

Dear Editor

Medical Migration

International Medical Graduates provide much valued service to the NHS in the UK. Most overseas graduates come to the UK for training and plan to stay here for a short period but then opportunities open up for permanent career posts and settlement in the UK. Balancing personal and professional opportunities between the comforts of a developed nation versus the challenges one may have to face on return to their homeland is never easy.

There are many who return to their homeland. There are some who return but then come back to the UK because of the inability to adjust to a system that is so differently executed that one is unable to adjust to. There are a few who carefully weigh up the choices between a promising career in the UK and the harsh reality of hard and competitive professional life in countries such as India.

It has been a decade since I explored professional migration between India and the UK, in a Bollywood style film, "Bhavishya-The Future". Drs Raghu and Vyjayanthi, active members of the North Wales division of BIDA was one such couple, who carefully considered and weighed up their choices, with Raghu being on the verge of being appointed a Consultant Surgeon and Vyjayanthi pursuing a career in the field of IVF. Their thoughts and considerations were reflected in the screenplay of my film.

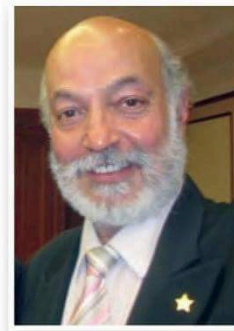
Raghu and Vyjayanthi have been back in their native Hyderabad for over a decade now and have been involved with the state of the art KIMS hospitals, with Raghu having conceived and designed and established KIMS-USHALAXMI Centre for Breast Diseases, the subcontinent's first free standing purpose built comprehensive Breast Health Centre, while Dr Vyjayanthi heads the single largest fertility Centre in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.

I was pleasantly surprised to be invited to a symposium focusing on Professional migration, acknowledging Drs Raghu and Vyjayanthi's dedicated service and celebrating a decade of the film "Bhavishya-The Future". A well attended symposium, on the 14th April 2016, heard from several participants from medical as well as other professions, detailing difficulties they faced on return to India as well as the joy of being back home. Most speakers highly valued their association and time spent in the UK.

As I left Hyderabad hearing so much good about the British NHS, I wondered why we in the UK are not very satisfied with it. Why many of our senior professionals feel marginalised and junior trainees feel undervalued. In despondence many are considering resigning and emigrating. I wonder if those leaving the UK, will possibly return and bring to the NHS something like what Drs Raghu and Vyjayanthi took with them from the UK to India. Their example and the message from my film 'Bhavishya-The Future', that the Future is not a fixed point and that medical migration is and will always remain relevant to the benefit of global health!

Mr Nikhil Kaushik

FRCOphth
Consultant Ophthalmologist
Wrexham Maelor Hospital



1ay 2016

Letter to the Editor, BIDA News Review, United Kingdom, May 2016