

## **Dental Elective Periods at Christian Dental College Ludhiana**

*'I thoroughly enjoyed my time at CDC. The staff and students were most welcoming, I spent time with various departments in the college. I was only allowed to observe in the hospital. I was hoping to have more experience of hands on dentistry, and this did happen in the community camps. The community camps and mobile dental unit were the highlight of my elective. I found the charity work very inspiring, and the gratefulness of the patients was very moving. I do wish with hindsight, that I spent more time on the community camps. Dentistry in the other departments was similar to what we are exposed to here. So for a different, worthwhile and enjoyable experience I recommend all time should be spent with the community team!'*

The Christian Dental College (CDC) grew out of the Dental Department in CMC and was founded in 1992 to train dentists to serve in a country where there is thought to be only one dentist for each 85,000 people. Forty students are now admitted each year to the BDS course; a dental nurses' course, believed to be the first such training in India, is also available. The College hopes to offer additional MDS postgraduate courses soon. There can, at times, be a rapid turnover in the faculty of the College.

The Department of Dentistry offers routine and specialty treatments in clinics at the hospital. It began its community health services around 30 years ago and a modern fully equipped dental bus, able to perform routine operations like scaling and extraction, travels to villages with diagnostic, preventive and curative services as well as education on dental disease and its causes. The screening of school children is routine and provision of dentures to senior citizens has been well received.

For an elective period to be a worthwhile part of training it should be undertaken during the 4th or 5th years of training and should last a minimum of one month but possibly longer. After initial processing in this office your application will be forwarded to the Principal of the Dental College and you will be informed directly from his office if there is a place available for you. If you are accepted by the college for your elective, you need to liaise with our office regarding your travel plans.

The Indian culture is such that students always reside in separate hostel accommodation although share together in studies and recreational activities. Elective students will be accommodated in one of these hostels, the cost of which is currently approximately Rs.200 per day (£2.50) for room and Rs.100 per day (£1.20) for food. You need to understand that if you are meeting up with friends to travel after your elective they cannot be accommodated with you in College hostel accommodation. If space is not available in the hostels, a new students' centre recently opened offers air conditioned facilities and costs Rs.1,200 (around £17) per day including breakfast.

You will be required to write and submit a report of your elective placement to the Principal of the Dental College before leaving Ludhiana with a copy of this to the Friends of Ludhiana office, and you need to be aware that the Principal will send us a report of your visit from his perspective.