



NT METC Governance Committee

Junior Medical Officer Forum (JMOF) Report

**JUNIOR
MEDICAL OFFICER
FORUM**
NORTHERN TERRITORY

November 2018

1. Proposal to re-establish NT JMO Forum

The NT JMOF had existed as an NT wide JMO organisation until about 2014. During this time it had produced some valuable feedback and ideas around rural placements, accreditation, and workload within both ASH and RDH. These reports are available at ntmetc.com/reports-publication. Unfortunately, due to the high turnover through the JMOs of the NT and the lack of, at that time, a local medical school, the numbers required to staff the organisation were insufficient. Without regular meetings the understanding of the organisation among the JMOs dwindled and the committee fell out of use.

In early 2018 Shirley Bergin approached the Top End Medical Society (TEMS; the TEHS specific social and representative group) regarding re-invigorating the NT JMOF and involvement with the national conglomeration of state & territory-based forums; the Australasian Junior Medical Officer Committee (AJMOC). This was a very serendipitous offer as TEMS had been struggling with several advocacy issues within the system of healthcare. We thus sent a representative to the AJMOC meeting and began putting together a proposal for the re-invigoration of the forum.

We had extensive discussions between whom we identified as the key stakeholders of the NT JMOF, that is TEMS, the ASH RMO Society, the Flinders Medical Student Society (Northern Territory), and the NT METC around the structure and format of the NT JMOF. We were particularly keen on involving the medical students in the conversation as lengthening to their bonding arrangements (from two to four years) renders them potentially 'stuck'. Advocacy at an early stage will allow students to help shape their medium-term working environment. This will also help maintain the and rejuvenate the NT JMOF over the subsequent few years.

It has taken a number of months, but we believe we have been able to develop and formalise a sustainable model for ongoing and effective advocacy on behalf of the junior workforce of the NT Health system. The specific ideas and discussion around the challenges faced can be found in the proposal attachment, along with an organisational structure and Terms of Reference.

2. Current Issues

Local

- *Rostering and workforce issues*
- *Transparency around term allocations*
- *Teaching and education (or lack thereof) within certain departments*

National

- *'Two-year internship' as endorsed by COAG*
- *Bringing national projects to the NT*
 - o *Fantastic wellbeing projects led by WA and NSW*
- *Ongoing assessment and propagation of the AJMOC Resolutions*

3. Australasian Junior Medical Officers' Committee (AJMOC)

AJMOC is the conglomeration of the various JMO forums in the rest of the Australian states and territories. This groups meets three times a year and has roles of facilitating the dissemination of and feedback around national issues to states, national level advocacy, and bridging ideas between states. It is closely associated with the CPMEC (confederation of postgraduate medical education counsels) and regularly publishes reports and national level JMO projects. The corporate knowledge of this group really expedited the re-formation of the NT JMOF.

4. Australia and New Zealand Prevocational Medical Education Forum (ANZPMEF)

This conference was held in Melbourne and attended by Dr Stuart Campbell (as the NT JMOF AJMOC rep), Dr Sanjay Joeseeph (after winning an expression of interest submission) and Dr Dane Brookes (ASH Med Ed Registrar as the NT Junior Medical Officer of the Year 2018).

The conference was an invaluable learning experience. From an NT JMOF point of view the projects presented as abstracts, short reports, and full presentations were very illuminating. The fact that these projects had been developed almost exclusively by JMOs and for other JMOs was also encouraging. 'Out-of-session' discussion with those JMOs behind these projects were illuminating into the nuts and bolts behind the successful inception, delivery, and ongoing administration of these. Specific examples of these would include the Pow Wow project championed by Dr Jasmin Korbl (whom won the Australian JMO of the year for the project) and the Med Apps Resident Guide, the wellbeing section in particular. The sessions on medical education and practical guides to help learners learn will be useful for not only teaching with medical students and juniors but also gave an insight into the methods to help oneself learn more effectively.