

BKL Walawalkar Hospital, Dervan, India

Opportunities for UK anaesthetists post CCT or OOPT

Applications are invited for post CCT Anaesthetists or post ST4 trainee Anaesthetists (OOPT only) to act as Visiting Registrar in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at the Bhaktashreshtha Kamlakar Laxman Walawalkar Hospital, Dervan, Maharashtra, in India.

Background

A team of doctors and nurses from the North East of England has been visiting the hospital for a week every year for the past seven years. In 2012 the team was accompanied by a Maxillo-Facial Surgeon from Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and a Plastic surgeon from the Smile project, working independently in London.

This is an extremely popular project; staff from both hospitals have cooperated well and contributed to patient care. In 2011 & 2012 we contributed to the Continuing Medical Education held for local General Practitioners and resident doctors and in addition, we taught medical students, junior doctors and nurses. We performed 195 surgeries in 2011 and 150 in 2012. The anaesthetic Operating Department Practitioners have trained staff at the hospital (theatre nurses) to work as anaesthetic nurses to support local anaesthetists throughout anaesthesia. They have a Step Down unit which is staffed by doctors and nurses for patients following surgery for the first 48 hours, and a well equipped ITU for medical and surgical patients. Detailed information of the hospital is available on the website www.walawalkarhospital.com

Over time we have come to consider this to be a safe place and supportive hospital to visit and therefore suitable for anaesthetists to gain valuable experience not available in the UK.

This is a six month commitment designed to provide experience in the fields of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care in a rural setting. The hospital is situated 19 km from the town of Chiplun. This is the only comprehensive ultramodern hospital near the midpoint of the Mumbai to Goa highway which stretches over 375 miles. The hospital is equipped with locally made anaesthetic and monitoring equipment, plus equipment donated by hospitals in the North East of England (e.g. anaesthetic machines, ventilators, operating tables, etc.). Recently the hospital has invested in two new Draeger anaesthetic machines. There are facilities (Nerve Stimulator) to provide regional blocks, epidural and spinal anaesthetics. In the past three years the visiting team included a Pain Sister who provided education to the local staff on Acute Pain Management. There are guidelines available for management of acute postoperative pain.

The accommodation for visiting staff is of a high standard. The hospital has its own water purification plant, backup generator for power failure and central oxygen supplies. The food is of high quality (mostly vegetarian).

There are forts, temples, a river, excellent clean beaches and bird watching places nearby which add value to the village of Dervan. The hospital has a gymnasium, badminton hall and outdoor extra-curricular activities (cricket, football, etc) for staff working at the hospital.

The role

The post commences as soon as the candidate is selected. The successful candidate should be post CCT and hold the FRCA or equivalent qualification. He/She should be able to demonstrate enthusiasm and motivation to work in the environment described above. Monthly salary will be Rs 70,000 (equivalent to roughly £1000 depending upon exchange rate) plus free accommodation & food.

Much of the Theatre work involves routine cases in General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Urology, Plastic, Obstetrics and Gynaecology. In addition it is likely that the trainee will gain experience treating patients with malaria, snakebite, scorpion bites, road traffic accidents, organo-phosphorus compound poisoning and round worm related intestinal obstruction. There are currently regular visiting Orthopaedic Surgeons who performs Spinal Surgery and General Surgeons with Cancer interest doing onco-surgery. The service provided by this organisation has been of enormous benefit to the local community which is predominantly agricultural who otherwise would find it almost impossible to get advice and treatment at a cost affordable to them in addition to those who travel from Mumbai and Pune to get treatment. The post has daytime plus out of hours duties (rota is 1:3). The other two resident anaesthetists currently employed are undergoing training in Pune or Mumbai and are enrolled to do a year on rotation to Dervan as part of the DNB/MD Anaesthesia qualification.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach and train medical students, junior doctors and nursing staff. Medical students from the Universities of Newcastle upon Tyne and Cambridge visit Dervan to do an eight week Elective. He/she expected to teach anaesthesia and Intensive Care to the students. There will be opportunities to undertake Audit projects and possibly some research.

In addition to the annual team visits from the North East and elsewhere, the hospital has frequent visits by senior anaesthetic consultants working in Pune and Mumbai during weekends undertaking surgical camps.

The role holder will be supervised by Dr Suvarna Patil, M.D (Medicine), Medical Director, Consultant Physician/Cardiologist, Clinical Lead on the Intensive Care Unit, and by visiting senior Consultant Anaesthetist at weekends.

Expected experience in Anaesthesia:

- 1) Peri-operative anaesthesia care of patients in a developing world.
- 2) Teaching and training to anaesthetists, theatre staff and medical students in a developing world.
- 3) Competency, skill and support that is required to sustain a safe and effective provision of anaesthesia in a resource poor setting.
- 4) Provision of safe anaesthesia in a challenging environment with limited resources to a wide variety of patients
- 5) Enhanced his/her experience in the field of paediatrics, obstetrics, and trauma

- 6) Working and living in a multi-cultural and frequently multilingual environment and will have developed an approach to planning and practise which emphasises effective communication and team management.

Expected experience in ITU:

- 1) Recognition and management of the factors which may lead to deterioration in sick patients
- 2) Manage the initial resuscitation of complex patients
- 3) Appropriately request and interpret investigations such as CT, ultrasound, microbiology, etc...
- 4) Critical appraisal of the evidence for treatment and investigations in a limited resource environment.
- 5) Appreciation that ICU are complex systems which require management and leadership skills.
- 6) Lead a ward round and plan care for 24 hours.

Contacts

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