

BKL Walawalkar Hospital, Dervan, India

Opportunities for UK Anaesthetic trainees post-CT2 or post FRCA (2 posts)

Applications are invited for post-CT 2 or post-ST4 trainee Anaesthetists (OOPT only) to act as Visiting Educational Fellow in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at the Bhaktashreshta Kamlakar Laxman Walawalkar Hospital, Dervan, Maharashtra, in India.

Background

A team of doctors and other health care professionals has been visiting Walawalkar Hospital for a week every year for the past seventeen years. The hospital is situated 19 km from the town of Chiplun and is the only comprehensive ultramodern hospital near the midpoint of the Mumbai to Goa highway which stretches over 375 miles.

The aim is to deliver a surgical camp, alongside other community health and education activities for the local rural population. The team has included expertise from many specialties including General Practice, General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Anaesthetics, Ophthalmology, Urology, and in 2012 was accompanied by a Maxillo-Facial Surgeon from Great Ormond Street Hospital and a Plastic Surgeon from the Smile Project.

This is an increasingly popular opportunity and many volunteers have revisited the project over several years. Staff from the UK team maintains good links with their Walawalkar hospital colleagues throughout the year, strengthening collaboration and helping to improve patient safety and continuity of care.

As well as performing up to 200 surgical procedures during a camp, other initiatives have included holding Continuing Medical Education events for local General Practitioners and resident doctors and teaching sessions for medical students, junior doctors, nurses and theatre staff. Improving patient safety remains a priority, and this is evident in the joint implementation of ALS training, the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist, and the DAS guidelines in theatres.

Alongside general wards, outpatient facilities, paediatric services, and a busy Emergency Department, the hospital has eight main theatres, a step-down recovery unit, and an Intensive Care Unit where more complex medical and surgical patients are managed. In addition, there is now a large medical and nursing school and several community health projects where staff and students are keen to share knowledge and engage in education and training opportunities. More detailed information is available on the website www.walawalkarhospital.com

The service provided by this organisation has been of enormous benefit to the local agricultural community who otherwise would find it almost impossible to get affordable advice and treatment, and over time we have come to consider this to be a safe place and supportive hospital, particularly suitable for Anaesthetists to gain valuable experience in Developing World Anaesthesia.

Anaesthetic Fellowship

Duration

This fellowship represents either a three- or six-month commitment at Walawalkar Hospital, designed to provide experience in the fields of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care in a rural setting.

Scope of Anaesthetic Practice

Training will be undertaken using the methods described in the RCOA anaesthetic curriculum, with inspection of the logbook, and use of the tools such as Anaes-CEX, DOPS and Case based Discussion, etc. Distant Educational supervision will be provided during this period of training by the RCOA.

The following are the Learning Outcomes in Anaesthesia:

- 1) Gain knowledge, skills and experience of the peri-operative anaesthesia care of patients in a developing world.
- 2) To support the speciality of anaesthesia by providing teaching and training to anaesthetists, theatre staff and medical students in a developing world.
- 3) To understand the level of competency, skill and support that is required to sustain safe and effective provision of anaesthesia in a resource poor setting.
- 4) Provide educational sessions to undergraduate and post graduate medical students. (Including sim sessions).

The trainee at the end of this time at the hospital:

- 1) Be able to provide safe anaesthesia in a challenging environment with limited resources to a wide variety of patients
- 2) Have enhanced his/her experience in the field of paediatrics, obstetrics, and trauma
- 3) Have experienced 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.

The successful candidate should hold the Primary FRCA or Final FRCA or equivalent qualification and should demonstrate enthusiasm and motivation to organise and lead a team in a busy multi-lingual environment. He or she should display the competency and skill to enable provision of safe anaesthesia in a challenging environment with limited resources. The local population offers a diverse anaesthetic case mix, and much of the Theatre work involves routine cases in General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Urology, Plastics, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. There are currently regular visiting Orthopaedic Surgeons who perform spinal surgery and General Surgeons with interests in onco-surgery. In addition, it is likely that the candidate will gain experience treating patients with malaria, snakebite, scorpion bites, road traffic accidents, organo-phosphorus compound poisoning, and round worm related intestinal obstruction.

Theatres are equipped with locally made anaesthetic and monitoring equipment, plus equipment donated by hospitals in the Northeast of England (e.g., anaesthetic machines, ventilators, operating tables, etc.). Recently the hospital has invested in seven new Draeger anaesthetic machines, and also

facilities exist to provide regional blocks under ultrasound guidance, epidural and spinal anaesthetics.

In the past three years the visiting team has included a Pain Sister who provided excellent education to the local staff regarding acute pain management, and this is an area requiring further support throughout the year. Multiple other opportunities exist to further develop the safe and efficient delivery of anaesthetic and peri-operative care.

This post includes educational component apart from clinical duties. There are resident anaesthetists at the hospital who are training in Walawalkar Medical College and Hospital, enrolled to do MD or DNB in anaesthesia qualification. There were 2 CT2 trainees in 2019 who successfully worked in the capacity of Educational Fellows at Dervan and enriched their and local staff experience. They have published the QIP in the RCOA International Anaesthetist Newsletter. Also, there is an opportunity to teach Anaesthesia Nurse Practitioners who are on a training programme.

Intensive Care Experience

In addition, the successful candidate will be expected to:

- 1) Recognise and manage critically unwell medical and surgical patients
- 2) Manage the initial resuscitation of complex patients
- 3) Appropriately request and interpret investigations such as CT, ultrasound, microbiology
- 4) Critically appraise the evidence for specific interventions and investigations in a limited resource environment
- 5) Display appropriate management and leadership skills in the ICU environment, including leading ward rounds and initiating care plans

Remuneration and Conditions

The successful candidate will receive a monthly salary of Rs 40,000 (equivalent to roughly £375- 400 depending upon exchange rate), plus free accommodation and food. A senior trainee will be able to receive a higher remuneration.

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 also of high quality (mainly vegetarian).

The village of Dervan is accessible on foot, and there are forts, temples, a river, excellent clean beaches and bird watching opportunities nearby. The hospital has a gymnasium, badminton hall and other outdoor activities (cricket, football, etc.) for staff working at the hospital.

Other Duties

The successful candidate will be expected to teach and train medical & postgraduate students, junior doctors in other specialities and nursing staff. Medical students from the Universities of Newcastle upon Tyne, Sunderland, and other UK medical students visit Dervan on their eight-week Electives, and the successful candidate is expected to support and teach these students within Anaesthesia and Intensive Care. A motivated candidate will find many opportunities to undertake Quality Improvement Projects and audits.

Supervision

The candidate will be expected to be able to work independently after Induction and initial exposure and will be supported by local anaesthetic staff members (which includes Professor in Anaesthesia), and by frequent visits by senior anaesthetic consultants working in Pune and Mumbai. The resident supervisor for this post is Dr Mrs. Suvarna Patil, M.D (Medicine), Medical Director, Consultant Physician/Cardiologist, and Clinical Lead on the Intensive Care Unit. The Royal College of Anaesthetists will be appointing an Educational Supervisor who will work with you towards achieving learning objectives (prior to commencement of post) and will be supervising distantly.

Closing Date and Interviews

The closing date for applications for this post is midnight on 31 May 2024. Candidates will be invited to interview soon after, with the option of interview via Teams/Zoom.

Contacts

For further information please contact:

Dr Sanjay Deshpande (Project Lead), Consultant Anaesthetist, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust, South Shields NE34 0PL. Tel no. 0191 2024046, Sanjay.Deshpande@stft.nhs.uk

Dr Jim Carter, Consultant Anaesthetist, James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, James.Carter4@nhs.net

Dr Gemma Nickols, Consultant Anaesthetist, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol. gemmanickols@doctors.org.uk