

2016 CPMEC Clinical Educator of the Year Award



Photograph (left) Dr Monica Gope receiving her award from Prof Richard Tarala, CPMEC Chair

The 2016 CPMEC Clinical Educator of the Year Award winner is **Dr Monica Gope** from Western Australia. This award is given to an individual who has contributed extensively to the teaching of junior doctors; mentored and provided career advice to junior doctors; built a track record as an advocate for junior doctor education, training and wellbeing in the workplace; and developed innovative programs and approaches for junior doctors training.

In her citation for the award, it was highlighted that Monica successfully combined two roles as an Emergency Department Physician at Royal Perth Hospital and as the Director of WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Postgraduate Medical Education Unit to fulfil her passion for medical education and training of junior doctors across Western Australia.

As Director of WACHS since 2012, Monica introduced multiple education and training programs for supervisors as well as junior doctors. These courses utilized a variety of delivery methods, pertinent to disseminating and delivering workshop material to several regions across a large land mass. In particular blended learning formats incorporated face to face, eLearning and video conferencing content delivery.

She supported the development of a new WACHS Leadership course for RMOs via video-conferencing that was customised to reflect rural and remote hospital prevocational doctor work contexts and situations. The program activities were designed to promote engagement and interaction between the RMOs situated across different rural hospital sites. The courses have been oversubscribed with all surveyed participants agreeing that the course had changed the way they interact with others and that the course should be continued for junior medical officers.

In addition to her leadership role in the delivery of education to the regions, Monica has initiated and expanded Simulation Education in regional areas for junior doctors and simulator educators. She has designed, developed, implemented and evaluated new simulation education programs and developed sustainable processes and quality assurance procedures to ensure the continuation of the programs in WACHS for junior doctors.

Monica is a strong advocate for providing mentoring and career and wellbeing support for junior doctors. In her role as Director of Postgraduate Medical Education she participates in and supports the Rural Practice Pathway working group to facilitate the career development of doctors wishing to train and work in rural areas in country WA in partnership with other stakeholders. She promotes the opportunity for junior doctors to work as part of multi-disciplinary teams, receive one-on-one learning, increase their exposure to procedural practice and gain frontline experience from admission to discharge.

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Since 2013, Monica initiated and ensured regular state-wide Term Surveys for WACHS junior doctors who gathered feedback on their experiences of Orientation, Teaching, Simulation, Supervision and Workloads on their rural placements. The feedback from the junior doctor surveys have seen changes incorporated into postgraduate medical education unit's operational activities as well as the types of professional development offered to the regional medical education units.

In presenting Monica with the 2016 CPMEC Clinical Educator of the Year Award, Prof Richard Tarala, CPMEC Chair noted that there are many facets to Monica's contributions as a clinical educator that made her an outstanding recipient of the award.