

## News from Woodchurch Surgery

When I joined the team in 2011 the Surgery became accredited as a training practice for junior doctors wanting to be GPs. The community has been great in supporting them and they have all assured me that their experience at Woodchurch will be fondly remembered. Local retention of doctors that have been trained in Kent has always been low, so I am proud that of our previous trainees one remains with us (Dr Arinaitwe), one is taking a partnership with New Hayesbank and one has joined Ivy Court. Our latest trainee, Dr Chakravarti, is joining Wye surgery in October and will extend her experience in Obstetrics and Gynaecology but also develop her new interest in Dementia - I wish her all the best in this role and she will be a credit to the team at Wye.

So, in August we welcome Dr Mukundh Putkooor who is a second year GP in training and brings with him several years as a doctor in hospital medicine. He will be with us for 4 months and should be back with us next August for a year.

In August we also welcome back Dr Henrique Lourenco who should be with us for 6 months to complete his training. He has already spent a year with us and then spent time down in Herne Bay and we are pleased to see his return.

Along with this news we will see a return of medical students from the University of Kent. Last year we hosted the first new students and some of you will have met Lily and Declan who were very enthusiastic and great to have around. Our new students will be in their second year and will spend a 2-week block with us at a time. I'm sure that they will be as popular as Lily and Declan were, and I thank you in anticipation for enabling them to learn.

So, the start of the new academic year will certainly be busy for us. The extension and refurb will be used to the max and these will be new faces that people will encounter. The GP trainees are all qualified doctors with hospital experience and come to us to evolve their knowledge and relate to the community as a GP. Although they are supervised by me the whole team have a role in their education. Similarly, we occasionally supervise Student Nurses who you may meet through the year.

I suspect a number of our trainees have been a bit surprised to end up in Woodchurch having only experienced hospitals in inner-City locations, however they have all understood the value of our community and enjoyed their experiences here. To see that realisation gives me as much pleasure as them passing their exams and I look forward to Mukundh and our second-year students having the epiphany that a small rural community is a hugely rich learning opportunity that inspires them to stay in Kent to enjoy working as GPs.

This educational role is massively important for the provision of primary care in the future, and we are really proud to be involved. Thank you for all being so welcoming to the trainees.

With best wishes on behalf of the Surgery,  
Jack Hickey - GP