

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 9,200 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, I 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 I 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. I would not wish to suggest that we are any better than any other practice, but all practices are different and I 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.

Richard Jones, my fellow trainer, is heavily involved in the Royal College of GPs. But to be fair to him, you would not immediately guess this when you first meet him. He has been an examiner for a large number of years and has been involved with the development of the new MRCGP including the clinical skills assessment. He is also an associate director within the deanery and generally seems to know what is going on, which can be extremely useful. He is a very useful resource for exam preparation.

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.

David Grimshaw September 2007

