

NF15021

The NFOG Fund has supported me during my year-long post doctoral fellowship at Imperial College London, UK.

Since 1st April 2015 I have worked as a Clinical Research Fellow at the Hammersmith hospital and at the St Mary's hospital, both being part of Imperial College London and Imperial College NHS Trust. The group I'm working in is studying the connection between cervical conization and preterm birth — the changes the LLETZ-treatment might cause to vaginal microbiome, metabonome, and cervical anathomy and the relationship of these changes to HPV prevalence, later HPV incidence, CIN recurrence and up to preterm labour. I have been involved in recruiting the patients from daily clinical flow and in analyzing the data.

Furthermore, we have retrieved samples from the local biobank and recruited new subjects with the aim to assess the iKnife (a regular electrosurgical knife attached to real time REIMS mass-spectrometer) in the prediction of the disease severity and reproductive outcomes after treatment. The sample collection is well under way and we should be able to start the analyses within few months time. As part of this same project we will also assess whether genetic factors may be related to the presence of cervical disease and preterm birth through a genome wide association study in collaboration with University of Oulu and the Department of Public Health at Imperial College London. We have retrieved the clinical data from Finnish Registries and initial data analyses have been done. We should be able to start the analyzing the GWAS data soon.

The experience here has so far been extremely educating for me, for which I thank the support of the NFOG Fund as well.

Ilkka Kalliala