

Junior Doctor of the Year 2020

Dr Femy Koratty



Dr Femy Koratty, is currently a postgraduate year two (PGY2) resident medical officer (RMO) at Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin, Northern Territory.

Completing her senior year at St Johns College in Dubbo, New South Wales, Femy was accepted in to medicine at James Cook University in 2013 and completed her final two years of study in the Northern Territory.

Following her graduation in 2018, Femy commenced as an Intern at Royal Darwin Hospital in 2019 and continues here as a Resident Medical Officer in 2020.

Dr Koratty is an amazing junior doctor. She has taken an extreme amount of her own time to dedicate to junior doctor welfare, wellbeing and education.

She has taken leadership and by her own skill founded the “Junior Doctor Education Advisory Group”. This group has been the crux of formulating a new curriculum for PGY 1 and PGY 2 doctors for an improved teaching experience. Dr Koratty has organised and coordinates the meetings for this group and drafted a formal curriculum by liaising with her peers for the Medical Education Unit in accordance with the Australian Curriculum Framework for Junior Doctors. She has also been working with this group to lay the founding works to enable a sustainable solution for speaker recruitment for both intern and resident teaching sessions.

Dr Koratty has been an active advocate for teaching and career progression in the NT. She has in addition provided mentorship for junior doctors and participated in medical student teaching. She has worked alongside the Flinders NT Regional Training Hub to provide a junior doctor perspective on conducting career info webinars in 2020.

Dr Koratty is an active member of the NT Prevocational Accreditation Committee and always makes time to contribute to the continuous improvement in prevocational doctor medical education and training in the NT.

Since her arrival in the NT as a medical student from James Cook University, Dr Koratty has continually taken part in research. She has assisted in the data collection for Dr Jenny O’Hern’s paper “An audit of Cryptococcus Gatti Pulmonary and central nervous system infection, its management and outcomes in the NT”.

Dr Koratty is currently participating in an ongoing project investigating Pulmonary Hypertension and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in the NT. She is also assisting in a new audit reviewing the new sepsis pathway that was launched in 2019 at TEHS.

Dr Koratty is part of the NT Junior Medical Officer Forum (NT JMOF), and resides as the Secretariat of this forum. This is a pivotal role that requires dedication, time management as well as deep-rooted interest in medical education. In this role, Dr Koratty has advocated for mentoring programmes, education curriculum, equitable access to leave and junior doctor wellbeing.

Dr Koratty has recognised the limitations in teaching for her colleagues at remote centres. Dr Koratty has also demonstrated her passion for improving education for new medical graduates and international medical graduates. She has addressed these key issues by founding the Junior Doctor Education Advisory Committee and compiling a comprehensive curriculum for the TEHS Medical

Education Unit to aid pre-vocational education. She has recognised the benefit of mentorship and is working alongside the TEHS MEO to establish a near peer mentorship programme for interns, new residents and IMGs to provide support and guidance through stressful transitioning periods.

Dr Koratty hopes to establish a senior mentor and junior mentor programme for the TEHS in the near future. She aims for this new mentorship network will provide JMOs with career advice, support and professional development to aid training prospects in the NT. She has liaised with Dr Edith Waugh and other consultants who have established mentorship programmes in the past.

Dr Koratty has displayed her commitment to improving healthcare for Aboriginal communities through her clinical work. As a medical student Dr Koratty has undertaken multiple placements in rural northern Queensland and Northern Territory including Katherine District Hospital and Minjilang Community Health Clinic.

Dr Koratty has often provided health promotion to her ward patients. She has ensured that the interpreter services are used to guide discussions and counselling on a frequent basis. She works intimately with Aboriginal Liaison Officers (ALOs) and clinic managers to facilitate complex discharges, in particular palliative care. She has often liaised very closely with nursing CNCs, patient travel and ALOs to aid patients return to country in exceptional circumstances.

Dr Koratty is the social media manager for the Top End Medical Society. In this role, Dr Koratty advertises social events and manages the social media groups and pages that organises events for junior doctors. She also formed social media groups for her cohort of interns on recommencing her employment to aid communication, friendships and welfare. Dr Koratty has worked alongside the NTJMOF to aid improvement in the current Wi-Fi systems across RDH.

Dr Koratty has also participated in the Doctors Health and Wellbeing Group and Doctors in Training Advisory Committee to advocate and assist in initiatives that promote junior doctor wellbeing. She will be the next Chief RMO for the Division of Medicine from late 2020 to 2021.

Dr Koratty continues her commitment to the improvement of mental health of junior doctors. Dr Koratty helps facilitate the 'Thriving and Surviving' workshop for James Cook University where she educates medical students on self-care and burnout in the medical profession. She has been an advocate for mental health in her profession and has shared her experience on SBS Insight programme and has also written an opinion piece on this matter for SBS.

Dr Koratty has worked alongside her colleagues at the NT JMOF and medical rostering unit to aid equitable leave access for all JMOs to address a concerning welfare issue.

Dr Koratty intends to continue her commitment to the territory as she endeavours to pursue Critical Care Training in the top end.