

2016 CPMEC Junior Doctor of the Year Award

Photograph (right) Dr Gajen Perry accepting his award from Prof Richard Tarala, Chair CPMEC

Dr Gajen Perry from the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) in South Australia was the 2016 recipient of CPMEC's Junior Doctor of the Year Award. This award is presented annually to a junior doctor who has made a significant contribution to teaching and learning as a prevocational trainee in their workplace.



In his nomination Gajen's passion for teaching, education and a commitment to lifelong learning was highlighted. His enthusiasm for learning has been described as infectious; the quality of his presentations exceptional and memorable; and his exemplary communication style sustains attention from his audience, colleagues and students. Interns who have been rostered to surgical night duty have noted that he has assisted, supported, mentored and engaged in a process of professional development that has enabled them to further develop and extend their professional knowledge, clinical skills and technical expertise. He has been positively role modelling the importance of education and the role of the doctor as teacher to patients, colleagues and the community.

Gajen has initiated, planned and implemented teaching/learning activities with colleagues and other individuals during Intern year, more specifically as a surgical resident in 2015 and was a key driver in the development and delivery of a weekly tutorial program for interns and residents on Surgical rotations. He has contributed to intern orientation and had a positive transformational effect on a very disillusioned intern who had just finished an unpleasant prior rotation. With that intern he took on an advocacy and support role that allowed the individual to regain enthusiasm for medicine.

Gajen is actively involved in providing teaching and learning activities, support and supervision for interns and medical students including clinical skills and techniques. He has actively sought and developed strategies for improving communication and interactions between JMOs, nursing staff and allied health staff. He has been described as inspiring, enthusiastic, proactive, enterprising, generous with his time, and a person who motivates colleagues and students to seek the best quality outcomes in their daily work-life. He has been nominated by colleagues and elected to numerous committees which have valued his commitment and contributions as a JMO advocate.

In 2014 he was named the Lyell McEwin Hospital (LMH) Intern of the Year. The award is conferred by senior clinicians in recognition of the professional and personal commitment to excellence in practice and continuous improvement during the Intern year. In 2015 he was acknowledged by the 2015 Intern cohort and presented as Best Resident Medical Officer 2015 which distinguishes him from his contemporaries, many with significantly more years of experience.