

Junior Doctors Network

Background

The World Medical Association (WMA) Junior Doctors Network (JDN) represents the world's first international body of junior doctors, operating under the auspices of the organization recognized as the voice of physicians worldwide. It provides junior doctors with a global forum to exchange ideas, collaborate, and conduct research relevant to issues they face in their training and career development, while providing them the opportunity to participate and contribute to the wider policy and advocacy work of the WMA.

Founded in 2010 after acceptance at the WMA General Assembly in Vancouver, the JDN's Draft Terms of Reference were subsequently accepted at the 188th Council Meeting in April 2011 in Sydney, Australia. This groundwork allowed the growth of a number of initiatives and culminated in the successful inaugural JDN meeting, held in conjunction with the 2011 WMA General Assembly in Montevideo, Uruguay.

What is the Junior Doctors Network?

The JDN is made up of junior doctors who independently join the World Medical Association as Associate Members. Any junior physician may join and participate. As the representative voice of young doctors worldwide, the JDN attracts many members who also hold leadership positions in the resident or junior doctor sections of their respective National Member Associations.

The JDN founding members were largely alumni participants from the International Federation of Medical Students' Asso-



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ciations (IFMSA) alumni. Other notable founding members included junior doctors from the Korean Interns and Residents Association, Australia Medical Association Doctors-in-Training Council, Doctors-in-Training New Zealand Medical Association, American Medical Association, British Medical Association, Canadian Interns and Residents Association, Brazilian Medical Association Junior Doctors, Singapore Medical Association, and the Permanent Working Group of European Junior Doctors.

Why the Junior Doctors Network?

The JDN acts as a forum for experience sharing, policy discussions, and resource development putting focus on issues pertaining to junior doctors. Before the JDN, there was no global forum directly voicing

the concerns and views of junior doctors, interns, residents, and fellows at a global level. This left a void in representation in the middle of young physicians' continuum of training, since the interests of medical students were represented by the IFMSA, with the WMA representing physicians globally.

The development of the JDN now provides a natural progression, further developing the existing relationship between the IFMSA and the WMA. It fulfills the very important role of representing junior doctors at a global level. Recognized in official relations, the JDN also supports the IFMSA by strengthening the recruitment and development of the IFMSA alumni network. Finally, the JDN offers participants an opportunity to make an impact and to contribute to the many levels of global health via policy change at the WMA and with the WMA's partner organizations, such as the WHO.

Defined functions and objectives

The Junior Doctor Network has the following functions and objectives:

1. Participate, advocate, and consult with Constituent and Associate members of the WMA on issues of interest to junior doctors.
2. Collaborate with Constituent and Associate members of the WMA and other stakeholders to increase the number of junior doctors registered as Associate members of the WMA.
3. Develop reference materials on issues of interest to junior doctors, including (but not limited to) literature reviews, surveys, reports, and policy papers.
4. Communicate information on emerging issues of interest to junior doctors internationally, in collaboration with the National Medical Associations of the WMA and other stakeholders.
5. Organize professional development activities and develop resources for junior doctors
6. Coordinate and disseminate information on global health research and clinical elective opportunities and resources for junior doctors worldwide.
7. Develop and implement relevant junior-doctor led projects and programs.

Current projects and work

The JDN identified social media as an initial area of interest and expertise among junior doctors, and one of the first projects undertaken was the development of a white paper to provide additional scientific detail for the WMA Policy on the Professional and Ethical Use of Social Media. Subsequent projects are focused on other issues of concern to junior doctors and trainees, and include reviews of physician well-being and the ethical considerations surrounding global health training. The JDN also works in concert with other WMA workgroups on identified issues of

interest to its members, such as the current WMA workgroup on the ethics of physician strikes.

The JDN members participate as representatives of the WMA at a number of high profile conferences worldwide as well. Members of the JDN have been actively involved in working with the WMA team at the World Health Assembly and other conferences such as a recent patient centered conference in Geneva, Switzerland.

Where to from here?

The JDN continues to grow and adapt to the increasing interest and commitment from members all over the world. The organization is presently undergoing a structural review to improve its capacity and workflow as the network grows. An important structural change concerns focusing on regional growth, particularly related to the WMA meeting venues in different continents. The

JDN hopes to support the development of a website, as well as electronic resources and virtual participation for its members. The JDN also hopes to inspire and support the growth of new national junior doctor bodies as part of national medical associations, to ensure that those residents, interns, and trainees have a voice during this critical phase in their career. Recently the JDN was identified as a potential resource for two new junior doctor bodies in the Asian region.

The JDN is working hard to develop sustainable structures prior to the WMA October General Assembly in Bangkok, where the current committee is targeting to increase the involvement and contribution level of Asian junior doctors to wider activities of the WMA.

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