

2018 NF-POGO Visiting Fellowship for
Ship-board Training
Fellowship Report

Name of Trainee: Carolina Machado Lima de Camargo
Name of Supervisor (Parent Institution): Karline Soetaert
Supervisor (Host Institution): Brian Bett
Dates of Training: 19/May – 12/June/2018

Section A

(To be completed by the fellow and returned to the POGO Secretariat)

Please note Q1-Q3 will be passed on to the host and parent supervisor and made publicly available on the OTP website; Q4 will be read only by the POGO Secretariat and remain confidential

1) Please provide a brief description of activities during the training period:

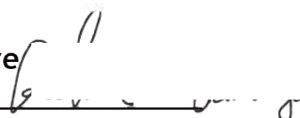
My fellowship was a shipboard training aboard of the RRS *James Cook* to the Porcupine Abyssal Plain (PAP) Sustained Observatory, hosted by the National Oceanographic Centre (NOC–UK). The PAP site is one of the longest time series oceanic observatories in the world, with almost 30 years of data sampling. Having the chance to join this environmental study was a very valuable experience. I learned about the importance and challenges of sampling the deep sea, and got to see how a time series study is maintained through the years. During the training period, I was part of the “benthic team”, working mainly with seafloor samples, namely Megacore sediment samples, bottom trawls and amphipod traps. For the Megacore samples, the benthic team was responsible for removing the cores from the instrument, slicing it and preserving the samples according to the protocol being used. Samples were taken for mega and meiofauna studies, organic matter studies, environmental DNA, microplastics and for stable isotope studies. Two bottom trawls were done during the cruise. After the net was on deck, we were responsible for separating the organisms into main classification groups, and when possible down to species level. After identification, samples were preserved. In case any sample was requested for another study, the specimens had to be weighed and measured before putting it away. Two amphipod traps were released during the cruise, staying 40 and 90 hours underwater, respectively. After the traps were recovered, the benthic team was responsible for collecting the amphipods from the traps and preserving it.

2) What applications of the training received do you envision at your parent institution?

The training occurred during the last months of my Master’s degree at my parent institution (VUB). Given that I will be disconnected from the institution soon, the training will not bring strong collaborations to the institutions. However, the network done during the training may bring connections in the future.

3) Please provide your comments on the Fellowship Programme.

This Fellowship was a great opportunity for me to learn in practice a lot of the things taught at my masters. Being aboard of a research vessel like the *James Cook* and working with such a high-qualified group is a great and unique experience which will enrich me as a professional and person. I’m very thankful for such opportunity, and think this programme should be maintained so that more people can have the same experience as I did.

Signature 

Date: 25/06/2018

Section B

(To be completed by host supervisor and returned to the POGO Secretariat)

Please note Q1-Q3 will be passed on to the parent supervisor and trainee and made publicly available on the OTP website; Q4 will be read only by the POGO Secretariat and remain confidential

1) Please provide your comments on the performance of the trainee.

Carolina was an asset to the benthic team aboard RRS *James Cook* cruise 165 and we are grateful to her, and the POGO programme, for that help. The conduct of effective open-ocean science is something that can only be experienced – not taught. It does not suit all individuals. In my experience, Carolina adapted very quickly to the nature of the work, rapidly picked up the necessary skills, and was immediately an effective member of the team. In terms of someone joining us for the first time, I would rate Carolina's performance as certainly above average.

2) Is this exchange likely to lead to future collaboration with the trainee's parent institution? If so please give example(s) of how this collaboration may be pursued.

In the present case, there is no immediate prospect of collaboration with the trainee's parent institution. This placement was organised at very short notice, precluding the development of a collaborative programme. This is no reflection on the candidate nor the parent institution. Indeed, the speed at which this successful placement was arranged was most impressive.

3) Please provide your comments on the Fellowship Programme.

From our perspective the Programme was certainly successful, and I believe the same was true for the placement on the Porcupine Abyssal Plain cruise in 2017. I suspect that placements of this type (open-ocean / deep-water science) are of substantial value in capacity development. That value likely extends well beyond those candidates who go on to engage in similar science; it is also of value to those subsequently in science / policy careers that make use of the data derived from this type of work; and to those who's future involves the conduct of good field science in other types of remote locates or environments.

Signature

Dr Brian J. Bett



Date:

16 July 2018

SECTION C

(To be completed by parent supervisor and returned to the POGO Secretariat)

Please note Q1 will be passed on to the host supervisor and trainee and made publicly available on the OTP website; Q2 will be read only by the POGO Secretariat and remain confidential

1) Do you agree with the above comments and do you have any additional feedback you wish to provide?

YES – no additional feedback

Signature




Date: 16-7-2018