Let me take you on a journey, into a world, which is probably similar to your own but sprinkled with unique characteristics that have been woven together, to make me the individual that I am today. Like many others out there nursing was a career that I required that I grow personally before I ventured into its unchartered territory. My first step was the high school job, where I had the chance of learning to become a team player, quite a lesson when you’re an only child. A lesson which the only child in me still today resists, often, but hopefully my naturally empathetic manner has meant that I have endeared myself to many. Then came my first experiences of academic failure, a hard pill to swallow but the one which would lead me onto the road of exploring getting involved in direct patient care and exploring my softer, more vulnerable side.

In 2008, I completed my Bachelors of Nursing Degree and it has prepared me to be a quick thinker and an independent worker, though if you gave me a buddy to enjoy my work hours with, I am a better nurse for it. A vibrant, sometimes driven individual who has a passion for research and administration; yes nurses can have a passion for research. I would venture to say it is one of the innate reasons why we enter into our profession, because we believe we can make a difference based on calculated odds. It is this passion for research which took me from my beginnings as a Community Service Professional Nurse in Primary Health Care to working for a Clinical Research Organisation in a space of 3 years. I am a member of the Golden Key Honors Society http://www.goldenkey.org/GK/GKSite/Members--Chapters.aspx?menuld=2 and interested in social development. I am currently enrolled for my Masters in Nursing at the University of the Western Cape.

Nurses in South Africa are directly involved in clinical research, however this researcher noted that the experiences of nurses involved in clinical research has not been described. As such my study seeks to explore and describe the experiences of research nurses in the Western Cape with a particular emphasis on their experiences as a team member in a medical or surgical units. There are many questions which need to be answered when one seeks to explore clinical research nurses in an emerging market, but this study will seek to identify the nursing practice of clinical research nurses.