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Primary Health Care
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare>



Teaching Newsletter

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Year 2 GP Teachers for 2013/14

A big thank you to everybody who has offered to take a group of Year 2 students. We know that the reduction of the clinical teaching weeks has made it much more difficult for you to accommodate Year 2 teaching and we very much appreciate your support.

The academies have not yet received their final student numbers. As soon as they have got them the administrators will send you your students' names.

Medical school newsletter at

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/staffstudents/student/newsletter/>

When you are closer to retirement you have many options—wind down, more gardening ...or seek out adventure. Read on and find out what Robin did next...



Robin Davidson, St Augustine's Medical Practice, Keynsham
GP partner, trainer and undergraduate teacher

Teaching workshops

To book email phc-teaching@bristol.ac.uk

For	Date	Time	Venue
Consultation skills tutors and actors	3 rd Sept.	11.00-13.00	Canynge Hall
New GP Teachers	12 th Sept.	1.30-5pm	Canynge Hall
Year 1 GP Teachers	17 th Sept.	All day	Engineers' Hse
Practice nurses	18 th Sept.	1.30-5pm	Canynge Hall
Year 5 GP Teachers	7 th Nov.	All day	Engineers' Hse

Teaching medical students abroad

I completed my training for GP in Scotland in 1984 and felt much too young and inexperienced to look for a partnership (there were few salaried GP's in those days!). So I answered a random advert in the BMJ and found myself taking up a post as a Regional Primary Health Care Officer in the Sultanate of Oman!?? This small Arabic country was just coming out of the dark ages, having "opened up" in 1970. I had never heard of it, but it turned out to be a fascinating place and a wonderful experience. My wife and I, and 2 pre-school children went on to live there for 2 years, and had another son there! However, I doubt that I made much of an impact on the region's serious health problems! Our connection with the country continued and in 2008 I spent 8 months there on sabbatical leave, teaching in a small private medical college.

The main state university (Sultan Qaboos University) was completed in 1987 and the first medical students graduated in the early 90's. Oman has always "believed" in primary health care and it became the first site for the International MRCGP in 2001. The country and the health service have been transformed over the last 30 years. There is a network of government clinics, health centres, and hospitals throughout the country. These are still mostly staffed by expatriates from other Arabic speaking countries, but gradually Omani trained doctors and nurses are taking over. Unfortunately, working in primary health care has been seen as the least attractive of specialties and many of the doctors working there are failed medical specialists – a situation not dissimilar to the UK in the 1950-60's.

Robin contd.

With modest oil revenues and the very sensible leadership of Sultan Qaboos, Oman has become a modern, thriving country. They have a long history of peace, commerce and co-operation with their neighbours and have managed to remain a very traditional Arabic state. Although it is clearly a very devout Muslim country, the people are open and tolerant of other faiths, and land for churches and temples have been given by the Sultan. He has also been open about promoting the role of women in society; several government ministers are women and he has given land to all divorced and widowed women that they should have a stake in the country. Entrance to medical school is on merit alone and the majority of medical students are female!

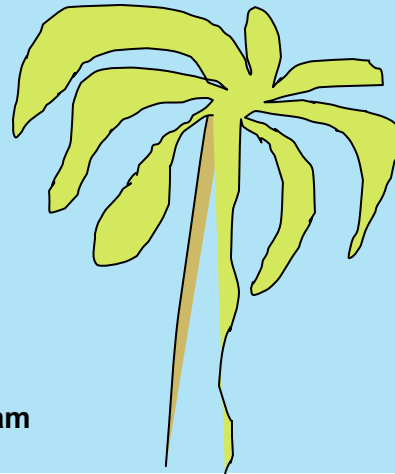
Which brings me back to the title!

I have again decided to take up a job in Oman. Not quite as strange and unknown as it was 30 years ago, but still quite challenging. It is a 2 year university contract in FAMCO (Dept of Family and Community Medicine). This involves working as a GP in the university clinic, teaching and mentoring undergraduate students and doctors on the 5 year specialist training programme. Having started my career as a GP in Oman, it feels that there is a certain symmetry to ending it there!

I will let you know how it goes...!



St Augustine's Medical Practice, Keynsham



Sultan Qaboos University

More Year 4 and Year 5 GP Teachers needed

We are still short of Year 4 and Year 5 practices. If you have never taught year 5 students, why not come to our Year 5 teaching workshop in November and then take the plunge and invite a pair of year 5 students into your practice after Christmas? If you have already agreed to take a student in Year 4 is there any chance you could take another? We would be delighted to hear from you.



The September newsletter will showcase more creative work by another winner of the Year 1 student prize.