

WORLDWIDE COLLABORATION

Conversation with Catterina Bebington | Pediatric Nurse

[Point of view, pediatric nurse, Catterina Bebington]

[Catterina Bebington, Pediatric Nurse, Johannesburg, South Africa]

My name is Catterina Bebington. I'm from Johannesburg, South Africa. I'm a pediatric nurse. In July of 2015 I started volunteering at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital with Dr. Chris Westgarth-Taylor in his anorectal malformation and stoma clinic. I was very fortunate that in November of that year, he insisted I go to Nationwide Children's Hospital to the annual conference that Dr. Marc Levitt was hosting, and I was trained in November under Dr. Marc Levitt and his team. I then went back to South Africa and I managed to start instituting everything I had learned from a nursing point of view from that conference. I go to the clinic every Wednesday; I volunteer at the clinic every Wednesday.

In 2017, Dr. Marc Levitt and his team came to South Africa where we hosted a conference, and he brought a large contingent of his nursing team with him, including Julie Choueiki, and the nurses spent a lot of time with us, training nurses in South Africa. And it was a wonderful time of learning and collaboration between the people from the US and South Africa. In 2017, I also made Dr. Giulia Brisighelli. She came along to join the team with Dr. Chris. Dr. Chris has subsequently moved off to the US and Dr. Giulia Brisighelli is the head of our colorectal unit in South Africa.

I love working with Dr. Gulia. We have the same vision, we love our children, we love our patients. Yeah, it's a great team. And I'm very honored to be invited to join the CTO team in Athens this year in 2022. I'm really honored to be considered part of the team, and I hope we have made a difference to the children's lives in Athens the same way as we do in Johannesburg in South Africa. Dr. Marc Levitt is an amazing man because his vision is to train other doctors and other nurses to impart the knowledge that he has, worldwide. So, if I hadn't attended his conference in November 2015, I wouldn't know what I was doing. So, it has been great to share in his knowledge with his team. And it's great that he spreads the love and he spreads the knowledge all over the world.