



Title of PhD project / theme	Assessing Compliance with prescribed medication: studying leprosy patients compliance with Multi-drug therapy in The Philippines
Supervisory team	Diana Lockwood (LSHTM) Steve Walker (LSHTM) Dr Marvic Balagoan, Cebu Skin clinic Koya Ariyoshi (Nagasaki) Chris Smith (Nagasaki)
Brief description of project / theme	We know that many patients fail to complete their courses of medication. This is serious and can have implications for the patient because they may experience a relapse or recurrence of their disease if they do not complete the medication. This is a serious problem in leprosy treatment where the treatment lasts for 6-12 months. There have been very few systematic studies of compliance in leprosy. One study in North India found a defaulter rate of 28.8%, and 34. % for multibacillary (MB) patients. One study in Hyderabad, India found that of patients who were attending clinics only 50% had evidence of Dapsone metabolites in their urine or answers on a questionnaire suggesting that they were compliant with leprosy treatment. We propose to study compliance with WHO multi-drug treatment for leprosy in the Leprosy programme in the Philippines. In 2016 1721 new leprosy cases were reported in the Philippines. The study will follow patients for a 12 month period whilst taking MDT. This will enable the collection of good data on adverse effects experienced whilst taking MDT. It will also allow a comparison between completers and non-completers. We shall use established skin quality of life questionnaires (Cardiff questionnaire) to assess patient's perceptions of their skin. There are also leprosy validated participation scales that we can use to assess the effect of taking MDT on leprosy. This is an important topic because leprosy treatment may be shortened to 6 months for all patients. So our studies on compliance will be relevant to public health policy immediately.
Particular <i>prior</i> educational requirements for a student undertaking this project	clinical research, clinical epidemiology
Skills we expect a student to develop/acquire whilst pursuing this project	Setting up a prospective cohort study. Running prospective study involving team. Clinical exposure to tropical dermatology and infectious diseases. Analysing clinical results. Developing statistical skills. Presenting data at national and international meetings