

Biographies

Journeys to becoming a GP with an extended role in ENT

1. Dr Olivia Corbridge

'My interest in ENT started at medical school where I undertook ENT related Student Selected Modules. I then qualified with the aim of becoming an ENT surgeon, and chose my Foundation Programme jobs to compliment this. I went straight through to Core Surgical Training (CST) undertaking another 12 months of ENT, and completing both the MRCS Part A and the Diploma in Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (DO-HNS) OSCE exams to gain my full MRCS (ENT) qualification and become a member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

However, it was during my CST that I felt I really wanted to work in the community, and have some more variety to my career. At this point I reached out to a local Community ENT Service, and after spending some time there felt this was the direction I wanted to take. I therefore started the GP training scheme with the hope of becoming a GP with Specialist Interest (GPwSI) in ENT when I complete the programme. I have no regrets over my career path to date, I have gained invaluable ENT experience and now feel ready to take on the new challenge of combining both this and General Practice.'

2. Dr Nicholas Jegard

"My name is Nick Jegard, I am a GP Partner at Borough Green Medical Practice with an extended role in ENT. Currently, I work in the Community ENT service at Borough Green, with a wide range of colleagues from ENT Consultants to Audiologists. ENT was an area of interest that I developed during GP training; I did a post in the local DGH, where we covered both inpatient/on-call and outpatient services, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I subsequently decided to do the RILA post-graduate diploma in Otorhinolaryngology whilst honing my ENT skills with microsuction and working with the Community Consultants/GPwERS.

I now routinely perform microsuction, nasal and ear canal cautery, ear packing with wicks and antibiotic/fungals. We are also trained to perform audiometry and tympanometry, plus nasendoscopy of course pre-COVID.

The route I have taken to this role comes with a steep learning curve; ENT at a GP level is very different to specialist care, but it is hugely interesting and rewarding – I encourage you to consider it, you won't be disappointed!"