

Clinical Educator of the Year 2021

Dr Madhivanan Sundaram,



Dr Madhi Sundaram is a physician and Nephrologist. He has been working as a consultant in the Nephrology speciality at the Royal Darwin Hospital since 2011. Dr Sundaram commenced his medical training in 1992 and has had training in Internal medicine and Nephrology. He underwent his renal training at Christian Medical College, Vellore which is a major tertiary care referral unit for South Asia and worked as a consultant there for 5 years before moving to Australia. Dr Sundaram commenced as the Director of Clinical Training at Royal Darwin Palmerston Hospital [RDPH], Top End Health Service in February 2021.

Since commencing in the Director of Clinical Training role, Dr Sundaram has worked tirelessly to reform and improve the provision of teaching and learning to PGY1 and PGY2 doctors. Dr Sundaram has been pivotal in translating the representations of junior doctors into workable policy and tangible teaching opportunities.

Dr Sundaram has been fundamental in revitalising teaching and learning opportunities at the RDPH and has ensured that term appraisals from doctors in training are incorporated into a cycle of continuous quality improvement.

Dr Sundaram is a strong advocate for junior doctor education and training. He has ensured that the teaching for PGY1 doctors is of a consistently high quality and that the content is relevant to their interests. Specifically he engaged doctors-in-training colleagues to develop and revitalise a teaching programme that delivered material of a high standard.

Additionally Dr Sundaram has been pivotal in nurturing the development of a 'Perioperative medicine programme' for orthopaedic PGY2 residents, delivered by anaesthetic trainees and consultants.

Dr Sundaram personally oversees the term evaluations of PGY1 doctors in training at the RDPH and during these encounters engages with trainees on their desired career path. When exploring structural solutions and opportunities for improving staffing he is acutely focussed on the importance of varied clinical exposure for trainees' professional development. Dr Sundaram provides pragmatic, honest and targeted advice to doctors in training to ensure they are able to achieve their career goals. He works with trainees to ensure that their selected career paths align with their current training opportunities. Dr Sundaram is key in retaining promising trainees at RDPH and therefore building a rural and remote workforce through education and training opportunities.

Dr Sundaram regularly makes strong representations regarding safe working hours and fair work conditions of PGY1 and PGY2 doctors. He has a sound appreciation of the complexities of clinical practice and makes pragmatic recommendations to ensure that the health and wellbeing of doctors in training are of the utmost importance.

Since 2017 Dr Sundaram has authored five PubMed-indexed papers relating to nephrology, including one as first author and one as senior author. His contributions include descriptions of disease epidemiology and outcomes as well as having published extensively on genetic kidney disease. Dr

Sundaram advocates strongly for the provision of clinical research infrastructure at the Royal Darwin Hospital to support trainees' research interests.

Dr Sundaram is so invested in the supervision, education and guidance of PGY1 and PGY2 trainees that he reduced his nephrology clinical load to accommodate this.