



JOB DESCRIPTION for MEDICAL OFFICER - SHORT OR LONG TERM

RUMGINAE MEDICAL CENTRE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Qualifications & Experience

- Medical Degree and Registration with at least 2 years' experience in hospital medicine.
- Experience or additional qualification in General Practice, Paediatrics, Anaesthetics or Surgery would be an asset but not necessary.
- Bible School training preferable but not essential.
- Can be male or female between 25 to 65 years of age.

Key Functions

- Manage medical and surgical patients.
- Consult specialists where necessary.
- Provide appropriate instruction and practical experience to visiting Registrars, and medical students.
- Undertake appropriate hospital administration in team leadership. (not required for short term volunteers)
- Teach community health worker students (30 students) and staff where appropriate. This includes clinical and theoretical teaching.
- Live the Christian faith while relating to patients, staff and the community.

Personal Qualities

Responsible work practices.

Caring and friendly attitude and ability to build relationships with staff and the community. Be an encourager. Ability to model a Christian lifestyle through word and deed. Willing to disciple people to Christian maturity. Willing to train and equip national staff and students.

ABOUT RUMGINAE

Rumginae Hospital is a 60 bed, two+ doctor rural health centre situated in the North Fly district of the Western Province of PNG. Rumginae is close to Kiunga (a river port town on the Fly River) and accessible by road to the mining town of Tabubil. Rumginae has a Community Health Worker training centre with preventative health programme.

Rumginae Hospital exists to provide a health service (preventive and curative) for the people of the North Fly region as well as to train Community Health Workers (CHWs). The CHW students come here for 2 years medical training after Grade 10 and at the end of their course they go out to the bush to provide primary health care in remote areas. Apart from that we aim to provide a spiritual input to our patients and students- a very important part of our work here. We also provide medical care for the missionaries here and many of them have expressed that it helps them to be here, knowing there is medical help on hand.

Rumginae Hospital has a team of doctors, nurses and community health workers caring for 60 inpatients and providing outpatient and patrol clinic health services. Patient care includes some surgery (mainly emergencies and essential surgery according to experience), medicine and paediatrics, obstetrics, gynaecology, orthopaedics, and infectious diseases. Doctors supervise inpatient care and see out patients on referral.

We have about 20 PNG nursing staff (nurses and CHWs) at Rumginae. Nursing staff admit and care for patients including obstetrics under supervision. General outpatient services covered by them are supplemented by special maternal and child health clinics. Patients are referred to doctors when the nursing staff are unable to manage.

English is the language used by staff and translators are available for local languages.

Ancillary services include basic radiology, ultrasound, and pathology (blood counts, urine, faeces, Gram stains, sputum ZN stain for TB, Malaria slides, HIV screening, HBs Ag screening, cross match. we have a machine which can do some biochem - creat, GGT, AST, Bilirubin, K+,

We have a reasonable supply of basic drugs and some donated supply of other drugs which we use occasionally.

The Hospital is the primary focus of practical training for the 30 Community Health Worker students at Rumginae CHW Training School. Health Education is an important part of the health work carried out here and we try and encourage teaching whenever possible.

THE OUT-STATIONS

Apart from the hospital at Rumginae we have 5 nurse-run Health Centres and 10 Aid Posts (run by CHWs) which we supervise and support. Many of these posts are in remote areas. A few are accessible by road/river, but most need air transport to get to them (or several days' walking!) We try and visit these centres as often as we can (theoretically each one at least one visit a year by a doctor but funding is often a limiting factor to the frequency of our visits). We provide a consultation service regularly over the high frequency radio (and often are called to organise medical evacuations of patients from the out stations)

The approximate population covered by the centre and outstations is 30,000 people in the North Fly of the Western Province of PNG.

Nursing staff are PNG Nationals with expatriate missionaries in Medical, Maintenance and Church ministries. There is an MAF aircraft based at Rumginae. The airstrip is along side the hospital.

DOCTORS' ROLES

Doctors' on call is shared and the on call load is quite variable. Our emphasis is on team rather than hierarchical leadership. Hours are pretty flexible- 8.30AM till about 5.00PM, with an hour for lunch. We don't have a rigid routine but try and do Ward Rounds in the main Ward twice a week and in the other wards once a week. Elective Theatre is Tuesdays and Antenatal clinic on Wednesday. We encourage the nursing staff to do as much of the clinical work as they can. What occupies most of our time is in-patient care, emergency (and essential) surgery, teaching staff and students, administration.

At present we have three doctors. Dr Adeline Sittler from India and Dr Rosie Crowter from the UK have been here since 1997. Adeline is the Medical Superintendent and provides leadership in the health service. She is assisted in the routine clinical work at the hospital by Dr Sharmini Kumar from Australia who is here for six months. Rosie's main contribution is in disease prevention and primary health care. She also teaches students and looks after the TB Ward as well as having input into the running of the out stations (Rural Health). Rosie is at present on home assignment. We work as a team, and that's one of the good things about being here.

There is a reasonably well-stocked medical library with reference books on surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics, tropical medicine, orthopaedics that are appropriate for the work and facilities here.

Ample opportunities exist for teaching, outstation clinics and various Christian ministries amongst staff, students, local people and patients. Encouraging and caring for fellow missionaries is also part of the position.

Christian Fellowship

We are an Evangelical Church of PNG station and there is a local language church as well as an English congregation. And this is supplemented by the missionaries' Bible Studies (at present weekly). There is a weekly Staff Fellowship and fortnightly student Bible Study. There are devotions in the English church every day. The missionaries meet once a week for prayer as well. These are the organised Christian activities. There are, of course, opportunities for informal fellowship and prayer.

Rumginae is a relatively safe place to live. A beautiful safe river is close by for swimming. The families here home school their children.

For further information or to apply, please contact:

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