

THE PEANUT

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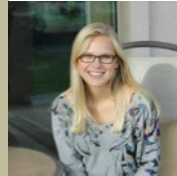
New Malawi Research



Researchers investigate the causes and treatments for environmental enteric dysfunction (EED), which leads to stunted growth.

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A Light for Africa



PPB mourns the loss of former Malawi clinic volunteer Madison Cornwell and thanks the Cornwell family for their selflessness and generosity in the face of this tragedy.

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Faces of PPB Ghana



Meet the newest additions to the PPB Ghana team.

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We now have a presence on YouTube! Subscribe to Project Peanut Butter's channel to watch the latest videos from factory and clinic.

Follow us on Twitter @PPB_RUTF.

"Like" us on Facebook for regular updates on our work!

Discovering a Cause and Treatment for Stunted Growth

In Malawi, Project Peanut Butter (PPB) and the St. Louis Nutrition Project (SLNP) continue to work together to research the best ways to prevent and treat malnutrition. One of the hottest research topics in the nutrition community as of late is known as "environmental enteric dysfunction" (EED). EED is a common condition in the developing world where the gut of a child becomes inflamed and not able to absorb nutrients properly, leading to growth and cognitive stunting and putting the child at high risk for the types of acute malnutrition that require therapy with ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF). The causes and ways to treat the condition are not well understood, though hypotheses exist.

Though their research on EED started as early as 2007, SLNP and PPB have launched a new series of studies beginning October 2014. University of Texas Southwestern medical student Alfred Wang was the lead field researcher in a 6-month study in Machinga District, Malawi, designed to determine if administering a combined intervention of zinc, albendazole (dewormer), and micronutrient powder would help ameliorate EED and cause clinical differences in children's height and weight. 254 healthy children, aged one to three years, were enrolled in the study and randomized to receive the combined intervention or a placebo for twenty-four weeks. Prior to administering the interventions, the researchers collected urine and stool from the children in the study to measure their gut function. Gut function, weight, and height were again assessed at twelve and twenty-four weeks.

"There were so many rewarding things about working on this study," says Wang. "Working with the wonderful team of Malawian nurses and drivers, learning

(Ctd. on pg 2) 1



Above: Madison Cornwell, 23, passed away last month in a car accident. She was the designated driver for four friends when they were hit by an allegedly drunk driver on the wrong side of the freeway. PPB remembers Madison for her 10 weeks of service to our Malawi project and thanks her family for their incredible generosity.

(Ctd. from pg 1)

how to set up an international study and navigating the obstacles associated with it, developing a relationship with the mothers and children in my study and getting to know most of them by name, learning from the local health surveillance assistants about their daily struggles and the struggles of the Malawian health care system...I learned so much. Everyone welcomed me with such warm hearts and I cannot describe how grateful I am for the privilege to work with and learn from these people."

As the data from this study is being analyzed, medical students from Washington University in St. Louis and Columbia University in New York prepare to launch the next EED study to take place in Malawi. Due to begin in July, the next study will investigate whether consuming cowpea flour or common bean flour will improve outcomes for children who suffer from EED.

To learn more about environmental enteric dysfunction and the researchers investigating it, visit Project Peanut Butter's YouTube channel and watch our video called "Discovering a Cause and Treatment for Stunted Growth." ♦

Remembering Madison Cornwell—A Light for Africa

Project Peanut Butter staff and volunteers mourn the tragic loss of Madison Cornwell, a medical student at UCSD, who passed away on May 16. Madison volunteered with our Malawi St. Louis Nutrition Project in the summer of 2014 and impacted everyone with her positive attitude and incredible spirit. We were looking forward to welcoming her in July as our next year-long Volunteer Research Coordinator in Malawi.

We would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the Cornwell family, who, despite their pain and loss during this challenging time, selflessly requested that people donate to Project Peanut Butter in lieu of sending them flowers. Approximately 125 donors have so far contributed over \$13,500 to our Malawi Project in honor of Madison—enough money to treat almost 400 severely malnourished children until they fully recover. Madison's light continues to shine in Malawi, where so many children have now been given a new chance at life.

"Madison lived life with a heart filled with love and compassion for all those she encountered. She recognized and celebrated the beauty in nature, art, and humanity with child-like appreciation. She loved her family and friends unconditionally, sharing in their successes and disappointments with endless support!

Our Madison was bright, hardworking, generous, energetic, gentle, curious and adventurous, filled with the longing to make a difference in the lives she would touch. She was unaware of the impact she already had on those whom had met her on her life's journey. The outpouring of love and support that our family has received is overwhelming.

Thank you. We miss her."

-The Cornwell Family

If you would like to donate to Project Peanut Butter in honor of Madison, you may do so at <http://www.projectpeanutbutter.org/donate/>.

When prompted, please indicate on the form that you are donating in her memory so that PPB and the Cornwell family may express gratitude for your contribution. ♦

Q & A with new additions to PPB Ghana team

On July 7, the PPB Ghana factory will undergo a long-awaited factory inspection by Doctors Without Borders (MSF), which will qualify them to begin producing food for the UN agencies and allow them to reach more children in need of treatment. Who are the men and women working to prepare the Ghana factory? Meet a few of our newest additions to the team:



Catherine Amoah

What is your position at PPB Ghana?

Quality Officer

How long have you been working at PPB Ghana?

Almost 8 months

What is the biggest project you are working on now?

My job is to make sure that the factory is safe and make sure that all the cleaning records are correctly filled. Now I am working on preparing for the upcoming audit. I want to make sure that my work will help PPB to be able to continue producing in Ghana.

What is the biggest challenge about working for PPB Ghana so far?

As a quality officer, the biggest challenge that I have about the work is to save babies' lives. So because of that I have to be serious, be sincere, and be truly about what I am doing here at PPB Ghana.

What is your favorite part about working for PPB Ghana so far?

My favorite part is helping PPB to be free of germs and being a hard team worker in my domain to improve the quality and safety of the food.



Jacqueline Krampf

What is your position at PPB Ghana?

Volunteer

How long have you been working at PPB Ghana?

2.5 months. Since April 9, 2015.

How did you hear about this position?

From August-November 2014, I was a clinic volunteer in Malawi with PPB. During my months there, I began spending some time in PPB's factory, as I'm a Food Technologist. I was then invited to come to Ghana.

What is the biggest challenge so far?

The climate in Ghana—either it's extremely humid or dry and dusty. This makes quality control a challenge, as we must always adapt to the climate. Ghana also has unreliable electricity, so we had to buy a huge generator as a backup for our production.

What is your favorite part so far?

It's always sunny in Ghana! Ghanaians are very friendly and honest people, and I enjoy working with them very much. This job is exciting because the tasks for me as a volunteer can change at any minute. One day I'm cleaning equipment, and the next I'm making a decision that might affect thousands of malnourished children.



Sumaya Sulemana

What is your position at PPB Ghana?

Administrative Officer

How long have you been working at PPB Ghana?

6 months

How did you hear about the job?

I was recommended to PPB by another organization known as Free the Slaves, so I received an invitation to apply for the job and I did.

What is your favorite part about working for PPB Ghana so far?

PPB Ghana is a 'working family' with good standards and good interpersonal relationships. We are all excited about making food to fight acute malnutrition, and that's my favorite part of the job: working to save children!

What is the biggest challenge about working for PPB Ghana so far?

No challenge at all! We are working hard towards preparing for our audit and starting full production.

Anything else you would like to share?

I really want to say a big thanks to Dr. Mark Manary for this initiative.



Jonas Sebigbon

What is your position at PPB Ghana?

Quality Manager

How long have you been working at PPB Ghana?

2 months

How did you hear about the job?

Through a publication on a notice board at the University of Ghana

What is the biggest project you are working on now?

Getting the factory ready for the MSF audit in July

What is the biggest challenge so far?

The challenge has been mainly with factory start-up issues in identifying systems that really work and are sustainable.

What is your favorite part so far?

The oneness and enthusiastic dedication of team Ghana to alleviating malnutrition

Anything else you would like to share?

I am very pleased to be with PPB Ghana and to be able to contribute human capital to making quality and safe RUTF and make it available to every child who needs it. I encourage everyone to join in this revolutionary project.



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