

Junior Doctor of the Year 2023

Dr Dayna Duncan



Dr Dayna Duncan is currently in her postgraduate year two (PGY2) at Alice Springs Hospital (ASH), Northern Territory (NT) and in this time, Dr Duncan has made significant contributions to education and training in the NT by advocating the rights and wellbeing of junior doctors (JMOs) in various forums and councils including President of the ASH RMO Society where she was involved in rewriting the constitution to bring a focus to all aspects of wellbeing, including physical, mental, educational, and financial.

As well as being a voice for junior doctors across the NT, Dr Duncan also notably was involved in the Orientation program for new Interns to ASH, including designing a presentation for the Surgical Interns which provides useful information to ensure success for JMOs in the surgical rotation.

Dr Duncan is making a significant contribution to the recruitment and retention of JMOs at ASH and Tennant Creek Hospital. She established events and initiatives aimed at increasing the number of trainee doctors exposed to the unique health and social setting of Central Australia and Volunteering as a mentor for both new interns and new international medical graduates starting at the service.

The majority of advocacy work Dr Duncan undertakes is to benefit all JMOs within the NT, with specific reference and interest in the Central Australia and Barkly regions. Her numerous committee roles and contributions within the NT and representing the territory on a national stage are evidence of her passion for exposing this excellent and unique training opportunity to more students and JMOs across Australia, and reducing the gap in health outcomes for rural, regional, remote and First Nations Australians.

Dr Duncan also has a keen interest and experience in accreditation practices, particularly in how they can improve the educational and training opportunities for JMOs in the NT. Dr Duncan was a survey team member for the accreditation of the Top End Regional Health Service. In this role she was actively involved in the interviewing of health service staff, and contributed her perspectives and experience as a JMO to ensure that junior doctor wellbeing as well as education was held as a core consideration.

Dr Duncan was a member of the AMC SAMET Accreditation Team and was also actively involved in the rewriting of the AMC Standards for Medical School accreditation with particular advocacy for student wellbeing, First Nations health, and rural/remote medical education.

Dr Duncan is strongly committed to providing equitable and accessible healthcare for Aboriginal people. Her drive to encourage other JMOs to work and live in Central Australia and the Barkley regions, understand the significance of culture and impact of ongoing colonisation within these regions, whilst also practicing medicine and establishing her medical career, is testament to this.