



PhD Graduates

The PHD EMC programme began in 2014 and is the only PhD in EMC in Africa.

1. Dr Pradeep Ashokcoomar – Graduated 2019



Inter-healthcare facility transfer of critically ill neonates: the development of a programme for emergency medical care in the South African context

(http://openscholar.dut.ac.za/bitstream/10321/3245/1/ASHOKCOOMARP_2019.pdf)

Neonates are considered a vulnerable age group due to a variety of clinical problems that can occur. The Emergency Medical Service serves as an extension of the intensive care unit, but is associated with a very high level of risk due to the stressors of the pre-hospital environment which impacts on the clinical outcomes of the neonate. The aim of this study was to develop a programme for inter-healthcare facility transfer of critically ill neonates in the South African context.

The study found that the Advanced Life Support paramedics were inadequately prepared to deal with the neonates and the accompanying family members during the transfer process. Organisational structures and transfer processes were found to be inadequate.

A holistic and multi-dimensional inter-healthcare facility transfer programme that was relevant for the local context, with appropriate organisational structures and transfer processes was developed and thereafter appraised by a group of experts. It included the knowledge and skills required by paramedics and support for accompanying family members during the transfer process.

Dr Ashokcoomar received his PhD posthumously after succumbing to a long battle with cancer. He was the Principal of the KZN Emergency Care College.