

## Why did you choose to be a Doctor?

In Year 11 I did work experience with some friends who thought they'd like to become doctors; by the end of the first day I'd fallen in love with the experiences and the people and couldn't imagine doing anything else with my life.

## How do you believe NSW Health can do things better for JMOs?

I think there needs to be better connection between managers and junior doctors; junior doctors spend so much time at work and have a different perspective on how to maximise the efficacy of health care. If top-end management were more engaged with DiTs, they would feel like their successes were noted and their issues acknowledged. Then with a good base everyone would be able to work together to generate solutions.



this issue  
Dr Alexandra Croker

## Doctor in Training, Neonatology and Motherhood

Dr Ally managed to find the time to answer some of our questions in the midst of her already busy schedule. A big thank you to her!

### *What has been one of the highlights of your career so far?*

The day I did a champagne tap on a 600g neonate! But there have been so, so many amazing moments so far it is really hard to choose. The most prominent moments/memories I have generally all come back to times when a patient has had an impact on me – the 94 year old lady I saw in ED who recognised me from the gym and told me to appreciate my strong legs because one day I wouldn't be able to jump the same way (yes she was still going to the gym every day at 94 years of age!); the family of an autistic boy who hugged me and said "Thank you for listening to us about our boy. We've never felt so calm about having blood tests before, because we finally felt like someone wanted to be part of our child's team"; or when I've worked alongside other doctors who inspire me to continue learning and to be the best doctor I possibly can be.

### *Why did you get involved with ASMOF and the Union movement?*

It means that I always know there is someone who wants to guide me in the right direction and support me when I need it.

### *If you weren't a Doctor, what would you be doing instead?*

Before my work experience I always thought I'd one day work for the UN...while that is now nothing but a distant dreamy memory I still always think about what the corporate world of economics (with a few languages thrown in) would be like.

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### *What do you do when you aren't working?*

I'm a new mum who just loves spending time with her family; my favourite things to do are going on bushwalks and sharing my love of books and reading with my little boy.