

# JMO FORUM NSW:

## FORUM 1 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

*Sharing innovations.  
Empowering careers.*



HEALTH  
EDUCATION  
& TRAINING

## CHAIR'S WELCOME DR. TAMBLYN DEVOY

Welcome! It gives me great pleasure to lead the NSW JMO Forum for 2021.

The NSW JMO Forum was established in 2001 and is governed by the NSW Prevocational Training Council (PvTC). The Forum is comprised of a postgraduate year (PGY) 1 and PGY2 representatives from each prevocational training network and one PGY1/2 representative from selected rural hospitals. It brings together a group of enthusiastic Junior Medical Officers (JMOs) within the state who pollinate some of the great ideas which improve the health education programs and systems across the Local Health Districts (LHDs). The Forum meets four times per year.



As Chair, I am supported by four executives who have defined portfolios in JMO Welfare, Education & Training, Prevocational Accreditation, and JMO Workforce. These executives for 2021 are also charged with leading a project within their portfolios either reviewing current practices, identifying barriers and potential solutions, generating new data and/or recommending changes on behalf of the Forum.

Recently, the Forum conducted its first meeting for 2021 – and the first combined face-to-face and virtual meeting since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a great success, and a surreal experience to meet PGY2 representatives in person after spending the previous year conversing online only. In addition to the consultation of new proposals for JMOs in the state, guest speakers from the pandemic response provided personalised insight into the status of the pandemic and plans for the vaccine roll-out.

A huge thank you to all the support staff at the Health Education & Training Institute who facilitate the smooth running of the Forum. We now start work on the many issues raised at the Forum and the busy planning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021. Forum Representatives will also return to their LHDs with a new fire and armed with new ideas to improve their workplaces. Please refer to the end of these newsletter for contact information if you would like to reach out to your Forum Representative.

*T. Devoy*



### **DR. AMNA SAADI** **EXECUTIVE, JMO WELFARE PORTFOLIO**



Hello everyone! It was so lovely to meet and talk with all the JMO Forum representatives at our first Forum. I certainly came away feeling inspired and excited for the year ahead!

From hearing the News from the Networks at the last forum, it became clear that workplace culture impacts JMOs welfare in a number of ways. It impacts our training, our likelihood to seek help when we are burnt out, and whether we feel we can claim overtime and fight for our rights under the award. All these issues are tangible determinants of JMO wellbeing and I think they are closely linked to the culture at our workplaces. I am particularly excited about evaluating positive drivers of healthy workplaces by examining RMOA initiatives that create positive change in local health networks.

### **DR. LISA MORGAN** **EXECUTIVE, PREVOCATIONAL ACCREDITATION PORTFOLIO**



Hi everyone - my name is Lisa and I am the rural JMO representative for Port Macquarie Base Hospital.

The recent JMO Forum was my first opportunity representing my network on such a scale - and what a day it turned out to be. After a year of COVID restrictions and online events, it was refreshing and inspiring to be in a room full of people who are as passionate about improving the training and wellbeing of junior doctors across the state.

My favourite part of the forum was hearing directly from each representative about their network's strengths and challenges - all with great humour and candour. These discussions were an important reminder that despite our differences in geography, culture and infrastructure, we have much in common and can learn a lot from each other going forward.

I cannot wait to work with my fellow representatives to collect ideas and implement initiatives that will help improve the experiences of other junior doctors in NSW - particularly on a smaller scale at Port Macquarie and surrounding hospitals.

As the recently appointed JMO Representative for Prevocational Accreditation, I am also excited to work with HETI in a role in which I can listen to JMO concerns

and feedback on a much wider scale - all with the purpose of facilitating change and improving the training and wellbeing of junior doctors with a 'top down' approach.

With such a great start to the year, it is exciting to see what the rest of 2021 will bring.

## **DR. VINAY MURTHY**

### **EXECUTIVE, JMO EDUCATION & TRAINING PORTFOLIO**

Hi there! It's a great privilege to be the executive leading the JMO Education & Training portfolio this year. In this role I will be leading a project that centres around this theme.

The project is continued from 2020 and it seeks to examine different modalities of emergency medicine education as a means to isolate key techniques and methods that should be encouraged in promoting JMO confidence with emergency medicine in a variety of settings.

It was a great chance to finally have a face-to-face forum after a year of teleconferencing in 2020. The enthusiasm, determination and ingenuity of the Network representatives is thoroughly inspiring, and I am excited to work with the team this year as we strive to improve all aspects of your education, training, and wellbeing.



## **DR. MATTHEW BOJANIC**

### **EXECUTIVE, JMO WORKFORCE PORTFOLIO**

G'day Team! Whilst Medical workforce matters mainly fall in the realm of industrial relations, HETI, through its accreditation process for prevocational training, has overall responsibility for ensuring all rotations prioritise JMO wellbeing and patient safety.

And as medical workforce issues can greatly impact both the wellbeing of JMOs and the safety of patients, it is important that they are brought to HETI's attention as they arise. As for what is an industrial relations issue, and what is appropriate to raise with HETI, it's part of my role as the new Executive Member for JMO Workforce to help you navigate these issues and work with you to construct solutions for difficulties that may arise within your Networks.

Beyond assisting you to troubleshoot issues endemic to your respective health districts, there are several key areas I look forward to focusing upon this year:



- o Encouraging Networks and LHDs to ensure JMOs are actively involved in decision making processes, including the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Committees;
- o Working alongside the JMOs to engage Networks and other stakeholders to help address staffing and retention issues at hospitals; and
- o Ensuring teaching hours remain protected, whilst encouraging the networks to expand ongoing professional development opportunities for JMOs.

Whilst I feel this is a decent start, there are tonnes of issues to explore in this area, so if you have any ideas, feel free to send me an email. I am looking forward to working with all of you all to improve workforce outcomes for JMOs - let's make 2021 a constructive year!

## FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

### LOW PAGE HOUR FOR JMOS

#### **DR THU LE, PGY 1 REPRESENTATIVE, NETWORK 4, LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL**

This initiative at Liverpool Hospital was organised by the JMO Wellbeing representative at the beginning of 2020. The aim is for JMOs to have a break or catch up on tasks without fielding requests for small tasks between 12-1pm, with exceptions for clinical reviews or emergencies. Nursing staff were informed through emails and posters to page outside of this hour or use Task Manager during LPH instead. However, there has been mixed success and the committee is working on increasing adherence. Recent polling of interns also suggested that a later time would be more beneficial. Overall, the initiative has been well received by medical staff.

### CLINICAL GOVERNANCE TERM AT CENTRAL COAST LOCAL HEALTH DISTRICT

#### **DR ASHLEY VAN LEEUWESTYN, PGY2 RMO, NETWORK 7, GOSFORD HOSPITAL**

Clinical Governance is a PGY2 term that allows for the junior doctors to immerse themselves in pillars of Hospital Governance and Medical Leadership. The role focuses on experiencing the common functions in clinical governance surrounding auditing, policy creation, improving evidence-based care, supporting staff, providing opportunities for education and training and improving patient experience.

My experience of the role has been very positive. It has opened up the world of Medicine beyond clinical interactions and personally has shown me a way to improve my impact on the health system. It is not a role for everyone - you really have to love it!



## JMO FORUM 2 - 21 MAY 2021

If you would like to reach out to the NSW JMO Forum, a full list of representatives can be found on the HETI website at:

<https://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/courses-and-programs/prevocational-education/jmo-forum>

Alternatively, you can contact us at: [HETI-JMOFORUM@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HETI-JMOFORUM@health.nsw.gov.au)

