

My experience at the 10th IPWSO conference at the Cojimah Centre, in Havana, Cuba (13th -17th November, 2019).....

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Previously while in the UK, I spent part of my postdoctoral experience working on the molecular genetics of PWS. Upon returning back home to Kenya, I found that there were no documented cases of confirmed PWS cases even in the greater East African region. To that end I decided to approach Kenyan pediatricians with a questionnaire on diagnosis of a PWS baby and the management therein. As the conference was approaching, I had sent out my questionnaire to around 20 pediatricians and so the conference came at a fantastic time as I was starting the PWS work in Kenya.

Attending the 10th IPWSO conference at the Cojimar Centre, in Havana, Cuba (13th -17th November, 2019) was most enriching for me personally and as a scientist. I was able to refresh my knowledge on the Genetics of PWS and bring myself up to speed on the research and emerging trends therein. I thoroughly enjoyed the presentations by Dan Driscoll and Jim Resnick on the Molecular work and the research advances in PWS.

I was also able to attend the parents' and care-givers sessions. These enabled me to foster discussion and strengthen connections between myself and my proposed research work and the other participants, with the aim of establishing a support group for the parents and care givers back in Kenya. Towards that end, I exchanged contact details with many of the participants from all over the world! I feel much more confident now as I continue on my fact finding mission.

The conference was holistic and brought together the PWS family! The social events were lovely and I especially enjoyed meeting with our special PWS children at the Musical concert in Havana. I am very grateful for the IPWSO Travel Grant and the support from the organizing committee in my travel arrangements.

I thoroughly enjoyed the conference!! and met many lovely people whom I plan to keep in touch with. I hope to one day see this conference being held in Kenya!

Thank you so much for the opportunity! Glad to have been part of this conference and the greater PWS family!