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Let me begin by introducing myself. I graduated with a bachelor of science in nursing and a master's in public health from Jimma and Gondar Universities in Ethiopia, respectively. I worked as assistant university lecturer in a school of nursing and have participated in research projects in different capacities. Among others, as PI, public health research consultant, co-ordinator, supervisor and assistant, in Ethiopia as well as in the UK, including in multi-country studies in African countries. My passion for research combined with experiences garnered from the various projects thus compels me to consider developing my career in research.

Currently I work as Trial Co-ordinator in a randomized controlled trial of Podoconiosis treatment in northern Ethiopia; a very pragmatic clinical trial. By doing this trial, we hope to generate a strong evidence base for very simple foot hygiene treatment of podoconiosis lymphoedema, which is a big problem for about 1 million Ethiopians and many others in highland tropical areas (www.podo.org). This is an area I am keenly interested in and working on for a PhD. After the completion of my PhD program, I aspire to be a leading trials researcher in Ethiopia

When I learned about the site I really felt this is what nurses all over the world need. I was told 'although many nurses visit the site every day, very few of them share their views as one could expect'. It may be that we are too modest to speak about our work. It may also be that nurses, for lack of professional development opportunities in nursing, have moved on to join other disciplines and feel they no longer are part of the nursing profession (regardless of their primary reasons for joining it; chance or preference, in the first place). I know many (at least in the Ethiopian context) who still feel part of it, but for various reasons, were unable to make contributions toward its development through professional associations or other fora. Finally, it may also be that those of us who are practicing the profession are too overwhelmed by day-to-day professional activities to get meaningfully involved in profession-related matters. In spite of everything, however, it goes without saying, that nurses engaged in different fields of nursing; education, research, clinical practice specialties and management must use the opportunity such platform creates to share experiences as we try to constantly improve and build our professional capacities and

careers as well as meet the challenges and ever-changing demands today's professional world makes.