



**WILLIAM
OSLER
HEALTH
CENTRE**

Osler This Month

Osler Welcomes New Doctors to Georgetown Hospital Campus

Even as a child, Kiran Cherla knew he wanted to work in a social services field. Although born and raised in Canada, he spent a number of years in third world countries, and those early experiences piqued his interest in public health and public policy.



Dr. Kiran Cherla

With an undergraduate degree from Princeton University and a master's degree from Yale, he originally planned a career in scientific research. But there was something lacking – people. "What was missing was the human element, the individual contact. I realized what I wanted to do was primary care," he says.

He came back to Canada, did his medical training at the University of Toronto and Mount Sinai Hospital and joined Osler in August 2003. Halton Hills offered the perfect setting in which to treat a broad-based patient population.

"What really impressed me about this community is the breadth of practice," he says. "In a day, you can do pediatrics, anaesthesia, palliative care, deliver babies, work in emergency ... physicians here are so prolific in their areas of interest. That's rare."

The wide scope of practice means physicians have to work hard. But it is something Dr. Cherla accepts as part of his career choice. And he welcomes the opportunity to expand his practice to all types of patients, from seniors to young children. Prospective patients will be pleased to hear he is not averse to in-home visits for people who find it difficult to travel to a doctor's office.

He also wants to provide more obstetrical services. Few young physicians choose to enter this field, but Dr. Cherla is drawn to it because of the joy he sees in his patients. "It's wonderful. It's one of the few situations where people are really happy to be in hospital."

Note: Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Cherla are currently accepting new patients and can be reached at 905-873-3000

As residents are well aware, the Georgetown area has faced a shortage of family physicians for many years. In October 2000, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care designated the Town of Halton Hills (Acton, Georgetown and area) as underserved for general/family practitioners for the purposes of its Underserved Area Program (UAP) - designed to encourage health professionals to come to the area with grants or other benefits.

William Osler Health Centre also offers eligible physicians an attractive incentives package.

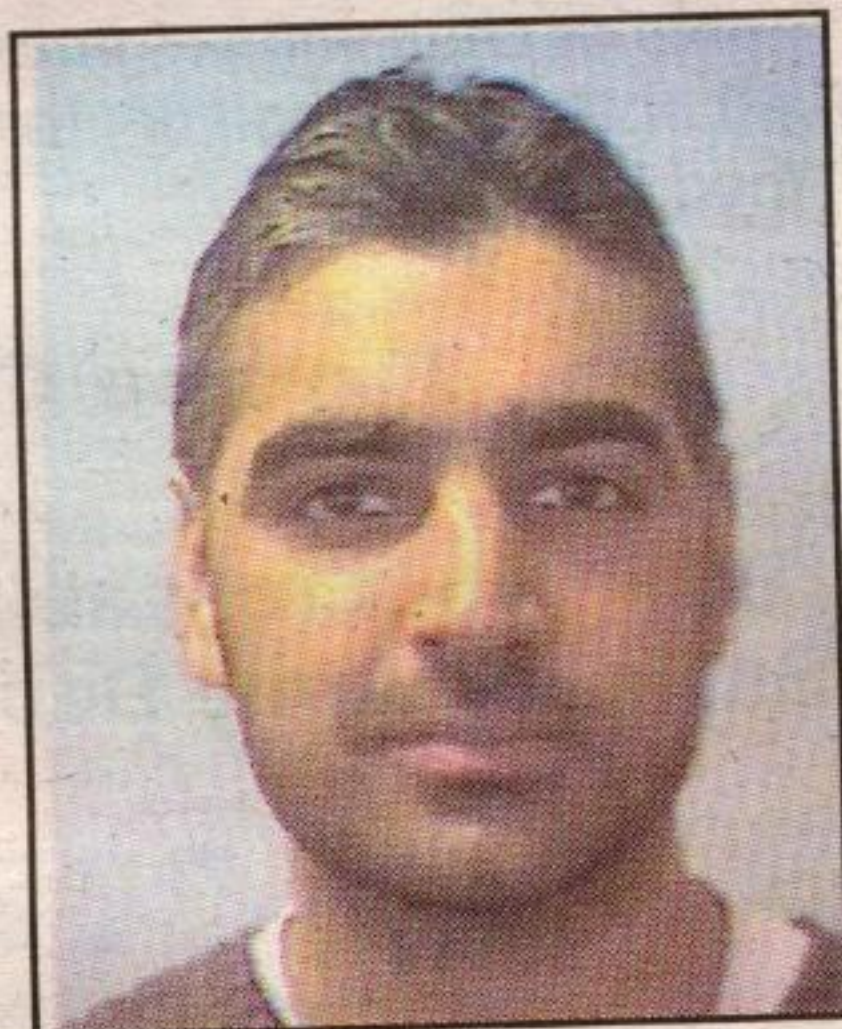
The good news is that the UAP designation, combined with recruitment efforts by Osler's own doctors and staff, Halton Region and the Town of Halton Hills appears to be working. Several new physicians have joined Osler in recent months.

We are delighted to welcome them and recognize the efforts of the Osler team in this two-part feature in the September and October issues of Osler This Month.

Walking into Dr. Yasar Razvi's office is a bit like entering a shrine to Canadiana, the first thing that comes to view is a large glass-fronted showcase of hockey figures and memorabilia. It's surprising then to find out he was actually born in the United States. Still, Dr. Razvi says his heart definitely belongs here. He grew up in the tough Jane-Finch neighborhood of Toronto and did his medical training at Queen's University in Kingston.

He joined Osler in January, choosing Georgetown because his training at Queen's was geared to smaller communities like Halton Hills. Proximity to the Greater Toronto Area was also a draw. He has a wife and young children who enjoy being close to family in Brampton and Toronto.

An older brother is also a physician at Osler, at the Etobicoke campus. But Dr. Razvi prefers the variety Georgetown offers. Physicians here have the opportunity to work in many fields of medicine.



Dr. Yasar Razvi

There is also a continuity of care not always found in larger centres. "You can see a patient in your office, send them to emergency, assess them there, admit them to hospital and follow them all the way through. I think it's a great model," he says.

Friendliness is another plus. Dr. Razvi has found the staff to be both competent and welcoming and likes the direct interaction that he has with the nurses, radiology technicians and other health professionals.

If he could start over, Dr. Razvi says he would definitely choose medicine as a career again. But just for a moment his eyes stray to the hockey showcase. "I play ball hockey, I was the backup goalie on a team that won the world championship," he says. "That was a once in a lifetime experience."

Last year, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care launched a new program designed to bring international medical graduates to Ontario. Foreign-trained graduates who meet the Ministry's criteria are allowed to work in this province in return for service in an area designated as underserved.

For Dr. Sarah Ferguson, who received her medical training in the United Kingdom, it was a golden opportunity. She had been looking for a way to practice in Canada ever since doing a short stint at the Hospital for Sick Children several years ago. "I fell in love with Toronto, with Canada," she says.



Dr. Sarah Ferguson

She signed up for the Ministry program at once and chose to work in Halton Hills. It was within commuting distance to Toronto where she lives and she was impressed by the way the physicians and staff at the Georgetown Hospital Campus made her feel welcome, even before she made her final decision. The opportunity to provide widely differing services like emergency care and obstetrics was also a draw.

Working life is different here – there are many distinctions between the British National Health Service and Ontario's health system – but it's the universal human factor that interests Dr. Ferguson, particularly when it involves teenagers, college students and other young adults. "I like working with young people," she says. "It's a totally different consultation than I would have with an older person, but as patients, they are easy to relate to ... you can have a joke with them."

When she isn't working, she cooks a lot, has friends over for dinner, and spends much of her time exploring restaurants (a theme emerges). In the summer, she likes to simply wander around Toronto, soaking up the sun and atmosphere of her adopted country.

Come join Georgetown businesses this Saturday, September 20th as they present

"Working Together"

Local companies, both large and small have fun activities and some great deals in support of your hospital!

All proceeds will go to purchase medical equipment for William Osler Health Centre's Georgetown campus.