



Australia Awards
Fellowships



Australia Awards Fellowship for Dr Celia Santos

ANZGITA, Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (Dili) & two Canberra hospitals team for a rapid uplift in Timor-Leste gastroenterology skills

ANZGITA has secured Australia Awards Fellowship funding for Dr Celia Santos from Timor-Leste's national hospital to undertake three months intensive training at Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital. This will help secure the sustainability of the recently established endoscopy unit.

ANZGITA has been successful in its application for funding in the highly-competitive Australia Awards program of the Australian Government. Dr Celia Santos, from Hospital Nacional Guido Valadares (HNGV), Timor-Leste's national hospital, will undertake a three month intensive gastroenterology fellowship at Canberra and Calvary Hospitals in 2018. This, and a follow-up visit by an ANZGITA team to Dili, will help secure the sustainability of the HNGV Endoscopy Unit. The unit was established in early 2016, with ANZGITA's support.

Dr Santos is a highly regarded Internal Medicine specialist at HNGV. Whilst still in the first few years since the completion of her specialist training, Dr Santos has recently been appointed the Head of Department of Internal Medicine. She developed a keen interest in gastroenterology after attending an ANZGITA Fiji Training Program. Dr Santos has gained competence in therapeutic gastroscopy under the guidance of Australian consultant gastroenterologist Dr Chris Kiely. Her colonoscopy skills are rapidly improving.

During the fellowship, which starts in June, Dr Santos will undertake supervised training in therapeutic endoscopy. A model developed during two previous ANZGITA-supported fellowships will be followed. This includes immersion in two world-class endoscopy units, frequent peer-learning opportunities, participation in governance processes amongst other activities. At the conclusion of the fellowship, Dr Santos will attend the Australian Gastroenterology Week conference in Brisbane. The training fellowship will equip her with the skills to continue the unit's work and to train future Timorese endoscopists.

We are very thankful to Canberra and Calvary Hospitals for agreeing to engage Celia over the three months of her fellowship. The support of Dr Jose 'Zeto' Guterres, Director General, HNGV, in allowing Dr Santos to avail herself of this opportunity is gratefully acknowledged. Our thanks also to RACS Global Health for their support of our application.

Following on from a preparatory and training visit by Ms Di Jones, ANZGITA Director responsible for nursing, in 2016, the ANZGITA Board approved an engagement plan. Two ANZGITA training programs have been conducted in 2017, including Australian doctors and nurses. Two more programs are planned for 2018, either side of Dr Santos' fellowship.

This was the first time ANZGITA had applied to be a host organisation for the prestigious Australia Awards Fellowships. We secured for Dr Santos one of the 1,100 fellowships in competition with many universities, industry bodies and other organisations. We see our success as a sign of our continuing development where we seek out further ways to assist our in-country partners and make use of a broader base of prospective funding sources. The Australia Awards support our mission of building capacity through strong partnerships that help retain expanding skills in developing countries. By providing short-term study and professional development opportunities in Australia, mid-career professionals and emerging leaders can tap into Australian expertise, gaining valuable skills and knowledge.

More about ANZGITA: www.anzgita.org

More about Australia Awards Fellowships: www.australiaawards.gov.au



L to R: Dr Chris Kiely, Consultant Gastroenterologist, HNGV; Dr Celia Santos, Head of Internal Medicine, HNGV; and Dr Jose 'Zeto' Guterres, Director General, HNGV