

COUNTDOWN TO THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

In just over two years time the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will begin. Our vision within LOCOG is to use the Games to inspire change. The Olympic and Paralympic Games is the largest sporting event in the World and will generate enormous excitement and enthusiasm which many people want to be part of and if they are not actually competing, volunteering is the best way to do this.

The recruitment of up to 70,000 volunteers will start in July 2010 but the recruitment of medical volunteers will start this autumn. Sport & Exercise Medicine doctors can apply directly to sportsmedicine@london2012.com attaching their CV.

Sport Medicine Services

A Specialist Sport Medicine Service will be provided at the main Polyclinic in East London and also at smaller Polyclinics at Royal Holloway (rowing and canoeing) and the sailing village in Weymouth as well as at the majority of competition venues. The role of the Sport Medicine Specialist will be to use their knowledge, skills and experience to safely return athletes to the field of play as quickly as possible or to appropriately refer the athlete back to the Polyclinic or other secondary care. Sport Medicine Doctors will work as part of a multi disciplinary team but leading on athlete care, particularly in the absence of a Team Doctor or Physiotherapist. At the venues they will provide sport specific expertise in support of the field of play and athlete medical centre teams as well as the doctors and physiotherapists with the individual teams. Depending on the sport and venue they may be based in the Athlete Medical Centre or on the field of play itself.

At the Polyclinics the Sport Medicine Doctors will have particular responsibility to see athletes who do not have their own Team Doctor and will work closely with Physiotherapists, Radiologists, Podiatrists and other medical colleagues. They will provide back up advice and support for Team Doctors providing a Specialist service with high quality medical care including access to imaging with ultrasound, x-ray, CT and MRI.

All shortlisted applicants will be interviewed and their skills and experience will determine success and help determine at which venues (or Polyclinic) they are most appropriately based. At LOCOG we are looking for Sport Medicine Doctors with sport specific experience and in particular experience of looking after elite athletes. In the absence of a Team Doctor, athletes will see a Sport Medicine Doctor in the Polyclinic for most problems. Support staff and others will see GPs who may not necessarily have particular sport medicine interest. By identifying and selecting sport medicine volunteers early, LOCOG will identify any potential gaps in sport specific cover or experience. Doctors who know they have been selected as volunteers have the chance to gain further relevant experience and arrange leave and cover.

Volunteers at the Games

Volunteers are at the core of the Games and essential to all the functional areas that make up this global festival of sport. The Games have the power to change lives and volunteering is one of the major ways in which this happens. The Olympic and Paralympic Games are truly inspirational and this really is a unique opportunity for Sport and Exercise medicine doctors to volunteer, to be part of it, and to show how far Sport and Exercise Medicine has come in the UK. Medical volunteers, particularly sport medicine volunteers, bring unique and special skills, so we want to make sure we use those skills to help London host safe, successful and inspirational Olympic and Paralympic Games. We need your help to do that.

All volunteers will need to commit to at least ten days. Their time will need to be flexible to cover the busiest periods and variable competition schedule. Doctors who can commit to more than the basic 10 days will have an advantage in selection since this will provide a better quality of service to athletes and their Teams. All volunteers will be expected to

attend test events in 2011 and training days in the run up to the Games. There is no remuneration or honorarium for volunteers but they will receive a volunteer uniform, a meal when on duty and free local transport.

Olympic and Paralympic Medical Services

There will be three Olympic and Paralympic Villages and five sites for the football venues (spread around Great Britain). The 26 sports will compete in 34 venues at the Olympics and 21 venues at the Paralympics. There will be 10,500 athletes at the Olympic Games and 4,200 athletes at the Paralympic Games coming from 205 and 147 countries respectively. The Olympics last 17 days and the Paralympics 11 days with a two week build up when medical services have to be provided adding up to over two months.

A Sport Medicine Workstream currently led by Dr Richard Budgett, the Chief Medical Officer, is planning the detailed provision of Sport Medicine services.

Conclusion

If you are a Sport Medicine doctor and would like to be part of this once in a lifetime event then send an expression of interest with your CV, covering letter and expected availability from 9th July to 12th September 2012 to sportsmedicine@london2012.com. Doctors from other Specialities and other medical professionals including physiotherapists, podiatrists, dentists and paramedics will soon be able to register their interest in a similar way.

LOCOG look forward to working with all their medical volunteers to provide high quality medical care to Olympic and Paralympic athletes and all those taking part in the Games.

Dr Richard Budgett CMO LOCOG and Sport Medicine Workstream Lead.