

Whittington

Whittington GP Training Programme

Half Day Release: Wednesday

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Description of Scheme

The Whittington Hospital has long been recognised as a centre of excellence in medical education. Our scheme also has a large number of experienced trainers working in well-equipped training practices in the London Boroughs of Camden, Islington and Haringey. We offer a three-year training in general practice. In the first two years (ST1 and ST2) there is a choice of five rotations, each offering three 6-month hospital posts and a further 6 months attached to a training practice. The third (ST3) year is spent entirely in general practice.

In alternate years, we offer a 6th rotation. This will next be available in 2017. The hospital posts aim to provide good relevant experience in three contrasted specialties relevant to general practice, together with support, mentoring and formal teaching from consultants.

Two of the 6 month introductory general practice posts also provide part-time attachment to departments of either dermatology and palliative care, or genitourinary medicine and dermatology.

From August 2016 we shall also offer an ITP style post in general practice with part of the time spent in medical education.

There is a weekly half-day GP education course where trainees in all three years can meet, get to know each other, exchange ideas and learn about the wider aspects of general practice.

Location

The Whittington Education Centre
The Whittington Hospital
Magdala Avenue
London N19 5NL

Rotations

The three-year scheme offers the following five rotations in the first two years. The third year is spent entirely in general practice. Each rotation accommodates two trainees so that there is annual intake of ten people. In alternate years we offer a sixth rotation which accommodates another four trainees.

The current rotations are:

1. Medicine > Paediatrics > Psychiatry > GP (with GUM and Dermatology)
2. A and E > GP (with Dermatology and Palliative care) > Obstetrics > Paediatrics
3. GUM > Psychiatry > Medicine > GP
4. A and E > Medicine > Obstetrics > GP
5. Obstetrics > Medicine > Psychiatry > GP
6. (Alternate years: not available in 2016) Medicine > Psychiatry > Paediatrics > GP

Educational Activities

Teaching and experience in the hospital posts will cover the appropriate competencies in the GP curriculum. Each post will have a clinical supervisor and each trainee will have an educational supervisor (usually their GP trainer) who will work with the trainee on the portfolio and advise on progress throughout the three years.

Wednesday afternoons will be entirely free from clinical responsibility during GP attachments. During certain hospital posts it will only be possible to attend a proportion of GP teaching afternoons because of nights on call and rotas. In the practice attachments everyone has individual teaching and supervision from an experienced GP trainer. All members of the practice team contribute to the trainee's education. Trainers will also provide advice and help with the MRCGP examination.

The Wednesday afternoon course is run by the three programme directors, Caroline Dickinson, John Salinsky and David Price. We are all practicing GPs. The course has a varied content much of which is resourced by its members. We are particularly interested in including the arts and humanities as part of an all round medical education.

Highlights

We believe that people work and learn together well if they have plenty of opportunities to get to know each other and 'bond' as a group. We have two short residential courses each year in which we can benefit from group learning methods and also have walks in the country or by the sea.

We aim to cover both clinical and social topics as well as current and future developments in primary care. We invite some distinguished speakers but we discourage lectures and prefer interactive sessions. We also have teaching prepared and delivered by our own trainees, individually or jointly.

Each term, we read and discuss a great book (usually a novel, but one with powerful things to say about human relationships.) We also watch and discuss a classic film and have a self-guided tour of a gallery or museum. The second half of each Wednesday afternoon is usually spent presenting and discussing problem patients in small groups, using the Balint model to explore the doctor-patient relationship. The programme directors are always available to advice on any education or career problem that may arise.

GP Trainer Workshop Convenors in Whittington

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Programme Directors in Whittington

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