



ACPSEM

Australasian College of Physical
Scientists & Engineers in Medicine

FOCUS

DECEMBER 2019

ACPSEM PRESIDENT'S WORDS - RICHARD DOVE

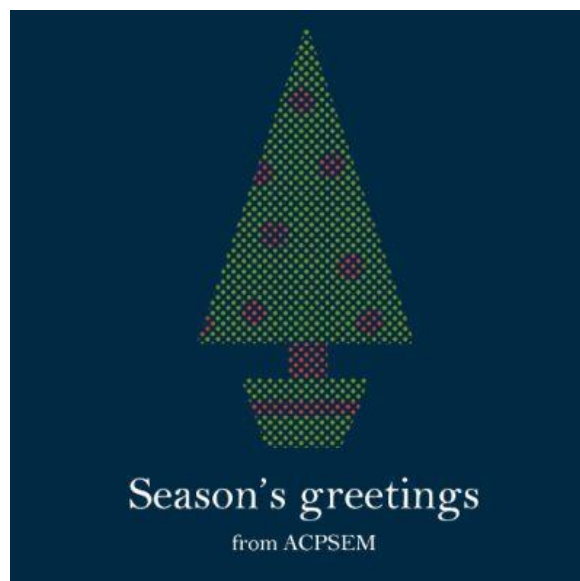


And that's a wrap for 2019! In this newsletter we celebrate 60 years of our college journal. In December 1959 it celebrated the "*relatively large number of physicists engaged in medical and biological activities in Australia and New Zealand*"; all 62 of them! We close 2019 with 770 ACPSEM members, with over 95% of them in Australia or New Zealand.

So far this year, Australasian Physical & Engineering Sciences in Medicine has published 901 pages, and with one issue still to come I imagine the annual volume will total around 1150 pages. I'm sure the pioneers who started things back in 1959 would be incredibly proud of what the journal and profession have become.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the several hundred members who contribute in various roles to allow the College to achieve what it does. We build on the foundations laid down by the pioneers, and each add our little bit to the story of ACPSEM and our professions in Australia and New Zealand. I also want to acknowledge and thank the staff of ACPSEM, both those working in our office in Sydney and the Training Coordinators working all over Australia. I hope members and staff enjoy a well-earned break over summer!

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM ACPSEM



SEASON'S GREETINGS from all of us at ACPSEM. We would like to wish all of our members a very happy and relaxing festive season. We look forward to working with you again in 2020.

Please note that the ACPSEM head office will be closed from 20 December 2019 - 2 January 2020. Any queries received during this time will be responded to in the new year.

THE AUSTRALASIAN NEWSLETTER OF MEDICAL PHYSICS ("THE JOURNAL") TURNS 60 THIS DECEMBER

In this edition of the newsletter, we are proud to be celebrating the **60th anniversary of the journal!**

The journal started out as a series of newsletters published under the title of *Australasian Newsletter of Medical Physics*, which was first published on 1 December 1959. The Newsletter was later established as a more comprehensive quarterly journal in 1978. As ACPSEM members, you have automatic online access to the journal, which can be accessed via the member only area of our [website](#).



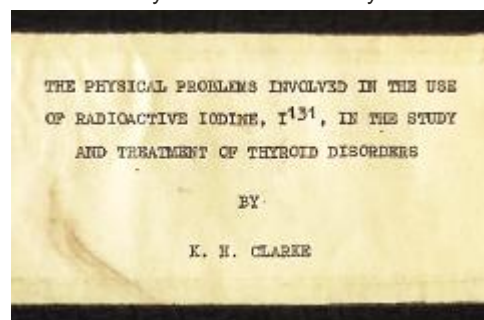
In its current form, the *Australasian Physical & Engineering Sciences in Medicine* journal is the official journal of ACPSEM, the College of Biomedical Engineers, Engineers Australia and the Asia-Oceania Federation of Organizations for Medical Physics. As of 2020, the journal will undergo a title change to *Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine*.

We have been reflecting on some of the earlier editions of the newsletter to see how practice within the industry has changed. You can read [Issue No. 1 from December 1959 here](#), which reveals areas of research at the time, alongside technical notes and queries, published papers, and a list of physicists engaged in medical and biological physics 1959. It certainly is interesting - and sometimes quite retrospectively humorous - reading!

We will be compiling a final stand-alone commemorative newsletter about the journal that will be sent out in February of 2020. We encourage you to read through the original newsletter and the contributions below, and to think and reflect yourself on what's become of our field in the years since 1959. If you would like to add your own observations for final publication, please email them to communications@acpsem.org.au.

Feature articles:

"Becoming part of the Springer stable of journals was a major change for the Journal. It has increased the international visibility of the journal and hence also the number of manuscripts submitted. Manuscripts are received from all over the world, but particularly from Asian countries. In 2009, the year before the Journal joined Springer, 47 manuscripts – almost exclusively from Australia and New Zealand -were submitted to the Journal for consideration. In 2018. The number had grown to more than 450. Now manuscripts submitted by Australasian researchers are in the minority, and to reflect and further encourage this internationality and also to remove any sense of regionality, the word "Australasian" has been removed from the title." - **Dr Martin Caon** - [read more](#)



"Some of the things that caught my eye when reading the first issue of the newsletter were some names

that seem to be giants to those of us today: K.H. Clarke and Boyce Worthley... I found an original copy of Ken Clarke's MSc thesis in an archive in a Melbourne storage facility used by the ANZSNM when doing a clean-up of the society's archives a few years ago...." (image above on the right) - **Dr Dale Bailey** - [read interesting insights from 1959 here](#)

Other ACPSEM members have noted their observations on the first newsletter:

"I suspect in 1959 there probably was not a single so called DIMP in existence... Raises an interesting question: who was the first DIMP in Aus/NZ? Probably someone with their main sphere of influence in Nuclear Medicine perhaps." - **Dr John Heggie**

"One thing hasn't changed – ROMPs were and remain the dominant category, although I suspect the technologies that would have been used are markedly different to those in vogue today... As for DIMPS, there is not much mention of groups primarily associated with this type of work although radiation protection does feature a couple of times. It would seem that the growth of opportunities in this area is one of the success stories of Medical Physics in Australasia." - **Dr Ian Smith**

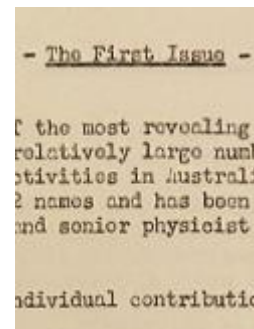
"The big thing for me is the internationalisation of the journal with increased submissions from internal authors as well as the increasing impact factor of the journal. This shows that the journal has moved from essentially a professional newsletter to a professional scientific journal that stands well on the international stage." - **Dr Sean Geoghegan**

"For the beginning of true imaging, it was a line finish between the start of nuclear medicine and ultrasonic imaging of the foetus. It was an era where nuclear physics was making big in-roads in a vast range of applications - medicine being one of them... I was previously a radiation therapist in radiotherapy and switched to mostly nuclear medicine during 1964-69." - **Dr Lyn Oliver** - [read his amusing memoirs here](#)

"A great tribute must be paid to Kenneth Clarke who was responsible for starting the Newsletter, and then the Journal which we have today. He edited the Newsletter and was Founding Editor of the Journal - editing for many years, even after his retirement." - **Dr John Coles**

"I noticed the relatively high number of women working in medical physics at a time when married women were forbidden to continue working in Commonwealth public service jobs due to the marriage ban. I also was amazed at the broad range of topics covered from using broad beans to measure RBE, to looking at injections of iodised oil (both of which went on to give fruitful avenues of future research and follow up papers)." - **Dr Alison Scott**

"Despite collaboration being more challenging back then, it appears that Australasian Physicists clearly had a good sense of ingenuity with problem solving and overcoming limitations in their equipment/technology. That hasn't changed - and if anything its improved further. Also great to see an increase in the number of female physicists - NZ had no female physicists in 1959 and now we have multiple female Chief Physicists." - **Suzy Lydiard** - [read her additional observations here](#)



We would like to pay tribute to the seven editors of the journal, including Kenneth H. Clarke, A/Prof Tim van Doorn, Dr John Pattison, Dr Alun Beddoe, Dr Sergei Zavgorodni, Dr Martin Caon and Dr Jamie Trapp, all of whom have endeavoured to create a strong physical science community.

A special mention goes to Kenneth Clarke who was the main organiser of the medical physics communication throughout Australia, and also to his secretary who typed all the newsletters. Ken was the editor of the journal for many years, even after his retirement. He was employed by Peter MacCallum for radiotherapy but, in 1959, he was actively engaged in nuclear medicine organ studies. Since then, an

annual Kenneth Clarke Journal Award has been set up in his name, which awards the best member-authored paper on an original work published within the journal.

The current editor, **Dr Jamie Trapp**, has shared some further insights on the history and progression of the journal [here](#). Jamie notes that "*the importance of that initial newsletter cannot be understated, as it was the first true grouping of physicists together, many of whom would have been working in isolation previously, and ultimately led to the formation of the College.*" [Read more](#)

Thank you to all who have contributed to the journal and the ACPSEM newsletter. Whilst the medical physics profession might have changed and developed since 1959, the premise of the ongoing ACPSEM newsletter still rings true from a quote from the first edition:

"...it is to be hoped that the Newsletter may be a medium for drawing us closer together in work and at the same time broadening our horizons."

To place your research in the journal, please contact journal.editor@acpsem.org.au. To add your news to the newsletter, please contact communications@acpsem.org.au.

To see a scan of original first newsletter from December 1959, [click here](#) (3.8MB)

A TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR BARRY ALLEN

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Professor Barry Allen. Barry passed away on 20 November 2019, surrounded by his family.

Barry was an iconic figure in the medical physics field in Australasia and overseas, where he was president of AFOMP, IOMP and IUPESM, an ACPSEM life member, and a **recipient of the Order of Australia** (AO) for his distinguished service to biomedical physics.

It is a great loss to the medical physics community. Barry's family have gratefully acknowledged tributes to him. Nicole Allen kindly noted that the family were very touched, and tributes demonstrated the breadth of Barry's "collaborative work in the world of medical physics and our hopes that his initiatives will continue to develop under the guidance of the Medical Physics community".



NEWS AND BRANCH REPORTS

STUDENT PRESENTATION AND PRIZE NIGHT - VIC/TAS BRANCH

On 19 November the ACPSEM Vic/Tas branch hosted a prize night at RMIT, where selected students presented their work. Prizes included an opportunity to present at EPSM 2020, and an Elekta or ACPSEM travel grant. [Read more](#)



VIC/TAS BRANCH ANNUAL BRANCH MEETING 2019

The ACPSEM Victoria/Tasmania branch held their ABM on 5 December 2019 in Melbourne, VIC. The meeting included insightful presentations and was followed by dinner in the loft. Thank you to NL-TEC for sponsoring this event. [Read more](#)



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MIX PHYSICAL SCIENCE WITH COFFEE?

Explore coffee's association with travel, creativity and ... medical physics! Buy a copy of 'A World of Physical Science and Coffee' featuring entertaining contributions on the subject of coffee from various medical physicists, biomedical engineers and baristas. Proceeds from this booklet will go to the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation. [Read more](#)



HELLO FROM OUR ROMP TEAP COORDINATORS

Our ROMP Training Coordinators help manage, run and improve the ROMP TEAP stream. They thought it about time they properly introduce themselves and explain a little more about what they do. Put some faces to names and [read more](#) about their roles and how they can help you.

MEMBERS

PROF EVA BEZAK NAMED ON THE 2019 SA WOMEN'S HONOUR ROLL

Congratulations to Professor Eva Bezak has been announced as an inductee to the 2019 South Australian Women's Honour Roll. Eva joins 24 other extraordinary women on the honor roll which aims to "shine a light on women's achievements... and continue to change the community's perceptions of women as capable leaders and change makers." [Read more](#)



INTRODUCING DR SEAN GEOGHEGAN - 'MEET A MEDICAL PHYSICIST'

Outgoing ACPSEM Director, Dr Sean Geoghegan (State Director of Radiation Oncology Medical Physics at Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA) has been featured in a video on Australia's Science Channel in which he explains his role and experience as a medical physicist. [Read more](#)



PROF EVA BEZAK RECEIVES 2019 INNOVATION GRANT

Congratulations again to Professor Eva Bezak, who has been awarded one of six innovation grants from the Pancreatic Cancer Foundation for her work developing a new radioimmunotherapy agent to selectively target and kill pancreatic cancer cells. [Read more](#)



CAREERS

BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL CAREER SERIES



Dr Kristie Harrison continues our career series by sharing her own professional journey to date.

Kristie is the Chief Medical Physicist for all NSW sites at GenesisCare, and has created a strong network of professional contacts and friends throughout her career. In the past she has contributed to the ACPSEM Board and introduced the ACPSEM Focus newsletter! [Read more](#)

Are you interested in telling others about your career journey? Or would you like to nominate someone? Email communications@acpsem.org.au

VACANCIES

MEDICAL PHYSICS REGISTRAR (RADIATION ONCOLOGY)

Adelaide, SA. Closing 13 Dec 2019

SENIOR MEDICAL PHYSICS SPECIALIST

Melbourne, VIC. Closing: 20 Dec 2019

RESEARCH RADIATION ONCOLOGY MEDICAL PHYSICIST

Melbourne, VIC. Closing: 21 Dec 2019

See all vacancies [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE - NZPEM 2020

9-10 March 2020, Hamilton, NZ

The New Zealand Branch of the ACPSEM invites you to save the date for the annual NZPEM 2020 Conference, to be held in Hamilton, NZ, in March 2020. Registrations and a call for papers will be available from January 2020. [Read more](#)

SAVE THE DATE - IMAGE REGISTRATION WORKSHOP

15 March 2020, Sydney, NSW

Save the date for a Practical Image Registration workshop, run by ACPSEM MIRSIG (Medical Image Registration Special Interest Group). The workshop has been designed to improve image registration skills for Radiation Oncologists, Radiation Therapists and Medical Physicists. [Read more](#)

SAVE THE DATE - EPSM 2020

2-4 November 2020, Brisbane, QLD

Save the date for EPSM 2020 - the Engineering & Physical Sciences in Medicine conference. Keep a look out for updates in the new year.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

We'd love to hear from you! Some ideas for contributions include:

- [Awards and achievements](#) - celebrating our members and their successes
- [Your career background](#) - as part of the Building a Successful Career series
- [Events and activities](#) - promotions or updates within your branch
- [Specialty groups](#) - updates, plans, and group outcomes
- [Reviews and feedback](#) - from industry conferences, events, workshops, etc
- [Pictures and videos](#) - show us your work, your colleagues (with their permission!), your events, or anything else that your work involves!

If you are interested in contributing, please email Kath at communications@acpsem.org.au