



Dear Colleague

What's new at Braemar?

Braemar Hospital's new surgeon Rafique was told by colleagues in Japan that he should move to New Zealand. He has never looked back...



New Zealand has Japan to thank for securing the services of a leading international laparoscopic and general surgeon with an interest in colorectal surgery.

Rafique, who is from Bangladesh, spent four years in Japan in the early 1990s after securing a scholarship in advanced training and research at Sinshu University

Hospital. When he was considering where he would work next, Japanese friends and colleagues suggested New Zealand.

"Japanese people visit New Zealand frequently. They said, 'If you go anywhere, you better go to New Zealand'. Although I had a fellowship in America, we decided to come here. I have no regrets. It is a fantastic place."

Rafique, who uses only one name, completed his initial studies at Bangladesh University. He says the period spent in Japan gave him exceptional experience in surgical procedures (especially gastric, colorectal and liver cancers) and endoscopies.

"The Japanese have a lot of gastric cancers, partly because of genetics and partly because of diet. They also have a very good screening process."

He says all Japanese are required by law to have health insurance so every person has access to the highest standard of medical care and world class medical practitioners. Shinshu University Hospital is a centre of excellence for cancer work and attracts doctors from all parts of the world.

While at Shinshu, he completed his PhD. He and his wife Bilkis Mahbub, also a doctor as well became fluent in Japanese.

In New Zealand, Rafique worked first at Auckland Hospital with Professor Graham Hill, who built an outstanding reputation as a surgeon scientist and was regarded as a pioneer in improving surgical techniques for rectal cancer.

"What we started there as research is now standard procedure. It is regarded as the best investigative and surgical techniques. It improves the outcome of surgery."

Rafique then spent time at Wellington Hospital and a year at Tauranga Hospital. He joined the surgical team at Waikato Hospital in 2008.

He says his move into private practice at Braemar, alongside his public work, was prompted by an urge to deal more directly with his patients.

With elective surgery there is more time to get to know your patients and in that respect his name, which means 'friend' in Arabic, is apt.

At Braemar, Rafique will undertake general surgery including laparoscopy and endoscopy procedures. He has a particular interest in gall bladder disease and laparoscopic bowel surgery. "There has been a lot of improvement in laparoscopy. We are trying to standardise everything so everyone gets the same standard of care which is a good thing."

Other procedures he offers include interventional and/or diagnostic colonoscopy and gastroscopy, anal fissure treatment, treatment of haemorrhoids,

hernia repair, cholecystectomy and bowel resections.

Rafique says New Zealanders health outcomes depend on the level of awareness. "In general conscious New Zealanders have a healthy lifestyle. But a proportion of patients lack awareness. In Japan, everyone is educated and aware of health issues and there is a high level of screening."

To improve its services, New Zealand needed more resources. "We have a high standard of surgical care but we are struggling to get cases done."

Outside of work Rafique and his family enjoy travel. Rafique says he has not regretted his decision to move to New Zealand. "It is a fantastic place to live and work."

**Kind Regards,
Pat Bary – Chairman**



Dr Rafique

Qualifications

MBBS, PhD, FRACS

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Areas of Specialisation

General surgery including laparoscopy and endoscopy procedures. He has a particular interest in gall bladder disease and laparoscopic bowel surgery.

Other procedures he offers include interventional and/or diagnostic colonoscopy and gastroscopy, anal fissure treatment, treatment of haemorrhoids, hernia repair, cholecystectomy and bowel resections.

Specialist Training

Bachelor of Medicine
Bachelor of Surgery

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Fellow of the Royal Australasian
College of Surgeons (General
Surgery)

Royal Australasian College of
Surgeons, New Zealand

Positions & Memberships

Consultant General Surgeon at
Waikato Hospital

Currently Working at Braemar Hospital?
Yes

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