

**Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania Inc  
Council AGM, 16 September 2020**

**Report – Chair of the Education & IMG Committee**

Council members will be aware that the function of this Committee is to oversee the day-to-day provision of high quality education to prevocational doctors employed in public hospitals in Tasmania, to support the IMGs entering the public hospital workforce, and to aid supervisors.

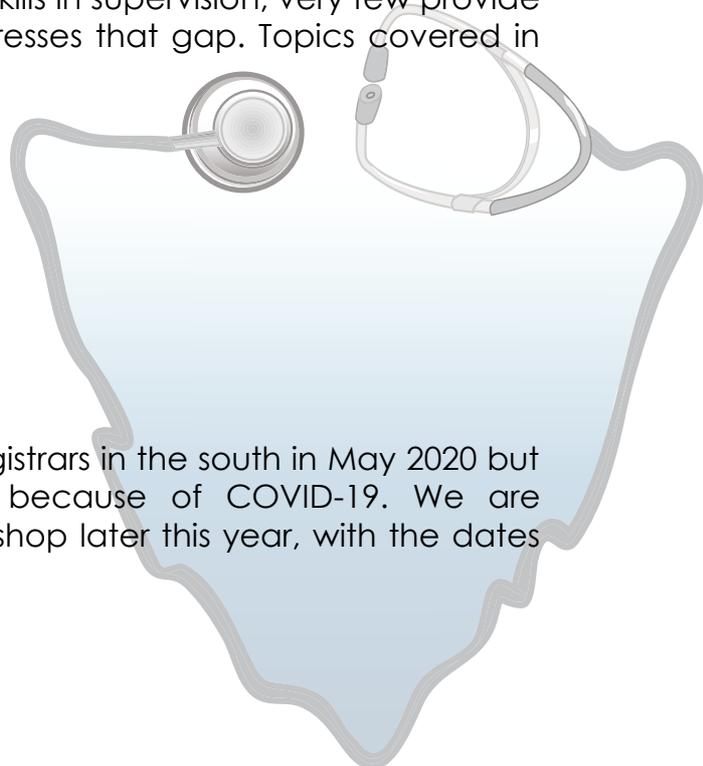
This year has been an exceptional one in terms of education and support for prevocational doctors as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The cancellation of face-to-face educational activities for several weeks enforced the adoption of virtual teaching at all sites. This posed the usual challenges associated with this modality of teaching, including technological issues, presenter comfort, and learner engagement. For the most part the teaching was well received, although the interns (and several of the presenters) at RHH gradually became frustrated at the lack of face-to-face teaching and were relieved when the situation returned to almost normal. The adoption of virtual teaching was particularly well received by the northern hospitals, with attendance actually increasing in comparison to face-to-face tutorials. This has proven to be particularly beneficial given the ongoing challenges faced by the NW in terms of sourcing presenters, with LGH now sharing their tutorials remotely with NW.

**Workshops**

In September 2019, PMCT provided a Professional Development for Registrars workshop in the north of the state. This is a nationally recognised course, modified to meet local requirements, which recognises the crucial role that registrars play in the supervision of prevocational doctors. Despite most colleges requiring their trainees to develop skills in supervision, very few provide training in this area and this workshop addresses that gap. Topics covered in the workshop include:

- The Role of the Registrar
- Supervision and Delegation
- Conflict Resolution
- Teaching in the Clinical Environment
- The JMO in difficulty
- Medical Error.

PMCT had scheduled another course for registrars in the south in May 2020 but unfortunately this had to be cancelled because of COVID-19. We are exploring the possibility of providing a workshop later this year, with the dates and venue to be determined.



PMCT also delivers regular education sessions for supervisors at each site. These vary from lunchtime or evening sessions to full day workshops. The content has some overlap with the Registrar workshop, but explores in more detail issues such as the JMO in difficulty, assessment and remediation etc. A successful one-day Clinical Supervisor Workshop was held in the south in December 2019. Another was scheduled for May 2020 but it too had to be cancelled.

### **Workplace Based Assessment for IMGs**

Council members will be aware that the WBA program provides an alternative pathway to general registration for IMGs who do not wish to sit the AMC clinical exam. The Tasmanian WBA program continues to be one of the largest and most successful of its kind in Australia and I would like to congratulate Debbie West and Beth Mulligan for their leadership and organisation in this area. Despite the temporary suspension of the program because of COVID-19, it remains at capacity (which has recently increased from 30 to 42 participants). Since its inception, there have been 201 IMGs in Tasmania who have successfully completed the program. The ability to achieve general registration via this pathway has made Tasmania a very attractive option for IMGs and has had a significant effect on recruitment at all 3 sites.

### **Committee membership changes**

Over the past year the Committee welcomed IMG JMO representatives Drs Caroline Esho (LGH) and Nita Oiboh (NW) and most recently we welcomed back Dr Beth Mulligan, this time in her capacity as WBA representative.

The Committee farewelled IMG JMO representatives Drs Paris Pearce (NW) and Sana Mahmud (LGH) during the past year.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newer members and thank outgoing members for their contribution and dedication.

A/Prof Terry Brown  
Chair of Education & IMG Committee PMCT  
September 2020