

# Ayman Bannaga—Research fellow in GI and liver medicine



My upbringing was influenced by true inspiring parents. I was also fortunate to study at the University of Khartoum, Sudan. The motto there was motivating for clinical excellence. Following graduation, I started my foundation training in north of Scotland. This Foundation years were filled with excitement. I still remember the variceal bleeding case I managed in Elgin. Patient was troubled by cryptogenic liver disease. Blood was everywhere in the resuscitation room. I started to think about gastroenterology and liver medicine as a career. I then moved to north Yorkshire for core medical training. I completed the exams and a medical education degree. I built a portfolio towards joining training programme in gastroenterology and hepatology.

Competition to get to the gastroenterology was tough! Evident by the three interviews that I failed. The failure turned out to be a blessing because I then joined registrar training programme for acute and general medicine in Sheffield. I developed further skills in management of acute medical cases while improving my academic skills. The fourth interview, Edinburgh! Finally, all of the work paid out! Coming to Birmingham for training! I actively started looking for research supervisors from day one! I then met Ramesh! In the endoscopy staff room here in UHCW! I was focused on liver. We started planning! Liver cancer the ultimate end result for liver disease was the question that I wanted to investigate. Diagnosis is late with patients suffering silently. We are now exploring new ways of diagnosing the disease with the help of a grant from the medical life sciences research fund.

The benefits I gained so far are astounding! How the R&D is dynamic integral part of the hospital and advancing new and applicable knowledge to patient care! How to build a research study! How to seek funds! How to recruit patients! The Arden tissue bank is another fascinating story with all members being helpful! I strongly advise them to consider doing research time because the benefits are countless. Developing people skills are at the heart of this. Be part of research it will increase you experience and depth for the life ahead of you!

