

MJA Careers

Career overview



Bug battlefield

They may be experts in microscopic entities but infectious diseases specialists must also keep their eye on the bigger picture of global health

The work of the infectious diseases specialist spans three different domains: the pathogens that infect us, the human bodies they invade and the broader community at risk of infection.

This calls for a broad skills set and paves the way for a variety of career opportunities. You could find these specialists battling bugs in the lab, consulting with other specialists in hospitals, working in outpatient clinics or employed in a public health capacity.

No matter where they work, infectious diseases specialists must be ready for the unknown because it's never clear when the next big outbreak will strike.

A significant new pathogen or virus has emerged every few years, HIV being the most obvious example, says Professor Tony Cunningham, Director of

the Westmead Millennium Institute and Research Centre.

He says this makes for a fascinating career. "We once expected to eradicate the world of them — but every time we think we are getting on top of things, a new bug comes along and bites us", he says.

You also need to be prepared for an old foe to rear its head now and again, which leads to pressure to diagnose quickly.

"If someone comes in with meningitis, you need to diagnose that very quickly, as they can die within 12 hours. The great thing about this specialty is that people can be very near death and you can treat them quickly", Professor Cunningham says.

The heavy diagnostic component of this specialty demands strong cognitive skills, rather than the technical or

procedural skills of other specialties, and infectious diseases specialists also need a broad knowledge of the human body, rather than of specific organs.

Professor David Paterson, from the University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research, says this is why the career originally appealed to him. "Any type of patient can develop an infection: orthopaedic patients, ICU patients, pregnant women, and children. We also work across a wide variety of medical subspecialties, even psychiatry. I've seen people who've become psychotic as a result of typhoid fever", he says.

This is also why it pays for infectious diseases specialists to stay in touch with global developments. "Many infections are also public health problems and are still killing millions worldwide, so we have an obligation to lead policy in those areas", Professor Paterson says.

As a result, infectious diseases specialists are often the ones implementing national, state or hospital-wide policies on anything from infection control, immunisation and

In this section

C1 CAREER OVERVIEW

What's it like to work as an infectious diseases specialist?

C2 REGISTRAR Q+A

Dr James Pollard, infectious diseases registrar

C5 MEDICAL MENTOR

Professor Graham Brown on his career in infectious diseases

C6 MONEY AND PRACTICE

Preparing for illness

C11 ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

From Geelong to East Timor

//
Every time we think we are getting on top of things, a new bug comes along and bites us

//
Professor Tony Cunningham

continued on page C2

continued from page C1

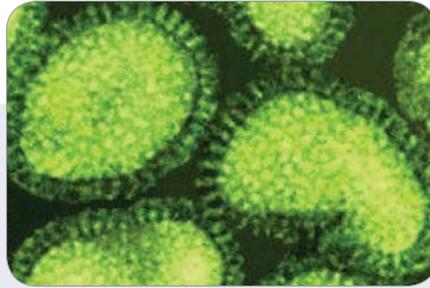
antibiotic usage to HIV, hepatitis C virus and tuberculosis.

However, it's the conditions that can't be cured that provide the biggest challenge — as well as the most interest — according to specialists in the field.

Professor Cunningham, who moved out of diagnostic and clinical virology into researching viruses and vaccines, says a career in infectious diseases offers the opportunity to follow your interests in greater depth.

Professor Paterson agrees. "When I first started training, infectious diseases were viewed like orthopaedics. If it was broken, it could be fixed, or in our case cured with antibiotics. Then along came HIV and antibiotic resistance."

He says this aspect brings plenty of opportunities for infectious diseases specialists to make their mark in medical education and research. One of his main research interests is the study of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. He is looking into how to optimise antibiotic therapy to prevent resistance and treat resistant infections.



"I also see patients every day and part of my research is to look at why patients are affected by resistant strains and what the risk factors are", he says.

"A US mentor once advised me to 'study what you see' so with antibiotic-resistant bacteria emerging as a significant issue, that's where I've focused my research."

According to Professor Paterson, infectious diseases is ultimately an intellectual specialty because though bugs may lack brains, they do have the ability to mutate and evade our efforts to control them.

"They are clearly staying one step ahead and that is part of the intellectual challenge of infectious diseases", he says

Amanda Bryan

Training

Those interested in a career as an infectious diseases physician need to complete 1 year as an intern followed by 3 years of basic physician training through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). Following completion of these requirements, trainees may enter advanced training in infectious diseases.

Two programs are offered: a "single fellowship" program involving advanced training in infectious diseases through the RACP, or a "dual fellowship" program involving advanced training in both infectious diseases and microbiology through the RACP and the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA).

The single fellowship program takes 3 years, comprising 2 core clinical years in infectious diseases. Typically this involves inpatient and outpatient clinical consulting for patients with infections, 6 months in a clinical microbiology laboratory, and 6 months elective training in

another clinical discipline relevant to infectious diseases, research or further microbiology training.

Dr Geoffrey Playford, specialist advisory committee chair for infectious diseases at the RACP, says trainees get exposure to a diversity of related areas including infection control, sexual health, hospital epidemiology and public health.

Those interested in clinical microbiology can extend their training and combine infectious diseases and microbiology training. In the dual fellow program, trainees do the same 2 core years as the infectious diseases program and then another 3 years in clinical microbiology, leading to dual qualifications with the RACP and RCPA.

"About two-thirds of trainees do the single fellowship and a third do dual training. There are a reasonable number of positions in hospital microbiology labs, and public and private pathology companies take trainees", Dr Playford says.

Registrar Q+A

Dr James Pollard is in his 3rd year of infectious diseases training and is a microbiology registrar at Barwon Health Geelong

Why did you choose to train in infectious diseases?

As a physician subspecialty, it is a great area for people who like problem solving. Infectious diseases is a great way to build highly specialised knowledge, while at the same time practise very general medicine. I enjoy seeing interesting patients, many of whom pose a diagnostic challenge.

What do you like most about it?

I like the options this specialty provides. For instance, my skills can be used in a broad range of settings spanning rural and remote medicine, strategic service planning and infection control, in quaternary hospitals or in field relief or international aid work. I also like the variety of work. I see patients with a mix of acute and chronic health issues, and these patients may be outpatient based or in intensive care.

What do you like about the training program and how does it differ from other specialties?

The 3-year advanced training program comprises 2 core clinical years, and 6 months of microbiology, but the remaining 6 months is considered non-core, which means you have a wide range of options for how to best use this time. It is also relatively straightforward to extend your training and do combined infectious diseases and microbiology training for those who see their careers heading more towards mixed practice or laboratory medicine.

Is there anything you dislike about it?

Sometimes the conflict between balancing your own learning and "service delivery" to the hospital can be quite difficult to manage. Infectious diseases registrars are always busy, and the phone never stops ringing.

What are your future plans?

To complete my training and to always continue learning. I hope to find work in a tertiary centre, and one day to be able to use my skills in emergency relief work.

EXPLORE 24-7

Do you want an opportunity to explore? Consider a locum.

At **Health 24-7** we can help you discover new places, exciting prospects, fresh challenges and greater levels of financial security.

Check our website www.health247.com.au or call us now on **1800 005 915** and get ready to pack your bag.



Health 24-7
Medical Recruitment Australia

FREE CALL: 1800 005 915
www.health247.com.au

*When did you last
give your Practice
a check-up?*



The actions of your staff could put your practice and reputation at risk.

You may not have realised that you can't always rely on your personal medical indemnity cover to protect your staff.

Our Practice Policy has features such as cover for defamation, loss of documents, privacy complaints and infringement of intellectual property.

Consider your practice needs and contact us to find out more.

We Listen to Our Members.

Call us today on
1800 011 255



Insurance products are underwritten by MDA National Insurance Pty Ltd (MDA National Insurance) ABN 56 058 271 417 AFS Licence No. 238073, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Medical Defence Association of Western Australia (Incorporated) ARBN 055 801 771, trading as MDA National. The liability of Members is limited. With limited exceptions they are available only to MDA National Members. Before making a decision to buy or hold any products issued by MDA National Insurance, please consider your own circumstances, read the Product Disclosure Statement and Policy wording available at www.mdanational.com.au. DIPO41



Medical mentor

Professor Graham Brown reflects on his career in infectious diseases

Professor Graham Brown is the Foundation Director of the Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne. Previously he headed the Division of Infection and Immunity at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research, the Victorian Infectious Diseases Service and the University Department of Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He has served on various national and international review committees, has advised the Bill and Melinda Gates Children's Vaccine Program and chairs the Malaria Vaccine Advisory Committee of the World Health Organization.

International health appealed to me early on in my medical career, especially as several family members and friends had been medical missionaries. However, infectious diseases was not a specialty in its own right then, so I trained as a general physician. This was an ideal preparation, because generalists are needed where resources are limited. Also, to excel in infectious diseases, one needs a good understanding of all the systems, which is a challenge and delight of the specialty. After qualifying, I spent time teaching and working in Papua New Guinea and Tanzania, despite the fact that respected colleagues told me that I was throwing away my career and wouldn't get another job in Melbourne. But as it turned out, the medical experience was a huge positive, as I learned so much. I also had the wonderful opportunity of working in another country and culture.

It seemed that the greatest gains could be made through education and public health and by addressing the socioeconomic determinants of health. That realisation provided the motivation to study public health at Harvard, where I gained perspective on the synergies between basic research, clinical care and population health, and also made many lifelong friends. Back in Australia, I was invited to join a basic research team in the Immunoparasitology Unit at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research, continued working in general

medicine, and later, an opportunity arose to establish the infectious diseases service at Royal Melbourne Hospital. All this provided an unusual combination of expertise, perhaps more in breadth than in depth. Experience in fieldwork, laboratory research, clinical research and public health enabled me to appreciate the contributions made by each of those different disciplines, and the importance and benefits of multidisciplinary teams.

The priorities in infectious diseases are forever changing at home and abroad. I never expected that we'd see or recognise a new infectious disease every year, such as SARS, bird flu and of course HIV/AIDS, and devastating drug-resistant TB. The different dimensions of this work keep things interesting, from understanding organisms, to helping people who live on the fringes of our affluent society. In our specialty, we always need to consider the host and the environment, not just the microorganism in question.

My main area of research is malaria, with a special interest in malaria in pregnancy. The global goal is eventually to control and eradicate the parasites responsible. It is very exciting to undertake research and to reflect upon new understanding. This work also enables me to visit and make friends in many interesting places where malaria is a problem. Back in Australia, my experience in and fascination for tropical medicine

has helped me make some diagnoses that are not common here, and to help with unusual infections. Nothing feels better than finding solutions that help patients. The flip side is that sometimes we don't get an answer.

The specialty is constantly changing. Hospital-acquired infections and medicine related to travel and to the needs of refugees, for example, have become specialties in their own rights. Organisms continue to change. New technology has made a huge difference when it comes to diagnosis. We used to make many assumptions about infections, but now, thanks to imaging in all its forms and DNA testing, we know and can do so much more. The way the specialty is viewed has also changed. Many once thought it wasn't necessary to have people specialising in infectious diseases as the diseases were becoming so rare, but I doubt that many professionals now hold that view.

I've always tried to encourage trainees to think broadly, for example, by asking why an infection has occurred in this particular person or population at this time. This helps them to learn how to seek answers and to think about problems. When the unknown is encountered, these principles are there to fall back on.

One of the most rewarding aspects is to see former students on their way to successful and fulfilling careers. When you can assist people with their career development, it's very rewarding. It's also inspiring to see early career professionals who choose to devote part or all of their time to the challenges of equity and global health. They are unlikely to be bored or disappointed with that choice and it is never too late to give it a try!

Interview by **Amanda Bryan**

//
Many once thought it wasn't necessary to have people specialising in infectious diseases as the diseases were becoming so rare
//

Money and practice

Essential protection

Are you financially prepared for a major illness or accident? If not, it's time to consider insurance options.

Most of the doctors who seek financial and personal help from a medical benevolent association have no income protection or trauma insurance.

It worries Meredith McVey that so many doctors are not financially prepared for a major illness or accident. Ms McVey, executive director and social worker with the Medical Benevolent Association of New South Wales, says even those who do take out insurance often don't have adequate cover or miss out because of exclusions in the policy.

"By the time doctors get to us, they have been through a lot of financial and personal hardship", Ms McVey says. Many have to apply for Centrelink payments to get by.

The association strongly recommends that doctors have, at the very least, income protection insurance, to ensure they are financially covered if the worst does happen, she says.

For Associate Professor John de Campo, having adequate insurance was just one of many practical issues that made his being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma last year more bearable for him and his family.

Professor de Campo, from the department of radiology at the University of Melbourne, who was 60 years old when diagnosed, is married with two adult children. Now fully recovered and back at work, he has written an aide-mémoire (see *page C9*) for colleagues, outlining the practical issues that should be considered and kept up to date in case of serious illness or accident.

Insurance expert Mr David Gay says doctors — whether employed by others or self-employed — should have both trauma and income protection insurance. Most self-employed doctors have no other source of income if they cannot work.

"If you have a serious illness or accident and can't work, your income



// **If you have a serious illness or accident and can't work, your income is going to dry up**



Mr David Gay

is going to dry up", says Mr Gay, of Austbrokers Financial Solutions. And he recommends that doctors have cover from a young age as "you never know when something is going to happen".

"For example, if diagnosed with cancer, the [out-of-pocket] medical costs can amount to \$50 000, plus the loss of income — it can be devastating."

Income protection insurance can provide up to 75% of income and trauma insurance pays a lump sum of the insured amount that can be used for any purpose.

The reason Mr Gay advocates both forms of insurance is that in some instances a doctor may be able to do some work, but not enough to

What's the difference?

Trauma insurance

This cover provides a lump sum payout if you are diagnosed with a critical illness. The payment is made even if you are able to continue working and you can use the funds for any purpose, but in most cases it is designed to cover medical expenses and additional costs associated with the illness including rehabilitation expenses.

Each insurance company will have different definitions for the conditions and diseases covered by the insurance. Illnesses covered include cancer, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson disease, stroke and heart attack. Most policies provide around 30 to 40 listed medical conditions. Always check for exclusions.

Income protection insurance

This cover provides an income stream if you are sick or injured in an accident and are

unable to work. Depending on the policy, it will pay up to 75% of your income. The cover will continue for as long as you are affected by the illness/disability and unable to return to work, or for the period you select before the insurance cover starts. This can be as short as 2 or 5 years or right through to when you turn 65 or 70 years of age. Benefits are only payable for the period you select.

You can select your own waiting period before the insurance cover starts. A typical waiting period will range between 30 and 90 days, but it can be as short as 14 days and as long as 2 years. Shorter waiting periods cost more.

Some policies offer the option to convert future monthly benefits to a lump sum payment if a person is totally and permanently disabled. This is often seen

as a significant benefit, for an immediate lump sum is payable and there is no need for any future medical checks.

Premiums are tax deductible; however, tax is payable on the income stream. Self-employed medical practitioners can add to this insurance to cover business expenses, eg, staff and rent, during the period they are unable to work. Always check for exclusions.

Total and permanent disability insurance

This cover can be added to your life insurance or taken as a separate policy. Unlike trauma insurance, this cover only applies to permanent disability, such as total blindness, loss of limbs, or any condition that prevents you from completing everyday tasks.

Conditions vary significantly between insurance companies, so you should check the policy and the exclusions carefully.

generate his or her full income. Income protection insurance can only be claimed if you are unable to work. However, trauma insurance can be claimed in certain circumstances even when you can still work.

“For example, a surgeon doing invasive procedures may contract HIV so is still physically able to work, but faces strict restrictions on what he or she can do. Their income can be affected significantly even though they can still work”, Mr Gay says.

However, he says not all insurers recognise this issue in their income protection policies. “It is therefore essential for those in certain fields of the medical profession to review their existing cover to ensure that their policies will respond under such circumstances.”

The cost of insurance protection depends on a variety of factors including age, gender and smoking status. Mr Gay says this makes it impractical to provide meaningful premium indications.

Insurance companies offer a range of benefits and options that may be more relevant to one doctor than to another.

“The role of an insurance adviser is to clearly identify the specific issues that are relevant to a particular client, then identify the insurer whose policy best satisfies those specific needs”, he says.

Disputes with insurers over the definition of a disease and the severity of illness are possible if these issues have not been agreed on when the policy is taken out. Mr Gay says most insurers have clear



definitions of what will be covered but these can vary between insurers and it is wise to review and update policies regularly, at least every few years.

Practice principals, who may need to keep their practice open while recovering from serious illness, can also consider adding business protection insurance to their policies so practice costs as well as income needs are met.

Ms McVey says the Medical Benevolent Association adds, on average, two new referrals to its books each month. The doctors who seek help include all age groups and are equally male and female.

For those who do have trauma or income protection insurance, it is often exclusions in the policy that can leave them without cover when they try to make a claim.

Waiting periods can also cause financial hardships. “People take out insurance when they are young and well and may think they can survive without income for 6 weeks”, Ms McVey says.

However, a serious illness can be costly, on top of having to maintain a mortgage, pay practice running

costs and everyday cost-of-living expenses. It does not take long to eat up savings. Ms McVey says shorter waiting times might be more expensive but should be seriously considered.

Cost and complacency are often the reasons why many doctors take out little or no insurance to protect their income. However, the cost of no cover can be enormous.

Ms McVey says the cost of insurance is worth it if it gives a doctor time to get back on their feet after a serious illness. Nearly all doctors who seek help from the Medical Benevolent Association feel a desperate need to get back to work.

“As one doctor told me, ‘being a doctor is not something I do, it’s what I am’.”



Meredith McVey

Kath Ryan

Where to get help

Doctors' health advisory services and medical benevolent associations are available in all states and territories to assist doctors who need professional and financial assistance.

Contacts for all organisations are available through the Australian Medical Association website (www.ama.com.au).

A Property Investing Education Event for Professionals

Investors Direct Wealth Acceleration Workshop



Welcome from Bill Zheng,
MD Investors Direct

Investors Direct Financial Group is an award-winning, specialist property investment advisory group with offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

It holds an Australian Credit Licence (No. 402950), a Real Estate licence (No. 071792L) and an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL 385827).

The directors of the company regularly write for a variety of property investment magazines, newspapers and online investment portals and have delivered investment education events to over 100,000 property investors Australia-wide.

An intimate & insightful 2.5 hour workshop that will show you a proven strategy for accelerating your wealth through residential property.

- Discover where to put your money in property over the next 15 years, and why it will be totally different to where you've put it during the past 50 years.
- Find out what properties are best suited to those busy professionals on high taxable incomes.
- Learn how to see the medium & long term trends in property prices and how to handle short-term market volatility.
- Discover how to strategically build an investment property portfolio that will lead you towards a desirable passive net income goal.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

SYDNEY
Sat 14th April
2.00 pm

MELBOURNE
Tues 17th April
6.30 pm

BRISBANE
Sun 22nd April
2.00 pm

(Contact us for other dates)

Strictly limited seating
Tickets @ \$45
Reserve your place today

Call 1300 663 836

Ask for Natalie or email
natalie@investorsdirect.com.au
investorsdirect.com.au



A New Definition of Financial Freedom

"Cutting edge investment advice, run by one of Australia's leading financial experts."

- J Sotis

"Information is well researched, and reliable. I go for guidance on my ongoing investment strategies."

- V Hallman

"Unbiased, finger on the pulse, to the point and relevant. Too many others waffle on too much."

- J Cole

Money and practice

An illness aide-mémoire

“Be prepared” is more than a Scout motto — for Associate Professor John de Campo, it was essential when he was diagnosed with cancer. He has written this article to help medical colleagues be ready in case of acute or chronic illness or an accident.



Acute or chronic illness, like death and taxes, will come to us all. Many assume it is some way off, or that our illness will have a slow onset so that we and our families can prepare for a change in circumstances.

Some illnesses, such as stroke, afford no time to talk with your family and loved ones and no opportunity to check that prior arrangements for your family are adequate.

Fortunately, when diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma last year, I had some weeks between diagnostic surgery and the start of radiotherapy and chemotherapy to discuss the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment with my family and employer, and to plan my domestic and work arrangements.

Having time to consult with your accountant and lawyer, as well as your treating medical specialists, means that you and your family are able to face and prepare for prolonged illness with confidence.

Of course, there is no reason to wait until you have a sudden illness to ensure those you care for, and those who care for you, have everything at hand to manage with as little difficulty as possible. This is the practical side to acute illness which our patients and their families deal with all the time.

I have put together this list of practical issues that arose during my acute illness. It might be useful to your family or your patients as an aide-mémoire.

- Is your will up to date and accessible (the original of mine had been lost by lawyers)?
- Is your financial power of attorney current and accessible?
- Is your medical power of attorney current and accessible (I didn't have one)?
- Are your life, trauma and disability insurance policies safe and accessible?
- Are all your insurance policies paid by direct debit, and not dependent on your involvement?
- Is your bank ready to support your pending sickness payments and insurance payout?
- Is your superannuation fund beneficiary nomination current?
- Does your family company have a convenient number of directors?
- Is there a clear succession of appointees to any family trust?
- Does your family have the contact details of your accountant, broker, banker, superannuation fund, employer and lawyer immediately available?
- Are your health insurance policy and fund details available to your family?
- Are your medical defence policy and medical board registration current?
- Are you able to recast your medical defence premium if earnings fall temporarily?
- Are safe-deposit details and access available to your family?
- Are key passwords available to your family?
- Does your family have credit cards independent of your card?

//
Some illnesses, such as stroke, afford no time to talk with your family and loved ones

//

Tasks your accountant should be ready to handle include:

- Last year's tax returns.
- Arranging income support from your superannuation fund.
- Documentation for any insurance claims.
- Quarterly business activity statements and refunds.
- Partnership and trust issues.
- Workers compensation claims.
- Investment and superannuation administration.

We live in a bushfire-prone region and have moved home regularly, so all our core documents have been in a “box to go” for some years. For us, checking documents was a relatively easy task.

You might consider spending a couple of hours preparing for your inevitable acute illness.

Are you ready?



Associate Professor John de Campo is with the department of radiology at the University of Melbourne

DOCTORS ARE OUR SPECIALTY

As a part of Healthcare Australia, LML Medical Recruitment helps doctors of all grades and specialties find locum jobs throughout Australia.



Fantastic jobs currently on offer:

Locum Consultant Positions	Locum Junior Positions	Locum GP Positions
Australia wide locations from \$2000 per day	Australia wide locations from \$80 per hour	Australia wide locations from \$160 per hour

FREE ALS COURSE

Wednesday, 9 of May, Sydney.
To secure your place in the course ensure you are fully registered with LML Medical Recruitment.

Call 1300 889 133 for further details.

APPLY ONLINE www.healthcareaustralia.com.au



LML Medical Recruitment
Healthcare Australia

WORK WITH US TODAY

 **1300 889 133**



Your patients expect safe hands.
So should you when it comes to insurance.

Ask yourself these questions: Do you have the right income protection in place? Will your insurance pay when you need it the most? Is your insurance priced right?

Every medical professional understands the importance of regular medical check-ups to keep on top of your health. Yet all too often we leave our own insurance unchecked for many years in spite of significant changes to our life circumstances.

Foundation Broking has a proven track record of providing professional insurance advice for your personal and business needs.

For a FREE insurance health check, call us now on **1300 990 625** or go to www.foundationbroking.com

Road less travelled



A world of difference

Surgeon Dr Glenn Guest splits his working life between Geelong and East Timor

Surgeon Dr Glenn Guest says one of the most rewarding aspects of working in a developing country is seeing the huge difference well trained doctors can make.

“As a stary-eyed medical student, or even before then, one of my dreams was to use the skills I had to make a difference in people’s lives. There’s no better way to do that than by working in developing countries. That’s what keeps me going back”, he says.

“Australia has very well trained doctors, but that’s not the norm in other parts of the world.”

Between overseas trips Dr Guest works in Geelong as a general surgeon with a colorectal subspecialty, but he relishes the chance to practise as a true general surgeon while overseas, helping people with a broad variety of presentations.

“In countries like East Timor or Indonesia, general surgery is practised in a way that doesn’t exist any more in Australia”, he says.

His regular stints working in East Timor have required him to do everything from neurosurgery to bowel operations — as well as managing the occasional gunshot wound.

He recalls one occasion in East Timor where a 10-year-old boy presented with a head injury after catapulting himself over his buffalo while trying to lasso it. Dr Guest soon realised the boy had cephalic tetanus — a condition he had “only ever read about and long forgotten”.

With the help of neurosurgery colleagues on the phone in Australia he was able to successfully perform a neurosurgical procedure he had never done before.

“It was very rewarding. He came in about to die and walked out 3 weeks later a normal, fun-loving kid”, says Dr Guest.

Dr Guest first visited East Timor in 2002, when a 3-month placement as part of a Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) program turned into an 18-month stint. He had only married a few weeks earlier, and his wife, a GP,

also threw herself into the work on their island “honeymoon”.

He was one of only two surgeons in the country, caring for a population of about one million people. He was initially flat out operating, but soon realised it would be more useful to train a local doctor in surgical techniques. He found an interested young Timorese doctor and spent the next year dividing his time between surgery and teaching.

Since 2002 he has visited the country nine times, and has witnessed the Timorese doctor become a fully fledged surgeon who now passes on his skills to others.

Dr Guest is now director of the RACS/AusAID East Timor project, which is helping develop the field of surgery in East Timor by having specialist doctors and nurses permanently based in the country.

“Our main focus is teaching Timorese doctors rather than doing all the work ourselves.”

The project also supports many others doctors who have donated their time for short-term clinical visits, performing thousands of operations over the past decade.

In addition to his work in Timor, Dr Guest also led a medical team in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, following the 2004 tsunami, and helped organise a relief team following the earthquake in Pakistan in 2005. He has also worked in Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

He says he continues to return to East Timor because he has developed strong relationships with the people there.



“To make the biggest difference in a country like that you need to stay for a long time or visit multiple times. It takes a while to gain people’s trust and to get to know the system.”

Dr Guest’s interest in working in developing countries was sparked after a placement in Kenya when he was a medical student. He worked closely with an inspirational African doctor who was the sole surgeon for a large population, and impressed the young Dr Guest with the care he was able to provide despite limited resources.

Dr Guest balances his overseas work with his Geelong clinic, and credits his supportive Australian colleagues for covering his practice while he’s away.

He also manages his working life while raising a young family, having had his fourth child last year. His family has accompanied him on many trips, and he is hoping to visit East Timor with the whole brood later this year.

He is appreciative that his wife has also worked in East Timor, so she has a greater understanding of the work that he does while he’s away.

Doctors considering work in developing countries often need to find their own opportunities, says Dr Guest.

For junior doctors yet to determine their specialisation, he suggests that procedural specialties such as surgery, obstetrics and anaesthesia are most needed in developing countries.

“There is no set pathway to get into this work — it’s often up to your own initiative to find people involved and opportunities and mentors ... but when opportunities do come up — grab them. I don’t think you’ll ever really regret it.”

“ Australia has very well trained doctors, but that’s not the norm in other parts of the world ”

Sophie McNamara

Executive Appointments



i can

...have twice the impact

Executive Director, Medical Women's & Children's Health Network
North Adelaide, South Australia
Job Ref: 501251

This senior executive position offers a unique opportunity to influence future directions in health care. You can be part of a strong and cohesive leadership team involved in leading the tertiary paediatric and maternity Health Network for South Australia. Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, you will advise on the policy, professional development and professional practice requirements and implications of the medical workforce of Women's and Children's Health Network. You will drive the Clinical Governance framework initiatives across the Network's tertiary, secondary and primary health care services.

www.health.sa.gov.au/careers | 1300 882 992



South Australia. Make the move.



Blaze009742

Fellowships

THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS



Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Training Program

Surgical Training Posts in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in Australia and New Zealand are accredited by the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons as posts leading to Fellowship. Determination of eligibility for these posts, commencing 2013, is made on an Australia and New Zealand-wide basis by the RACDS.

Application forms and guidance for potential applicants are available from the Assistant Registrar (Special Field Stream, OMS), RACDS, Level 13, 37 York Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia; tel: +61(0)2 9262 6044; fax: +61(0)2 9262 1974; or email: oms@racds.org It must be noted that an interview in Sydney will be required for shortlisted applicants. Applications must be received by 18 May 2012.

Separate applications will be necessary to the relevant employing authority for accredited positions which are available for 2013. This may involve responding to advertisements placed by employing authorities.

Research, Grants and Funding

SYLVIA AND CHARLES VIERTEL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION GRANTS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCE IN 2012

The Trustees of the Foundation are pleased to announce two classes of research grants to be awarded in 2012 and commencing in 2013.

SYLVIA AND CHARLES VIERTEL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SENIOR MEDICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Up to two Fellowships tenable in Australia of five years tenure at \$195,000 per annum for a researcher from any discipline in medical science.

VIERTEL CLINICAL INVESTIGATORS

\$60,000 for clinical researchers who have recently completed their clinical and research training and who have been no more than 24 months in their first definitive career post in Australia. Up to five awards are available. Only Australian nationals or permanent residents are eligible for these awards.

Closing date: 1 May 2012

Further information is available from:
The Secretary Viertel Medical Advisory Board
C/- Philanthropy
ANZ Trustees Limited
GPO Box 389
MELBOURNE VIC 3001 or
Website: www.anz.com/anztrustees

“LEGACY IS KEEPING THEIR PROMISE TO MY DAD”

CHARLOTTE



TO DONATE, CALL 1800 534 229 OR VISIT LEGACY.COM.AU



Caring for the families of deceased and incapacitated veterans.

MJA Advertisers' Index

Alcon Laboratories
Travatan..... Inside Front Cover
Systane.....p288

Aspen
Dermeze p286, 287

Avant
DIT Scholarship Outside Back Cover

Janssen-Cilag
Simponi.....p282

Mundipharma
Targinp284-285

Suncorp Bank
EFTPOS solutions.....p288

LOCUM with Wavelength and WORK when and where you want



Wavelength International is proud to announce we will be assisting Médecins Sans Frontières Australia. We are keen to hear from Australian & New Zealand based Surgeons, O&G Consultants and Anaesthetists who are interested in the possibility of assisting Médecins Sans Frontières in 2012.



If you would like to know more, please contact Kelly Doran at kdoran@wave.com.au

Here's a sample of our other current vacancies:

C&A PSYCHIATRIST

QLD (Ref:27725)
1st April for 4 months
\$2000 per day + benefits
Call Rebecca 02 8353 9042

GERIATRICIAN

QLD (Ref:27701)
ASAP – ongoing for 3 months
\$2000 per day
Call Carly 02 8353 9016

ED PGY3+

NSW (BP100112-5)
01/04/12 – 01/06/12
\$120 per hour
Call Carole 02 8353 9017

GENERAL SURGEON

NSW (Ref: 22416)
May to July 2012
\$2500 per day worked
Call Nicole Langan 02 8353 9012

PSYCHIATRY REGISTRAR

NSW (LB251111-1)
ASAP – 27/04/12
\$110 per hour
Call Lisa 02 8353 9034

GENERAL MEDICINE

NSW (Ref: 20457)
13 April till 16 April 2012
\$2000 p/d + travel & accom
Call Claudine 02 8353 9020

RADIOLOGIST

QLD (Ref: 25414)
Various dates till June 2012
\$3000 per day worked
Call James 02 8353 9038

PAEDIATRICIAN

NSW (Ref: K100103)
21st to 27th March
\$2500 p/d + travel & accom
Call Amber 02 8353 9011

Why Wavelength?

Dr Michael Holland: "Wavelength was recommended to me & I would certainly recommend using Wavelength to any of my colleagues."

Dr S Singh: "Wavelength find you the best job that suits your needs and negotiates the best contract for you. You simply give them your availability schedules and the rest will follow smoothly."

Locum

with Wavelength and receive \$500 credit on your Wavelength Visa Card for every 5 locums completed

Visit wave.com.au to find out more



wave.com.au
Specialists in medical recruitment



醫院管理局
HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY

The Hospital Authority is a statutory body established and financed by the Hong Kong Government to operate and provide an efficient hospital system of the highest standards within the resources available.

Resident Trainees and Specialist Doctors (ref: HO1112014 for Resident Trainees)

The Hospital Authority (HA) invites both non-specialist and specialist doctors who are eligible for full registration with the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) to consider joining the HA to pursue specialist training and/or serving the community of Hong Kong.

Pay

For doctors without any prior specialist training, the starting salary is AUD7,070* (approx) per month. Doctors who have successfully acquired specialist qualification earn between AUD11,610* and AUD14,650* (approx) per month.

* The pay quoted includes Monthly Allowance and end-of-contract gratuity.

* Based on exchange rate : HK\$8.3 = AUD1 (subject to fluctuation).

Job

1. To provide clinical and patient care related services.
2. To undergo specialist training in designated specialty (only applicable for Resident Trainees).

Requirements

1. Be eligible for full registration with the MCHK (<http://www.mchk.org.hk>) under the Medical Registration Ordinance, such as :-
 - Obtained a degree of medicine and surgery awarded by either i) The University of Hong Kong or ii) The Chinese University of Hong Kong; or
 - Passed the Licensing Examination of the MCHK.
2. Ability to effectively communicate with predominantly Cantonese-speaking local patients.
3. Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine or equivalent and be registered in the Specialist Register in the relevant specialty of the MCHK (<http://www.mchk.org.hk>) (only applicable for Specialist positions).

Remarks

1. Salary to be offered will commensurate with relevant experience and qualification, if any, of the selected candidate.
2. Salaries tax in Hong Kong is charged at progressive rates of up to 17%, or standard rate of 15%, whichever is lower.
3. For Resident Trainee positions :
 - (a) Appointment will be on contract terms for a maximum period of 9 years pursuant to achievement of the recognized professional examinations and satisfactory performance in the interim.
 - (b) Contract gratuity at up to 15% of total basic salary will be released every 3 years subject to satisfactory performance.
 - (c) Application should be submitted online via <http://www.ha.org.hk> (click Careers) on or before **9 April 2012 (Monday)**.
 - (d) Short-listed applicants are expected to attend a selection interview and present the required qualifications for full registration with the MCHK **in late April to mid May 2012 in Hong Kong**.
 - (e) Please visit the HA website at <http://www.ha.org.hk/ho/resident.htm> for details of the training program and available trainee posts.
4. For Specialist positions :
 - (a) Appointment will be on renewable contract terms from 1 to 3 years.
 - (b) Contract gratuity at up to 15% of total basic salary will be released upon satisfactory completion of the contract.
 - (c) Recruitment of specialist doctors is conducted throughout the year (no application deadline). Specialist doctors who would like to obtain further information are welcomed to send email to kongyh@ha.org.hk.

Enquiries

Please call Ms Janet Kong, Manager (Medical Grade), HA Head Office at 852 2300 7263 or send email to kongyh@ha.org.hk.

GP Opportunities

Specialist Appointments



GP - Civilian Defence Opportunities

- Enjoy family-friendly hours (8am-4pm)
- Dynamic and unique environment
- Excellent rate of pay

This is your chance to escape the daily grind and stress of General Practice and provide services as a civilian GP to serving Members of the Australian Defence Force.

CM Health is the prime provider of Civilian Health Practitioners to the Department of Defence in South Queensland, NSW and the ACT.

If lifestyle, modern fully equipped facilities, a non-billing environment, attractive rates of pay and variety is important to you, then look no further. We currently have full and part-time opportunities available in the Singleton area.

Essential requirements include unrestricted board registration and Australian citizenship.

If you would like to know more about this exciting opportunity, please call De-Anne Gronau or Simone Resnick on (02) 9269 8859 or e-mail simone.resnick@cmhealth.com.au

defencehealthjobs.com.au



POSITIONS VACANT

Western Health provides obstetrics and gynaecology services within the most rapidly expanding growth corridor in Australia. The annual birth rate at Sunshine hospital has increased substantially over the last few years to over 4,500 in 2011 with a projected rate of approximately 5,000 babies annually by 2013. The gynaecology service is similarly expanding with over 65 operating lists a month.

In response to the rapid expansion in workload and to increase the self-sufficiency of Western Health as a healthcare provider, we are expanding our specialist staff workforce and seek candidates for the following positions.

- **Obstetrician** with qualifications in **Maternal Fetal Medicine**. This is a joint appointment with The University of Melbourne.
- **Obstetrician and Gynaecologist** with a special interest in **high risk obstetrics** and/or advanced ultrasound expertise.

Please refer to Ass. Professor Glyn Teale, Clinical Services Director - Women's and Children's Health on (03) 8345 0003 or 0417 409 637.

For more information on the exciting employment opportunities at Western Health visit www.westernhealth.org.au



Together, caring for the West

Western Health

70240397



Australian Red Cross
THE POWER OF HUMANITY

Put us where we're needed. Please put us in your Will.

If you were to witness a crisis today – a road accident, a house fire, a neighbour in difficulty or, further from home, a famine, earthquake or war – your first instinct would probably be to help.

Now you can put that instinct – so powerful, so human – at the heart of your Will by including a gift to Australian Red Cross. For almost 100 years we have helped people in crisis – you can ensure we are still here to help for years to come.

For more information about including Red Cross in your Will call us now on **1800 649 685**, email bequests@redcross.org.au or fill out the attached form.

Please send the coupon to:

Australian Red Cross, Bequests, PO Box 196, Carlton Sth VIC 3053

- I am interested in leaving Red Cross a gift in my Will, please send me information
- I have already left a gift in my Will to Red Cross

Title First name

Surname.....

Address

.....

..... P/code.....

Telephone

AMJ-JAN2012

Practice For Sale

The Principal of a long-established, Consultant General Surgery Practice in the central part of the Sunshine Coast, Queensland,

invites expressions of interest in assumption of that Practice. Excellent private and public hospitals support surgical needs in the area, most specialist groups and investigative facilities are well represented and population growth of impressive nature is assured. Expansion of the already existing support needs is a continuing process, ongoing education is handsomely covered and a new, major teaching hospital is only a few years away.

The opportunity clearly exists for expansion of sub-speciality interests within the offered Practice, but its present scope is wide and the referring G.P. base expects willingness from the Consultant to accept a similar breadth of referrals. Monetary arrangements would be simple and not onerous. The Principal's main interest is in preservation of a well-regarded, efficient Practice.

Interested surgeons are invited to email brief particulars to: vonledeber@hotmail.com. The Principal and the Practice Manager will provide details, to genuine inquirers.

FOR SALE SOLO GP PRACTICE CUM RESIDENCE BELMORE 2192

Established since early 1900 next to nursing home, railway station and main street retail. Plenty public parking. 2 storey brick residence & surgery with fully furnished and equipped surgery separate entrance from residence.

Contact dr.djdale@aapt.net.au

Consulting Rooms Sessions & Suites

Medical room for rent Victoria Road Drummoyne, NSW

Busy road exposure, ample patient / staff parking, large rooms, fully equipped suits specialists, GP or allied health, call Dr Andrew Li (02) 9719 1600 or email: admin@drummoynesurgery.com.au

GP/Medical Professional premises

for lease 2 rooms. Very high turnover potential adjacent to Pharmacy, Radiologist, Dentist and ALDI. Ample parking 70m2 \$35,000 pa neg. 02 9822 7155 or 0451 003 294

Medical Equipment



AUTUMN SPECIALS

Ph: 1800 810 074
sales@machealth.com.au

No Oil Dermatoscopes
5 Year Warranty - Connect to Camera

dermLite DL100 Only \$370^s



Save \$30



Save \$160

DL3 Only \$1,650^s

Finger Pulse Oximeter

Now Only \$129^s - Save \$66

- > 1,000 hours battery life
- > Automatically turns on & off
- > 2 year warranty, New for Old Replacement!
- > Nail polish resistant



6 Channel ECG Unit

Only \$1,790^s Save \$700

- > Runs on battery or mains power
- > Stores 100 ECG traces in memory
- > Automatic Interpretation
- > Colour Screen (\$200 extra)
- > PC Link Software Included
- > Z-Fold Paper Only \$9.90 each



Free PC Software

\$ All items add 10% GST, except GST Free ECG Units. \$9.90 delivery Australia Wide. Specials end 31/04/2012.

Single Use Surgical Kits

- > Starting from only \$12.00 per kits
- > Save time & money with these pre-packed, sterilised kits supplied on a convenient tray
- > Ideal for Dermatologists & GP Clinics
- > Kits for Punch Biopsy Available
- > Kits with Dynek Sutures Available
- > Stainless Steel Scissors & Forceps



40% OFF YOUR FIRST PURCHASE

Conditions Apply. Contact us for full terms.

Spirotube Spirometer

Special Price \$1,195^s - Save \$200

- > Reusable turbine
- > Run & Save data on PC
- > Pulmonary function diagnostics
- > Automatic internal calibration



NEW