

I very much appreciated receiving the RCPA Research Award, which I used in undertaking my PhD; “The Dynamics and Spread of Pneumococcal Infection from Carriage to Disease”. There is a high burden of pneumococcal disease among children under five years of age, particularly in low-resource countries in Africa. My research was carried out in Kilifi, Kenya, at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI)-Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP), where I was located from 2009 to 2015. During this time, I was involved in the Pneumonia aEtiology Research for Child Health (PERCH) international multi-site study, and the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Impact Studies (PCVIS). For my PhD I studied nasopharyngeal pneumococcal concentration among children; specifically looking at the impact of respiratory viral infection on pneumococcal concentration in a longitudinal study, examined serotype-specific pneumococcal concentration before and after vaccination with pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, and performed a cross-sectional study of pneumococcal concentration among well children, children with symptoms of viral upper respiratory tract infection and children admitted to hospital with WHO-defined pneumonia. In addition, I examined the diagnostic performance of pneumococcal PCR on whole blood samples using the *lytA* target, in the diagnosis of invasive pneumococcal disease.

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