

Practice Profile

Langford Medical Practice (01869 245665)

Langford Medical Practice is situated in Bicester, a market town North East of Oxford and situated close to junction 9 of the M40. Bicester is well situated with easy Access to both Oxford and London. The practice itself has approximately 9,400 patients, who live in Bicester and the surrounding villages. There is information on the website www.langfordmedicalpractice.co.uk about training within the practice and also a short synopsis about each of the doctors based within the practice.

Rather than repeat information contained on the website, we thought it might be useful just to look at why Langford may (or may not!) be a suitable practice for a particular registrar to join for a year. Before proceeding further we think it is important to emphasise that all the practices within the Banbury scheme will offer excellent training and where ever you go you will be well looked after. We would not wish to suggest that we are any better than any other practice, but all practices are different and we shall briefly mention some of the potential differences that we have as a practice which may or may not seem important to you.

As a group of doctors we all like and respect each other. Although this may seem an odd thing to kick off with, the relevance of the comment may become more apparent as you experience the world that is general practice. From a practical point of view in terms of training, it means that we regularly meet up informally during the course of the week for coffee/tea/chats when we will discuss issues related to medicine and the outside world, - patients, clinical dilemmas, staff dilemmas, where to wine and dine, cars, sport, the future of general practice, and all the other Big Issues in the World. We very much encourage the registrar to join us, and during the course of the year you will be able to be involved in discussions on issues as they happen which you may not be able to find easily in text books - generally in a humorous atmosphere.

We have a branch surgery in a village called Ambrosden, The registrar has the opportunity to do a weekly surgery here with one of the trainers. As well as this surgery offering extra potential for teaching, the population attending this surgery is very different in that Ambrosden houses the families of the soldiers in the local garrison with a consequent surprising degree of ethnic and cultural diversity. There is also a dispensary at the branch surgery. The demographic mix of the main population otherwise is weighted towards the younger rather than the older end of the spectrum, but there is more than enough clinical material available for an all-round training experience.

Richard Jones is a senior examiner for the Royal College of GPs and Deputy Clinical lead for the CSA, and National Convenor for stage 2 of GP selection. He is also an Associate Dean within the Oxford Deanery. Esther Hill has previously worked as a Programme Director in the Banbury VTS and is currently preparing her application to become a second trainer in the Practice, having previously been a trainer in Derbyshire. Hence we have some working experience of some of the assessment elements within GP training, but would also wish to emphasise that we hope we are relaxed and practical in our approach to GP training, and are particularly keen that the assessment side of training does not interfere with what should be a really enjoyable and useful training period.

Having said that the doctors tend to get on well together, it is worth stressing that we are all very different. We are keen for you to come to our partnership meetings where you may see us trying to resolve our differences in a constructive manner. Ultimately we will do our best to ensure you feel welcomed and appreciated by the whole primary health care team, and equip you for the skills you will need for a future in General Practice.