

Foundation Roadshow Testimonial - Royal Glamorgan Hospital and Prince Charles Hospital

Croeso! Welcome! My name is Dr Dai Samuel and I am currently the Foundation Programme Director for the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and surrounding Rhondda Taf Ely ILG. I am also a local doctor from Merthyr Tydfil who also works a considerable amount of time at my local hospital, Prince Charles Hospital, where my colleague Dr David Deekollu works as Foundation Programme director for the Merthyr and Cynon ILG.

Both hospitals are part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, and prior to 2019 formed the Cwm Taf University Health Board.

My first experience of studying and working at Prince Charles Hospital and the Royal Glamorgan was as a third year student where completed rotations in medicine, surgery and trauma and Orthopaedics. I then went on to work at Prince Charles Hospital for both my FY1 and FY2 years. The clinical experiences I obtained, as well as the warm welcome and friends I met made it clear to me very early on that a career in CTM was what I would want in the long term!

Since then I have worked at both the Royal Glamorgan and Prince Charles Hospital both during Core training and Higher Training and have now returned to the Health Board as a Consultant Hepatologist. I feel that one of the best indicators of welcoming our hospitals are, and how good the training experiences are is the large number of trainees who now work there as consultants. 3 colleagues who worked with me as registrars are now consultant colleagues!

Both hospitals are extremely welcoming and have an excellent track record and reputation in not only recruiting and retaining doctors, but also being two of the hospitals where applications outnumber training posts almost every year without fail. We offer posts in traditional foundation year rotations such as medicine and surgery, but also have opportunities to experience Ophthalmology, ENT, paediatrics, vascular surgery and palliative care, to name a few! In addition, this year sees the Royal Glamorgan hosting some of the first ever LIFT rotations, where Foundation trainees are based in hospital settings, but with one day a week in primary care, and supervised by our primary care colleagues as Educational Supervisors. We also offer academic rotations which allow our trainees to complement their clinical training with medical education from an early stage in their careers, with the opportunity to complete a postgraduate certificate in Medical Education during the year, as well as contribute substantially to the Medical Education faculty!

In recent years we have been fortunate to be able to add a purpose built education and training centre located between the 2 hospitals at the Keir Hardie Health Park, which provides specialist clinical skills training lab facilities as well as purpose based "wards" for clinical exams and OSCE assessments.

The Royal Glamorgan Hospital hosts one of the largest acute medicine services in Wales, if not the UK with a team of vibrant consultants who are passionate about creating diverse learning

environments. Plans are also in place to develop a diagnostic hub at the hospital. Prince Charles being located close to both the A470 and A465, the two main trunk roads through Wales, as well as being on the edge of a national park means that the busy ED provides excellent exposure to trauma and emergency medicine.

What makes our hospitals unique in my opinion is the feeling of being part of a family within a family! A large proportion of our staff, both medical and non medical, live in the local area and know each other as well as patients. This provides a unique caring experience to our patients. With both hospitals located close to Cardiff commuting is easy but at the same time allows trainees to experience a different environment from that of the larger cities. Our patients often hail from areas of social deprivation which brings its own challenges but also provides excellent exposure to complex disease. The Brecon Beacons is on the doorstep of Prince Charles Hospital allowing easy access to outdoor pursuits whilst the Royal Glamorgan Hospital is less than 10 miles from the city centre.

I hope that this has provided a very small insight into the huge opportunities that Cwm Taf Morgannwg has to offer, and what continues to attract a large volume of applications to work at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and Prince Charles hospital. I hope to meet and work with many of you in the years to come!

Dr Dai Samuel
Foundation Programme Director RTE ILG - Royal Glamorgan Hospital