

## Clinical Educator of the Year 2020

### Associate Professor Nadarajah Kangaharan



Associate Professor Nadarajah Kangaharan (usually known as Dr Kanga) is an Australian trained Cardiologist based in Darwin. He was born in Sri Lanka and migrated to Australia in 1992 on a full merit scholarship by Australian Government and completed his Medical Degree at University of Adelaide in 1997. He undertook his post graduate training at Westmead Hospital in Sydney and Cardiology advanced training at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide and at the Royal Darwin Hospital in the Northern Territory. He became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians in 2005. He has been working as a Cardiologist both at the Royal Darwin Hospital and

Darwin Private Hospital since 2005.

Dr Kanga has held the position as Medical Director – Division of Medicine at the Royal Darwin Hospital since 2009. Through this role, he has assisted to build a sustainable medical specialist work force and expanded the number of specialist trainees through the Commonwealth funded Specialist Training Program. He has further contributed to the successful setup of the Chronic Disease Coordination Unit based at the Royal Darwin Hospital providing care coordination, education and support to remote Indigenous patients in the Top End.

Dr Kanga helps with many of the administrative tasks in the hospital and directs JMOs to the right avenue to escalate any concerns or issues regarding education/orientation of JMOs (cuts down the red-tape).

When on the ward Dr Kanga uses questions to challenge JMOs to think for themselves which is a great teaching tool.

He is very supportive of JMOs to take the time for further formal studies whilst working.

Dr Kanga actively contributes and makes it a habit to attend Journal Clubs for cardiology and creates discussion that leads to learning for JMOs and medical students.

He is part of various committees that assist in developing new programs for JMOs to improve education

Dr Kanga is a big supporter of JMO wellbeing.

He champions various medical education applications (such as Med App); as well as spearheading clinical tools such as ACACIA.

Dr Kanga makes sure he is accredited by appropriate bodies, thereby, taking part in supervisor training to ready himself in assisting JMOs for quality education. He is an Accredited RACP Basic Physician Trainee education supervisor and professional development advisor. Dr Kanga is involved in Basic physician trainee and medical student teaching.

Dr Kanga is a mentor for both post medical and under graduates including students from Flinders' NT Medical Program.

Dr Kanga makes himself available for a debrief and discussion and is always approachable.

Dr Kanga works on improving workforce IT infrastructure. Slow computers and difficult access to information is a source of frustration for many JMOs, whom are the majority end-user of the clinical applications. Dr Kanga is continually working with the IT department to support funding and to endorse improvements of this service at TEHS.

Dr Kanga ensures JMOs receive adequate opportunity to learn, present patients to him, ask questions and most importantly gives constructive feedback. He is someone a JMO considers approaching when change management is desired within the TEHS organisational unit in regards to junior doctor education and training. He always has a simple yet efficient solution.

Dr Kanga assists in community outreach visits to NT communities on a regular basis, as well as telehealth. He has been a strong advocate for culturally appropriate service delivery to all NT population closer to home, setting an example by providing outreach clinics.

Dr Kanga is Chair of the Indigenous Council, Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand (2014 – Current) and is the Founding Director of the “Chronic Disease Coordination unit” – utilising the ‘Closing the Gap’ funding program through Commonwealth – subsequently funded by Northern Territory Government on an ongoing basis, given the success of the unit in care coordination of complex Indigenous patients between acute care and remote.

Dr Kanga is part of numerous studies and assists all JMOs and registrars with case studies and research; particularly in the NT. He has been involved in more than 30 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr Kanga has gained the title Associate Professor and has been the recipient of the following awards:

- Department of Health: “Pre-eminent Specialist” 2011 and 2014
- Flinders University: “Burns-Alpers Teaching Award” 2009
- Flinders Medical Centre: “Excellence in clinical teaching” 2004