



Focus Newsletter - August 2020 Edition

ACPSEM President's Words - Richard Dove



Over the past month Members might have heard about our [EPSM 2020](#) conference going virtual and [registrations opening](#). The conference has been redesigned to meet current restrictions due to COVID-19, and I express a huge thanks to the Brisbane EPSM team (led by Scott Crowe) who has reimagined the EPSM conference in this way. While we will miss the ability to physically network and create casual contacts that EPSM is an amazing platform for, the virtual EPSM will still provide a great opportunity to present and to learn key information and advances happening within our field.

Plus, as a prize for their efforts, the Brisbane team will also get to organise next year's EPSM 2021 conference, which we hope will actually be held physically in Brisbane, QLD!

Also recently announced is the [ACPSEM Mentoring Program 2020](#) (read more below). This program, also adjusted to online solutions, is applicable across a wide range of career stages and objectives. It is rewarding for both those seeking mentoring, and those able to provide it. Get on board and support this.

Additionally, we recently launched our Magnetic Resonance Safety Expert (MRSE) Certification and online course. As suspected there was plenty of demand for this course and unfortunately we couldn't accept all applications for the first round of training.

Lastly, our relationship with our Radiation Therapist colleagues has come under intense scrutiny over the past month and strong opinions have been expressed via the College internal email group. Strong actions have been taken by the ACPSEM President and CEO to represent medical physicists' interests to our colleagues and to Queensland Health officials. No single event or action is going to change long-held beliefs, but we continue to work at it. Our best course of action is to keep communication channels open at clinic, regional and national levels, and to consistently highlight the essential role of medical physicists and radiopharmaceutical scientists across the health sector.

Radiology and Nuclear Medicine (DIMP) Workforce Study and Modelling

In 2018 the ACPSEM acknowledged to the Australian Department of Health the need to create new workforce modelling and survey tools that enable the College to respond as "experts" and on request to questions and queries. Data available now dates back to 2012. This meant replacing the outdated ROMP

modelling tool and developing a radiology and nuclear medicine (DIMP) workforce modelling tool, the latter for the first time. Funding was provided to achieve this.

In early 2019 the ACPSEM accepted a proposal for the development of a DIMP workforce model including a population based health way of reporting to government, and pandemic driven changes to methodology notwithstanding, initial results are being prepared now. Our thanks to Dr Zoe Brady and Luke Wilkinson for leading the project for the ACPSEM, Juntos Marketing and Research Specialists for finding all available public data sources and assisting in developing a population health based framework for speaking to government, and (the now retired) Dr Howell Round - our research assistant engaged to support the project.

Thanks also to the sites that piloted the survey tool and for all our members whose commitment resulted in a 100% response rate. The work to come, including getting additional granularity across radiology and nuclear medicine tasks (including radionuclide therapy) is discussed in greater detail in the link below.

The final step is to present the findings and seek targeted feedback from people across all states, territories and New Zealand and this will be done via an online workshop before the end of the year, as long as Victoria emerges from full lockdown on schedule!

See some initial findings. [Read more](#)

Careers

Building a successful career series



Introducing Joel Poder!

Joel is Chair of the NSW/ACT branch and takes an active role in the College. When he's not working as a Radiation Oncology Medical Physics Specialist or on his PhD, Joel finds time to socialise, visit beaches and scout out local cafes. He also provides advice on the importance of continually learning to stay on top of this evolving industry. [Read more](#)



Prof Dale Bailey, Principal Physicist at the Royal North Shore Hospital, also talks about his career in nuclear medicine physics with the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation, with the aim of getting more young scientists to consider it as a future career path. [Read more](#)

Vacancies

Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physicist

Brisbane QLD | Closing: 7 Sep

Research and Development Radiation Oncology Medical Physics Specialist

Liverpool NSW | Closing: 6 Sep

Audit Support Officer: Radiation Oncology: ACDS-ARPANSA

Melbourne VIC

All vacancies can be found [here](#).

News and Branch Updates

To keep up-to-date on College news and updates, please visit [our news section](#).

IMPORTANT - AHPRA Registration Consultation - please provide your feedback

Thank you to the 307 Members who have responded to the AHPRA Registration Consultation feedback survey, however we still need more responses, ideally from ALL Members. It is very important for us to receive your feedback to determine the College's position and actions in support of a national registration or otherwise. Your feedback and opinions are important to the College, which is why the [survey](#) deadline has been extended to **COB 7 September 2020**. [Submit your feedback](#).

If you would like to provide written submissions, noting the assumptions in section 3 of the [Paper Addressing AHPRA Registration Questions](#),



please address submissions to sharon.flynn@acpsem.org.au with the subject line "Submission - National Registration Consultation no. 2" by cob 7 September 2020.

ACPSEM Mentoring Program

After a successful first cycle of the ACPSEM Mentoring Program, we are pleased to announce the launch of the second cycle starting this October. The program provides an opportunity for ACPSEM Members to become Mentors and Mentees by pairing them up and enabling the exchange of knowledge and confidence building. This year a new platform is being used which will match the most ideal pairs together, and provide you with the structure and resources to help you to get the most out of the program. [Read more](#)



'Should ACPSEM develop its own position papers or just adopt those of the AAPM?' - the inaugural Topical Debate

Tomas Kron and Peter Metcalfe discuss this topic as part of a new regular section in PESH called '*Topical Debate*'. Other Topical Debates include '*The Future of Radiation Therapy is Molecular*' and '*In the future all accredited radiotherapy physicists should have a PhD*'. Suggested topics and contributions are encouraged. [Read more](#)



'Will COVID-19 change the way we teach medical physics post pandemic?'

ACPSEM Members and ACPSEM course coordinators Prof Annette Haworth, Andrew Fielding, Dr Steven Marsh, Dr Alexandre Santos, Prof Peter Metcalfe and Prof Rick Franich, together with Dr Pejman Rowshanfarzad, have released a paper which looks at how medical physics will be taught post COVID-19 in response to a position statement from the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP). [Read more](#)



ROMP CTG Review Update

Earlier this year the Professional Standards Board provided guidance for the Radiation Oncology Certification Panel to undertake the long awaited review of the ROMP TEAP CTG. A project update has been outlined together with the next steps. [Read more](#)



International COVID Imaging Collaboration

Dr Martin Ebert has provided news of an opportunity to contribute to an international collaboration to make use of the power of imaging for helping to manage the impact of COVID-19. The aim is to develop a reliable and improved predictive model for severity of COVID-19 and treatment response. [Read more](#)



AFOMP announce new prize for best published paper

AFOMP have announced a new annual prize for the best paper published in one of their contributory journals. The prize will be awarded to papers demonstrating excellence and originality within medical physics, for both practical and theoretical work. The prize consists of \$400 USD, a certificate and a memento. [Read more](#)



IOMP release June 2020 newsletter

IOMP have released the June 2020 edition of '*Medical Physics World*' which includes reports from the presidents, the science committee, the education and training committee, the awards and honours committee, and more. [Read more](#)



Medical Physics International Journal - special issue

Medical Physics International, the journal of IOMP, have released another special issue of the journal which looks at the history of medical physics. This is the fourth special issue on the topic and includes contributions from a number of authors, including Wui Ann Woon, ACPSEM Member. [Read more](#)



'A World of Physical Science & Coffee' - limited availability!

A limited number of 'A World of Physical Science and Coffee' booklets are still available! This booklet takes an interesting look at the relationship between coffee and physical science, and funds raised will go to the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation. [Read more](#)



Lung Cancer Radiotherapy: The Basics and Complexities

The Better Healthcare Technology Foundation has provided an article on radiotherapy for lung cancer and recent technology improvements being used in more aggressive treatments. [Read more](#)



Targeting a Moving Lung Tumour

Dr Ben Cooper has written some interesting technical information on treating small or moving targets with an X-ray beam and the accompanying patient experience. Find this scientific article on the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation website. [Read more](#)



ROMPs - please consider completing the eviQ survey

Cancer Institute NSW is evaluating radiation oncology content and resources available on eviQ.org.au, and are asking qualified health care professionals in Australia to share how eviQ radiation oncology content and resources are used in clinical practice. Survey results will contribute to quality improvements to the eviQ radiation oncology program and support health care professionals to improve patient outcomes. [Read more](#)

OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards - call for applications

The call for applications for the OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early Career Women Scientists in the Developing World is now open. Applications for the 2021 awards are invited from women scientists working in the Physical Sciences who have lived and worked for at least 5 years in an eligible STLC. Application deadline is 30 September 2020. [Read more](#)

Members

ACPSEM Members innovate safety techniques during COVID-19

Congratulations to the radiology team at The Alfred Hospital, VIC, including ACPSEM Members Zoe Brady, Kyle Ewert and James Crocker, who have published an innovative way to take x-rays through glass for COVID-19 patients. This practice is safer for radiographers, more efficient, and prevents the risk of spread of COVID-19. [Read more](#)



Professor Tomas Kron receives Lifetime Membership Award

Congratulations to ACPSEM Member Professor Tomas Kron who has received a TROG Cancer Research Lifetime Membership Award. Prof Kron has been working alongside TROG Cancer Research for 20 years and TROG has recognised him as being a key contributor in the success of their research and clinical trials.



Dr Michael Jameson wins Elekta Travel Award

Congratulations to ACPSEM Member Dr Michael Jameson who won the 2019 Elekta Travel Award. Michael used the award to attend the *ESTRO Meets Asia* conference and has written a report on his experience. Dr Jameson was selected as an award winner by the Asia Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG) committee. [Read more](#)



[Md Mokarrom Hossain becomes first certified RPS TEAP Registrar](#)

Congratulations to ACPSEM Member Md. Mokarrom Hossain for becoming the very first ACPSEM RPS TEAP Registrar to receive certification. Mokarrom is a Radiopharmaceutical Scientist and will put his certified knowledge to use at the Department of Molecular Imaging at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, NSW.



[Dr Dilli Banjade appointed as Director of Medical Physics](#)

Congratulations to ACPSEM Member Dr Dilli Banjade who has been appointed as the Director of Medical Physics at the Central West Cancer Care Centre (CWCCC) in Orange, where Dilli and his team recently implemented new SABR treatments and increased the utilisation of IMRT/VMAT techniques in this regional centre. We wish Dr Banjade further success in his new role.



[A/Prof Eva Bezak and Prof Tomas Kron provide much-needed support to global colleagues](#)

Thanks to ACPSEM Members A/Prof Eva Bezak and Prof Tomas Kron, alongside Prof Kwan Hoong Ng and Prof Robert Jeraj, who have been sharing their expertise as part of a global e-mentoring scheme. The mentors provided support to medical physicists, postgraduate students and early-career researchers from countries across Latin America and Asia, offering crucial guidance for those in countries where medical physics is just starting to develop. [Read more](#)



[ACPSEM Members author report to guide local DIR adoption and best practice](#)

Several ACPSEM Members have written a report on 'Deforming to Best Practice: Key considerations for deformable image registration in radiotherapy', which looks at image registration processes within radiation oncology. Early adopters have provided best practice advice to help guide those implementing DIR in the clinic at this early stage. Key areas of concern are also reported.

Thanks and congratulations to ACPSEM Members for authoring and contributing to this report: Dr Jeffrey Barber, Johnson Yuen, Dr Michael Jameson, Laurel Schmidt, Dr Jonathan Sykes, Alison Gray, Dr Nicholas Hardcastle, Joel Poder, Ben Archibald-Heeren, Kristie Harrison, Dr Annette Haworth and Dr David Thwaites, and also to Callie Choong. [Read more](#)

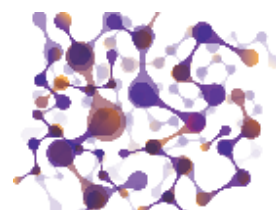
Events

Please be aware that event dates and locations may change due to uncertainty and safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. The event information below was accurate at the time of email delivery, but we advise that you double-check information on upcoming events that you wish to attend, and to keep an eye out for updates.

[EPSM 2020](#)

2-4 November 2020, virtual meeting

Our flagship conference, EPSM 2020 (Engineering & Physical Sciences in Medicine Conference), is planned to go ahead ONLINE this November. EPSM is the premier annual event for medical physicists, biomedical engineers and radiopharmaceutical scientists in Australia and New Zealand. Special earlybird rates currently apply, register for your place now. [Read more](#)



MIRSIG webinar series

The ACPSEM Medical Image Registration Special Interest Group (MIRSIG) is holding a free lunchtime webinar series on the first Tuesday of every month - see the [schedule here](#). Some attendees will be awarded CPD points. Check your inbox for upcoming information.



- **1 September 2020** - *DIR Applications with Case Studies* - presented by Adam Yeo, and *Practical Methods to Account for Previous Treatment* - presented by David Stewart. [Read more](#)

ACPSEM Magnetic Resonance Safety Expert (MRSE) Certification and Online Course

1 September 2020 - 9 March 2021, online course

The inaugural ACPSEM MR Safety Expert (MRSE) online course will run online and include preparatory work in August. Completion of the course will lead to Certification as an ACPSEM MR Safety Expert. Successful applicants will start their course on 1 September 2020. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM NSW/ACT Branch: SRS/SRT Workshop

8 September 2020, virtual meeting

Together with the University of Sydney, the NSW/ACT branch are holding a workshop on Stereotactic Radiosurgery. This event is open to all ACPSEM Members for free, and topics discussed during the workshop include treatment margins, the use of MLCs (rather than cones), and the range of available technology. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM NSW/ACT Branch: Virtual Scientific Webinar

15 September 2020, virtual meeting

The NSW/ACT branch are hosting monthly virtual scientific meetings. The next will be on '*Commissioning and First Experiences with the Elekta Unity MR-Linac*', presented by Michael Jameson and hosted by Zoe Moutrie. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM VIC/TAS Branch Day 2020

18 September 2020, online

The VIC/TAS branch are holding a virtual branch day on 18 September. The event will consist of a number of insightful presentations, exciting discussions and helpful updates. This event is free for ACPSEM VIC/TAS Members and students. [Read more](#)



Nuclear Medicine Specialty Group: Total Body PET webinar

23 September 2020, online

The Nuclear Medicine Specialty Group is hosting a free webinar on '*Total Body PET*', presented by Professor Steven Meikle. Participants will gain an understanding of the science behind the total body PET and learn about the clinical benefits and the work taking place establishing total body PET in Australia. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM WA Branch Scientific Meeting and BBQ

4 October 2020, tbc

The WA Branch are hosting a Branch Scientific Meeting and a barbecue lunch for Saturday 4 October. Further information will be sent out to branch members - please check your emails.



ACPSEM NSW/ACT Branch: Virtual Scientific Meeting

20 October 2020, virtual meeting

The NSW/ACT branch are hosting monthly virtual scientific meetings and the October webinar will be on '*Commissioning and clinical*

implementation of Varian Ethos adaptive therapy', presented by Jeremy Booth and hosted by Joel Poder. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM Summer School 2020

30-31 October 2020, online

We are pleased to announce the ACPSEM Summer School 2020! This year's theme is data-driven healthcare, and looks at how we collect, record and analyse data. This year's Summer School will be held online and will include a number of informative sessions over two days. Learn from experts within the field about this developing area of knowledge.

Summer School is particularly relevant to Registrars (who can attend for free) and for those with an interest within this area. [Read more](#) about the ACPSEM Summer School, including presenters and topics (more information to come), and [click to register](#).



Practical IR workshop: Accounting for previous treatment and replans

19 February 2021, Sydney NSW

An activity based workshop designed to improve image registration skills for Radiation Oncologists, Radiation Therapists and Medical Physicists. Hosted by MIRSIG and run in collaboration with the Trans-Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG). [Read more](#)



ACPSEM National Leadership Workshop

Postponed indefinitely, Brisbane QLD

The 2nd ACPSEM National Leadership Workshop is a members-only event which provides you with the tools to enhance your leadership skills. This year's workshop is currently postponed, but keep your eyes peeled for updates! [Read more](#)



Call for Contributions

We'd love to hear from you!

Hearing news from our members makes us happy! Tell us what you and your colleagues have done recently. Some contribution ideas include:

- [Awards and achievements](#) - celebrating our members and their successes
- [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!

Please contribute by emailing Kath at communications@acpsem.org.au

International Events

AFOMP webinar series continues

AFOMP are continuing their monthly webinar series as part of their 20th anniversary celebrations. The following webinars are coming up, and ACPSEM members will be awarded 2 CPD points for attending - collect yours [here](#).



- **3 September 2020** - *Dosimetry of Small Photon Radiation Fields: Comparison of the IAEA TRA-483 and the German DIN 6809-8 Protocols* - Prof Dr Golam Abu Zakaria - [Read more](#)
- **1 October 2020** - *Establishment of Nuclear Medicine Facility and Radiopharmaceuticals in Nuclear Medicine* - AP Dr Chai Hong Yeong - check your inbox next month for a link

European Association of Nuclear Medicine - Virtual

22-30 October 2020, virtual

The EANM will be held virtually this year and will provide an extensive overview of the latest achievements within pharmaceuticals and radiopharmaceuticals. [Read more](#)



Medlab Asia & Asia Health Conference

28-30 October 2020, Bangkok, Thailand

The Medlab Asia & Asian Health event looks at improving healthcare through laboratory diagnostics, and through the evolution of healthcare in Asia. [Read more](#)

ESTRO 2020

28 November-1 December 2020, Vienna, Austria

ESTRO is a multi-professional society focusing on radiation oncology as a core component of high-quality, multidisciplinary cancer treatment, in partnership with other oncology societies. [Read more](#)



AOCMP, SEACOMP, JSMP, TMPS

3-5 December 2020, Phuket, Thailand

The Asia-Oceania Congress on Medical Physics, South-East Congress of Medical Physics, the Scientific Meeting of Japan Society of Medical Physics and the Annual Meeting of Thai Medical Physicist Society is on the theme of "*Medical Physics - Achievements, Challenges and Horizons*", and will include lectures, workshops, papers and more. [Read more](#)

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