

Profile of Gaywood House Surgery for Potential GP Registrars

Partners

Dr David Kessler, qualified 1984 (London) BA, MB BS, MRCPsych, MRCGP

Dr Moira McRobert, qualified 1980 (Glasgow) MB ChB, MRCGP

Dr Dolly Weil, qualified 1983 (Nottingham) BM BS, BMedSci, MRCGP

Dr Andrew Blythe, qualified 1990 (Oxford), BM BCh, MA, DCH, DRCOG, MRCGP

Dr Rachel Goodger, qualified 1993 (Bristol), MB ChB, DRCOG, MRCGP

Employed Doctors

Dr Bethany Jones MRCGP

Dr Rebecca Thurtle MRCGP

Gaywood House Surgery is a medium sized practice serving 7,600 patients living in the urban areas of Bedminster, Ashton, Southville and Ashton Vale.

It has six doctors: five partners and two salaried GPs. Two of the partners, Dr Weil and Dr Blythe, are GP trainers and the practice has the capacity to train one GP registrar a year.

Over the last nine years the practice has trained eight GP registrars. All of them passed their MRCGP and seven of them are working now as GPs in and around Bristol. The eighth doctor may be working as a GP but we have lost touch with her. One of our ex-registrars is now a partner here.

The character of the patient population is changing. The practice serves fewer older patients than it used to but it still cares for three generations of many local families. These strong family ties to the practice give the practice an intimate feel. The smallness of our premises also adds to the cosy feel. The surgery operates from premises on the ground floor of a block of flats. The individual consulting rooms are of a good standard (the registrar has his/her own room) but the reception areas and other rooms are all quite cramped.

The surgery does not operate a personal list system but patients are encouraged to stick with one doctor. Over 50% of the appointments are bookable up to one month in advance and the rest of the appointments are released 48 hours in advance. Out of hours care is provided by BriSDoc and previous registrars have gained all of their out of hours experience by working at BriSDoc under the supervision of a trainer. The practice uses EMIS (the most commonly used GP software in the UK) and is paper-light, not paperless.

The practice has very strong links with the University of Bristol. Two of the partners also hold posts in the Academic Unit of Primary Health Care at the University. Dr Kessler is a Senior Research Fellow and leads major research projects on the management of mental health in primary care. Dr Blythe is a Senior Teaching Fellow and runs the major undergraduate course in primary care at Bristol Medical School.

The practice is fortunate in having a variety of health professionals to support the work of the GPs. At present the practice has an excellent team of practice nurses, a mental health worker, a community matron (looking after elderly people at high risk of hospital admission), a Bristol Drugs Project counsellor and a health care assistant who is also a smoking cessation counsellor. Gaywood House surgery was one of the first practices in Bristol to train and employ a health care assistant. The practice also

has strong links with the local team of district nurses although lack of space means that they are not based on site.

The surgery provides the registrar with his/her own room with a fixed video camera and recorder. It also has a comprehensive library with some CD- ROMs.