

SPCR internship projects 2026

Name & email supervisor(s): Merlin Willcox m.l.willcox@soton.ac.uk
Name & email of reviewer(s) for applicants applying to undertake this internship project: Mark Lown (m.lown@soton.ac.uk)
Length and dates of internship: Flexible, depending on mutual availability of intern and supervisor. Any time from 1 June 2026. Equivalent of 4 weeks full-time placement based on 35 hours per week a total of 140 hours. But this could be part-time spread out over more weeks.
Host department: Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education, University of Southampton
How will the internship be conducted: <input type="checkbox"/> In person at the university <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virtual/ from home <input type="checkbox"/> Both are possible, depending on preference of student
Title internship project: Safety and Effectiveness of <i>Psidium guajava</i> (guava) leaf preparations in the treatment of acute diarrhoea: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials
Summary of the internship project: <i>(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)</i> Background: <i>Psidium guajava</i> (guava) leaves are used in traditional medicine worldwide for diarrhoea. With diarrheal disease related mortality hitting 1.53 million in 2019 and the persistent incorrect use of antibiotics in lower-middle income countries when treating diarrhoea; research about effective and safe alternative treatments is imperative. Objective: To assess the safety and effectiveness of guava leaf preparations in treating acute diarrhoea. Search Methods: A systematic review has been conducted in 2023 but needs to be updated. Databases (AMED, CINAHL, COCHRANE, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PubMed, ProQuest, Google Scholar, CNKI, VIP and Wangfang Data) will be searched using terms for randomised controlled trials (RCTs), guava and acute diarrhoea. A draft paper has been written already, but this will be updated with the updated search results, finalised and submitted for publication. A meta-analysis will be prepared.
Learning objectives: - TO learn how to conduct a systematic review and meta-analysis.

- To learn how to search databases of the medical literature, and conduct screening of articles using RAYYAN.
- To learn how to conduct data extraction
- TO learn how to write up a systematic review for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Any further information: