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I am based full-time at the MRC Unit in The Gambia where I work within the Vaccines and Immunity Theme. I am clinically qualified in paediatric infectious diseases and immunology and also undertake clinical work within the clinical services department at the Unit.

My main research interests include clinical vaccine trials of vaccines relevant to the setting in West Africa. We have recruited over 2000 infants (and a small number of adults) to trials over the last 3 years including phase 1 to phase 4 trials. I am the principal investigator on a maternal and neonatal pneumococcal vaccine (Prevenar13) trial which we have just started. The trial aims to identify novel ways to prevent pneumococcal disease (using carriage as a surrogate) in early infancy. Establishing a rigorous system for the collection of safety data in the trial has been and will continue to be a central aspect of my day to day work.

Vaccine trials, as well as observational studies, looking for example at bacterial carriage acquisition, also provide a unique opportunity to explore human vaccine and infectious disease immunology beyond the standard serological measure generally used and we aim to exploit these opportunities whenever possible.