



## **Challenges of postgraduate medical education in Timor Leste and the Family Medicine Program**

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This talk will discuss the challenges of postgraduate medical education in Timor Leste, particularly those related to the large influx of recent medical graduates. It will also describe the Family Medicine Program, a postgraduate program aimed at these recent graduates.

Timor Leste is a young nation, at independence there were very few Timorese doctors (less than 50). Since then there has been a large increase in the number of Timorese doctors thanks to undergraduate medical training cooperation with Cuba. The first cohort of new Timorese doctors graduated in 2010 and with up to 400 doctors in each cohort, there are now approximately 850 new Timorese doctors. There will be a total of 1000 new doctors by the end of 2015.

This large influx of junior doctors brings a new set of challenges for medical workforce development.

Many of these newly graduated doctors have been posted directly to rural community health centres, where they have minimal supervision. The Timorese MoH has recognised that these doctors need up-skilling to independently manage all the conditions they are required to manage in the CHCs..

The Family Medicine Program is a two-year program of postgraduate medical training for recently graduated Timorese doctors in the skills needed to work in community health centres in Timor Leste.