

HRI Ltd Newsletter

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A brand new year

Happy New Year everyone! How is 2006 treating you so far? Have you managed to stick to your New Year's resolutions up until now? Well done if you have and if yours have fallen by the wayside, don't worry. What's the big deal about January the first anyway; it's only a date like any other! You can try again on February the first if you like or perhaps you may have decided to start from the first day of the Chinese New Year which was January 29. 2006 is the year of the dog and the Chinese calendar has been around for longer than the International one and is just as authentic a way of measuring time. One of your resolutions may be to get yourself over to the UK and continue your career in the NHS and we are doing our best to try and help you fulfil that one at least!

In the last newsletter we mentioned that things are a bit tight at the moment with cutbacks and cost-saving measures being introduced and this is still the case as we approach the end of the financial year. However, some of the recruitment freezes have been lifted and there are a lot of vacancies for qualified, registered professionals with the right experience so don't worry; if you're really serious about working here, HRI Ltd will make it happen for you.

Major changes afoot in the NHS

The Government today announced a major overhaul of primary care services aiming to shift NHS care out of hospitals and into the community therefore making it more accessible to patients and reducing health inequalities. It is thought that the move will help people manage their long-term conditions better and reduce unnecessary hospital visits. 'Care campuses' are to be set up and will combine services from social care and diagnostics to minor surgery. These will be run and operated by GPs, nurses, allied health and social care professionals. GPs will be encouraged to offer longer opening hours and more alternatives to those 9 to 5ers who currently find it difficult to fit in a visit to the GP without taking time off work. Health MoTs are to be introduced so that patients can have a regular check-up and assess their risk of developing such conditions as diabetes, heart disease etc. It all sounds like a positive step for patients but those in the know are saying that these measures will stretch an already pushed service and there are just not enough GPs available to make the changes work. It could be good news for physiotherapists and dietitians however as more of you may find yourselves working with greater powers and additional training in primary care rather than the traditional hospital setting.

Health News –NURSES

Overseas Nurses Programme (ONP): The Overseas Nurses Programme came into operation on September 1, 2005 and comprises a 20 day protected learning period that nurses must complete at a recognised educational institution before achieving full NMC registration. This 20 day period can be done on its own or

in conjunction with a period of supervised placement, depending on the terms of your decision letter from the NMC. A big difference from previous requirements is that if you are from outside the European Economic Area (EEA), you must have passed the IELTS academic test with an overall score of 6.5 before you can apply for registration. This applies to everyone, even if your first (or only) language is English. If you already in possession of an NMC decision letter stating that you need to undertake a period of supervised placement only, you have until August 2006 to complete this and do not need to do the ONP. Supervised placements are still extremely difficult to find however so if you do not manage to get onto one before August you will have to reapply to the NMC to do the ONP before being fully registered and eligible to work as a nurse in the UK. If you're feeling confused by all this and need some more advice on how it applies to you or would like to talk over your prospects before you apply to the NMC, then get in touch with Helen at admin@hriconsult.com

Newsflash – Radiographer shortage!!

Experienced radiographers are in very short supply in the UK at the present time. Therefore if you are a radiographer thinking of extending your working experience in the UK, hurry up and register with the HPC (Health Professions Council) and we'll find you a job! Also, if you know a radiographer at your place of work who you think with a little encouragement from you might be persuaded to spread their wings, please tell them about us and if we find them a job we will give you £50!

The Scottish Highlands:

The Scottish highlands are located in the far north of Scotland, in the most northerly region in the British Isles. If you were to find yourself suddenly transported there you might be able to recognise it by the purple heather on the hills, the highland cattle which look like a long-legged version of Dougal from the Magic Roundabout but with big horns, the romantic, falling-down castles reminiscent of long ago battles between the local tartan-wearing clans (families), the Scotch distilleries which need no explanation here I'm sure and perhaps you might even catch a glimpse of the most famous monster of them all, Nessie of Loch Ness! You may also hear the Gaelic language spoken accompanied by the mournful wailing of the bagpipes and if you were there last week you may have been lucky enough to dine on the traditional supper of haggis, neeps and tatties washed down by plenteous whisky in celebration of the birth of the great Scottish poet, Robbie Burns on the 25th of January, 1759. Scotland is also the birthplace of golf and there are many wonderful courses to practice your swing. But along with breathtaking scenery and beautiful cities comes a downside – Scotland has one of the highest death rates from coronary heart disease in the western world mainly caused by smoking, poor diet and general deprivation. As a result there are many jobs available for lots of different kinds of healthcare professionals to help improve the health and wellbeing of Scottish people now and for generations to come. Perhaps you'll be one of them!

Next featured area:

Next Featured Area: Wales in the Spring edition

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