

# APH Booster Grant Blogpost

*International Field Visit to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), South Africa,*

November 21st - December 2nd, 2023

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Last fall, I was lucky to receive the APH Booster Grant at the APH annual meeting. This grant enabled me to undertake a field visit in South Africa. My current case study aims to prioritize population-based antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance, employing data-driven approaches to inform both sub-national and national efforts. By integrating subnational AMR data with relevant healthcare and socioeconomic indicators into predictive models, we aim to bridge the temporal and spatial gaps in understanding AMR prevalence.

During my visit, I spent my time at two tertiary health care centres, a community health centre, and the headquarters of South Africa's public laboratory network, the National Health Laboratory System (NHLS). These visits were eye-opening, offering a clear picture of the challenges and work behind AMR data collection and analysis.

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I also got to participate in the World Antibiotic Awareness Week events organized by the National Institute for Communicable Disease(NICD). It was a perfect blend of timing and relevance! The interactive sessions with data collaborators and epidemiologists provided a well-rounded understanding of the various aspects of AMR surveillance data.

As a budding researcher, this trip provided a valuable experience. It gave me a fresh perspective on the health system in South Africa and highlighted the importance of on-the-ground experiences in informing research. The grant has not only enriched my understanding of the field but also opened doors for future collaboration and research opportunities!

I am very grateful to APH for this wonderful opportunity!