training of local and international staff, including teaching role at University of Kwa-Zulu Natal and precepting South African healthcare providers.

PREVIOUS CLINICAL POSTS

Hospital for Tropical Diseases – SHO & locum registrar in Tropical Medicine 02/2004 – 09/2004

Royal Free Hospital – SHO & locum registrar in Infectious Diseases/HIV 08/2003 – 02/2004

Hammersmith Hospital Medical SHO Rotation (1 year) 08/2002 – 08/2003

The Royal Postgraduate Hospitals Medical SHO Rotation (1 year) 08/2001 – 08/2002

University College London Hospital – SHO in Accident and Emergency 08/2000 – 02/2001

City Hospital, Birmingham – PRHO in Internal Medicine 02/2000 – 08/2000

The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford – PRHO in General Surgery 08/1999 – 02/2000

OTHER INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXPERIENCE

**Consultancy: Absolute Return for Kids (ARK)**  12/2007 – 12/2009

Consultancy work for a UK-based NGO (ARK) to develop a scale-able Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) programme. This involved partnership with several other organisations including the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and the Clinton Foundation. My involvement was at an advisory level in developing this programme, visiting model programmes in potential recipient countries (Zambia/Malawi) and liaising with the relevant stakeholders.

**Micromalnutrition in TB Skin Testing: Peru**  05/2001 – 08/2001 & 05/2004 – 06/2004

Primary investigator for a research project based in the shantytowns of Lima, investigating the effect of topical zinc supplementation on TB skin testing. The research was undertaken with A.B PRISMA (Peruvian NGO) in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Imperial College London. Our results were published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

* **Rao VB**, Schellenberg D, Ghani AC. The potential impact of improving malaria case management on appropriate treatment for fever in under-5s: a decision-tree modelling study*. PlosOne 2013; 8(7): e69654*
* **Rao VB**, Schellenberg D, Ghani AC. Overcoming health systems barriers to successful malaria treatment. *Trends in Parasitology 2013 Apr;29(4):164-80*
* Steer JA, Lamagni T, Healy B, Morgan M, Dryden M, **Rao B**, Sriskandan S, George R, Efstratiou A, Baker F, Baker A, Marsden D, Murphy E, Fry C, Irvine N, Hughes R, Wade P, Cordery R, Cummins A, I Oliver I, Jokinen M, McMenamin J, Kearney J. Guidelines for prevention and control of group A streptococcal infection in acute healthcare and maternity settings in the UK. *Journal of Infection 2012; 64, 1 -18*
* Kumarasamy KK, Toleman MA, Walsh TR, Bagaria J, Butt F, Balakrishnan R, Chaudhary U, Doumith M, Giske CG, Irfan S, Krishnan P, Kumar AV, Maharjan S, Mushtaq S, Noorie T, Paterson DL, Pearson A, Perry C, Pike PhD R, **Rao B**, et al. Emergence of a new antibiotic resistance mechanism in India, Pakistan, and the UK: a molecular, biological, and epidemiological study. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases 2010; 10 (9): 597 – 602.*
* **Rao VB**, Pelly TF, Gilman RH et al. Zinc Cream and the reliability of Tuberculosis skin testing*. Journal of Infectious Diseases 2007; 13 (7): 1101 – 1104*
* **Rao VB**, Mahal A and Bloom DE. Economics of HIV/AIDS in India. *Oxford Companion to Economics in India* *(2007).* Oxford University Press, New Delhi, India. Editors: Professor K. Basu and H. Dey.
* Banerjee A and **Rao VB**. Integrating Treatment and Prevention – Ischaemic Heart Disease in India. *Web published June 2005: ProCorMed;* Boston, USA. Editor: Professor B. Lown.
* **Rao VB** and Mahal A. HIV/AIDS Epidemic in India: An Economic Perspective*. Indian Journal of Medical Research 2005; 121 (4): 582 – 600*
* **Rao VB**, Gotuzzo E, Friedland JS et al. HIV in South America. *Medicine 2005; May 2005: 44 – 45*
* **Rao VB**. HIV in Developing Countries – Meeting the Challenge of the Growing Dichotomy. *McGill Journal of Medicine 2000; 5: 121 – 126.*
* **Rao VB**. The Use of AZT to Reduce the Risk of Vertical Transmission of HIV-1*. McGill Journal of Medicine 1998; 4: 38 – 45.*

PRESENTATIONS

* Rao, VB, Schellenberg D, Ghani A. Modelling Health Systems barriers to successful malaria management. Challenges in malaria Research conference, Oct 2012 (Basel, Switzerland) and American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Nov 2012 (Atlanta, USA)
* B Rao VB, Cordery RJ, Efstratiou A, George R, Cohuet S, Duckworth G and Lamagni TL. Invasive group A streptococcal disease in maternity settings: time to reassess case and cluster management. Federation of Infection Societies 2009 (Birmingham, UK)
* Rao VB, Hirschhorn LR, Mokhele I et al. Training and quality of care in a programme to expand access to ART care in the public sector through private sector medical practitioners in South Africa. International AIDS Society Conference 2007 (Sydney, Australia) and the HIV/AIDS Implementers PEPFAR Conference 2007 (Kigali, Rwanda).
* Rao VB, Sargent J, Darkoh E et al. Building healthcare provider capacity amongst community-based GPs in South Africa through centralised telemedicine systems. International AIDS Society Conference 2006 (Toronto, Canada) and the HIV/AIDS Implementers Conference 2006 (Durban, South Africa).
* Rao VB and Mahal A. HIV/AIDS policy – future strategies for India. The South Asia Conference 2005 (Kellogg School of Management, Chicago, USA).
* Rao VB, Pelly TF, Gilman RH et al. Tuberculosis skin reactions are augmented by zinc. World TB Congress 2002 (Washington DC, USA).
* Rao VB. The use of AZT to reduce the risk of vertical transmission of HIV. Preventable Disasters in Women’s Health: 80th anniversary conference of the Medical Women’s Federation 1997 (London, UK).

LANGUAGES AND ADDITIONAL INTERESTS

* Diploma in freelance journalism from the London School of Journalism
* Languages: Conversational French and Spanish. Fluent in English, Tamil and Telegu