



## Focus Newsletter - October 2020 Edition

### ACPSEM President's Words - Richard Dove



As this newsletter is released the virtual EPSM will be in full swing. The local organising committee in Queensland has taken the change in format and run with it to produce a wonderful virtual replacement for the scheduled Brisbane conference. The bonus of a virtual event is easy attendance, and we have been delighted to provide free attendance to registrars and heavily discounted registration to all ACPSEM Members. In return, Members have registered in record numbers and I expect a great online event.

Normally, on the day prior to EPSM, the College Board meets for a full day to provide time to address some of the bigger issues. This year that was replaced with two virtual meetings which were held last week. The big issue of note was drawing the national registration (AHPRA) consultation to a conclusion.

The case for AHPRA registration of medical physicists in Australia was widely supported by members in the survey and in feedback submitted. Feedback did, however, highlight concerns about the registered title and scope of practice, and transition arrangements particularly for those currently not registered.

Having considered all the submissions and discussed the environment at length the Board was confident to push forward with the next stage toward registration. This will mean preparing a position paper describing the case for registering medical physicists and addressing the title, scope and transitional details. We aim to complete this by the second quarter of 2021. National mandatory registration will be a watershed event for the profession so we need to build a strong case, a case that supports and grows the profession, and a process that is fair to the existing workforce.

The New Zealand situation was less clear and the operation of New Zealand national registration (HPCAA) was less well understood. The Board therefore decided that further research was required and that following this it is likely NZ members will be consulted further before committing to further steps. And for the RPS community, the Board considered that the certification and registration processes were just completing a start-up phase so it was too soon to apply for national registration.

**Have a great EPSM 2020 and see you online! Remember to use the conference hashtag: #EPSM2020.**

PS, 7 November is the International Day of Medical Physics! Share your medical physics celebrations on our social media channels - links at the bottom of this email.

# ROMP TEAP CTG Review

As you would be aware, earlier this year the PSB provided guidance for the Radiation Oncology Certification Panel to undertake the long awaited review of the ROMP TEAP CTG.

We are pleased to inform you that the ACPSEM has now received the final report from Amplexa Consulting and that marks the end of the review phase. Thanks very much to everyone that contributed and provided valuable feedback on the CTG.

Recommendations have been developed based on a combined analysis of -

- The findings of the investigative desktop review,
- The outcomes of the consultation process; and
- Consideration of how the training program can be renewed to better meet the Australian Medical Council (AMC) accreditation standards for medical education providers.

They highlight how the CTG can be improved, making it adaptable to changing technologies and medical advances, while providing a sound and standardised platform for training and education that would assist ACPSEM to maintain the ROMP Training, Education and Assessment Program (TEAP) as a world-class program for training ROMPs.

The recommendations will inform the second stage of the CTG Review project: the 'renewal phase'. We feel confident that we will be able to meet the needs of stakeholders, demonstrate best practice medical education and position the ROMP TEAP to be more closely aligned to the AMC standards for medical education.

## Next Steps

Directions for Phase 2 commencement will be decided and communicated to stakeholders shortly.

Whilst we are very excited to be able to update our CTG, please be assured that implementation of these changes will be carefully considered and phased in so as not to adversely impact any registrars, supervisors or training departments.

As we strive to attain a gold standard in training, we will continue to work with you all, keeping you updated and involved in the renewal phase of the project.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please get in touch with Brendan ([brendan.hill@acpsem.org.au](mailto:brendan.hill@acpsem.org.au)) or Claire ([claire.dempsey@acpsem.org.au](mailto:claire.dempsey@acpsem.org.au)).

## Expressions of interest invited from ROMPs to participate in determining ACPSEM position regarding the publication of ARPANSA Code C5

In early 2020 the ACPSEM Board discussed and agreed on an appropriate response to the publication by ARPANSA of The Code for Radiation Protection in Medical Exposure (2019) (RPS C-5). Work was delayed given the impact of the pandemic, but the project has been reinstated. Work had already begun on DIMP-related aspects of a response inclusive of contributions to a position paper and other recommendations (opportunities) to the Board and now the intention is to consider radiation oncology.

Action to adequately include a ROMP perspective in the proposed paper is now being initiated. The purpose of the position paper will include:

- Influencing, at national level, Code of Practice ratification, its interpretation and implementation,
- Consideration of the harmonization of C-5 to other safety guides and requirements, and
- Advocacy for safe patient outcomes in the development, application and interpretation of the C5 Code.

This is an opportunity to bring your clinical experience to the table to influence the discussion of national standards.

If you have already developed a perspective on the potential impact and opportunities flowing from the

publication of the C5 Code, on radiation oncology medical physics, you are invited to express interest in participating in a short term working group to flesh out ROMP-related perspectives on the C5 code.

This short duration (3-4 meetings) working group will meet online from December 2020 to March 2021. In your application please:

- outline your reason for expressing interest, including
- a statement describing the experience and perspective you would bring to the working group, and
- feel free to include as part of your response talking points for the group to consider.

Please express your interest in this working group by emailing [Susie.zhong@acpsem.org.au](mailto:Susie.zhong@acpsem.org.au) by COB 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

For those not wishing to join the group but nevertheless with an opinion to express, please feel free to email the CEO Sharon Flynn at any time [Sharon.flynn@acpsem.org.au](mailto:Sharon.flynn@acpsem.org.au).

## Careers

### Building a successful career series



#### Introducing Claire Dempsey!

Dr Claire Dempsey is a Senior ROMP Specialist, an Assistant Professor of Medical Physics at the University of Washington (USA), a Conjoint A/Prof at the University of Newcastle (Aus), an ACPSEM TEAP Coordinator Team Leader, a deputy editor-in-chief for the PESH journal, and works on an Educational Team.

You can understand why the ACPSEM office calls Claire a superhuman! Read about how Claire got into medical physics and how she juggles so many different professional priorities. [Read more](#)

### Vacancies

[Medical Physics Specialist](#)  
Perth, WA

[Medical Physics Registrar](#)  
Adelaide, SA

[Senior Nuclear Medicine Physicist Specialist](#)  
Woden, ACT | Closing: 6 Nov

[Principal Medical Physicist / Kaiahupūngao Hauora Mātāmua Radiation Oncology](#)  
Wellington, NZ

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

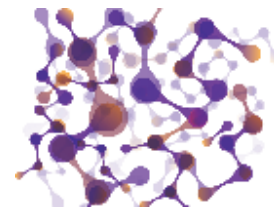
## News and Branch Updates

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

### EPSM 2020 - now live!

EPSM 2020 (Engineering & Physical Sciences in Medicine) is now LIVE. Join the conference online and keep up-to-date on presentations and activities on our social media channels using the hashtag #EPSM2020.

Also keep your eyes peeled for announcements from the Photography in Medical Physics awards and the winner of the #APSIGFunRun artwork.



### Introducing the 2021 ACPSEM Board of Directors

The ACPSEM is pleased to introduce the Board of Directors for 2021. After a call for nominations four vacant positions were filled, as follows:

- Lucy Cartwright - *re-elected*
- Kym Rykers - *re-elected*
- Ben Hug
- Andy Cousins



These directors will join five continuing directors to form the 2021 ACPSEM Board of Directors: Mikey Bernardo, Richard Dove, Kevin Hickson, Ivan Williams, and Rosemary Peavey. [Read more](#)

### Quick summaries of the new board directors

- **Ben Hug** is a Principal Physicist at 5D Clinics, WA, with an interest in the current review of potential AHPRA registration. Ben is motivated to give his time and expertise back to the College with the aim of assisting in shaping future frameworks. Ben was also previously the WA branch secretary for 2 years.
- **Andy Cousins** is a Radiation Oncology Physics Team Leader at Christchurch Hospital, NZ, with a varied experience across different radiation and safety regulatory regimes which he plans to bring to the Board. Additionally, Andy was previously Vice Chair and Chair of the NZ branch (2016-18), and was part of the branch review working group as the NZ representative.

To find out more about our existing, re-elected and continuing board members, [read more](#)

### Announcing the 2021 ACPSEM Professional Standards Board

According to the Professional Standards Board (PSB) Policy, the following members have been elected/appointed to the PSB with 2 years' term of office from 2021:

- **Emily Simpson-Page** - Registrar Representative
- **James Rijken** - Early Career Member Representative
- **Ben Cooper** - ACPSEM Member in other specialties
- **Haskali Mohammad** - ACPSEM Certified/Registered Member in Radiopharmaceutical Science

These members will join the continuing PSB Members for 2021:

- **Christine Thompson** - PSB Chair
- **Paul Keall** - Fellow Representative
- **Rochelle McCredie** - ACPSEM Certified/Registered Member in DIMP
- **Nikki Shelton** - ACPSEM Certified/ Registered Member in ROMP
- **Stephanie Corde** - ACPSEM Certified/Registered Member in ROMP
- **Kurt Byrnes** - Registrar Rep appointment extended to assist with current projects with no voting rights.

The President would like to express the thanks of ACPSEM Members to the following outgoing members who have served on the PSB. They have willingly given up their time and contributed their skills and ideas to further the aims of ACPSEM:

- Scott Crowe
- Madhava Bhat
- Bess Sutherland

### Introducing Sheridan Ahearn - ACPSEM Education Manager

Welcome to Sheridan Ahearn, ACPSEM's Education Manager. Sheridan will oversee the support, development and delivery of education and assessment across all College TEAPs. Sheridan has a background in examination and assessment, medical training programs, trainee and examiner selection, management and pastoral care and College based accreditation. Sheridan also practices as a Clinical Midwife.



### ACPSEM Software Development Task Group - call for EOIs

The ACPSEM is forming a Software Development Task Group to produce guidelines on best practice for software development, maintenance and safe sharing of software between institutions. This is an emerging important aspect of medical physics, and all members are welcome to apply. See the email from Susie Zhong (22 Oct) for further information on estimated commitments and how to submit an expression of interest.



### ACPSEM seeks DIMP TEAP MCQ writers

We are seeking multiple short-term appointments for up to six months for suitably qualified Diagnostic Imaging Medical Physicists (DIMPs) to develop multiple choice questions for the DIMP TEAP Part I exam. This project will be done in collaboration with the Australian Council for Educational Research. Members should refer to their emails for further information on these paid positions.



### Take on the DIR Challenge

The ACPSEM Medical Image Registration Special Interest Group (MIRSIG) are hosting a Deformable Image Registration (DIR) Challenge - the first of its kind in Australia and New Zealand. The challenge aims to assess variations in DIR results, and everyone is encouraged to participate. One challenge participant will win \$200! [Read more](#)



### ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch scientific meetings

The NSW/ACT branch has been hosting a number of successful lunchtime webinars on a range of topics. The most recent were:

- *Commissioning and First Experiences with the Elekta Unity MR-Linac* - presented by Michael Jameson in September to almost 150 physicists.
- *Commissioning and clinical implementation of Varian Ethos adaptive therapy* - presented by Jeremy Booth in October.

Upcoming events are listed on the [events page](#) and are open to all ACPSEM members. The Branch would like to thank all presenters. If you are interested in presenting next year please contact Zoe Moutrie.



### ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch SRS/SRT workshop

On 8 September the NSW/ACT branch hosted a virtual SRS/SRT workshop with over 200 delegates attending from across Australia and New Zealand. The organising committee would like to thank the speakers for their time and excellent content, the workshop sponsors (Elekta, Varian and Brainlab) for their support, and all who attended. [Read more](#)



### ACPSEM Vic/Tas branch day

On 18 September the Vic/Tas branch held their first branch day. The virtual event included a varied program which attracted 98 attendees and positive feedback. The program included:

- *Depth dose profiles measured in champagne and other delights of working at the Australian Synchrotron* - presented by Daniel Häusermann
- *Medical physics in Asia - the ups, the downs and the surprises* - presented by Anne Perkins and Nikki Shelton
- *Professionalism in Medical Physics: What this means for YOU!* - presented by Ivan Williams

The branch day was attended by a broad spectrum of specialties and the Vic/Tas branch are looking into the option of running this event again.



### ACPSEM WA branch scientific meeting

On 17 October the WA branch held their annual branch scientific meeting (BSM) which included a mix of presentations from students and staff. The branch would like to congratulate the prize winners:

- Jake Kendrick - **Best Presentation** for *Utilising convolutional neural networks to perform automated segmentation of metastatic prostate lesions in 68Ga-PSMA PET/CT*



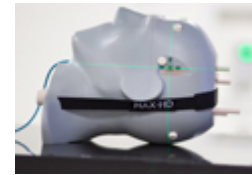


- Kai Metzner - the **John Black Student Prize** for *Development of a quantitative optical coherence elastography probe for preterm birth prediction*

The WA BSM typically includes a guest speaker presenting on topics from outside of everyday medical physics and engineering work. This year's guest presentation was *Hydrogen as an energy storage material* by Dr Terry Humphries, a Research Fellow at Curtin University.

### It's time to vote for the Photography in Medical Physics Award

The public vote is now OPEN for the 2020 Public PiMP Award. Pick your three favourite images and vote using the link on the bottom left of the image page. New this year is the "caption this" competition, check it out on the voting page and get creative! Voting will close at 5pm (AEST) on 3 November 2020. [Read more](#)



PS, watch out for a limited edition calendar with finalist images. Funds raised will support the Asia-Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG).

### Proton Therapy is coming - new webinars soon

Julie McCrossin has announced new proton therapy webinars coming soon. They will look at improving the experience for patients and their families, and how interior rooms and service systems should be designed for radiation treatments of all kinds. [Read more](#)



### Budget cuts across Australia impacting research and funding

Read how university budget cuts are making a huge impact on funding and what that means for research in Australia. ACPSEM Member Professor Eva Bezak provides insight on how this also affects the non-government and charitable sectors. [Read more](#)



### Updates from the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation and APSIG



A number of things are happening within the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation. Here are some highlights:

- A new Chair of the BHT Foundation Board and a number of new committee members are in place.
- The Asia-Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG) changed the format of the annual fun run to ensure it's COVID-19 compliant. This year's fun run included digital artwork by GPS tracking your exercise. See the entries on social media: **#APSIGFunRun**.
- On 1 November the BHT Foundation hosted their annual trivia night at EPSM.
- APSIG overseas volunteer assignments have been put on hold, but APSIG are looking for volunteers to provide webinars, training videos, teaching resources and mentoring opportunities for colleagues in low-to-middle income countries.
- Keep up-to-date on BHT Foundation news and content by signing up for updates on the website ([www.betterhealthcaretechnology.org](http://www.betterhealthcaretechnology.org)) and searching for them on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

For more information on these updates, [read more](#)

### e-Learning during the COVID-19 pandemic

Some of our AFOMP colleagues have publishing a paper on "Teaching and learning of postgraduate medical physics using Internet-based e-learning during the COVID-19 pandemic - A case study from Malaysia", relating to the Master of Medical Physics Programme at the University of Malaya during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)



## IOMP: medical physics contributions during COVID-19

Dr Chai Hong Yeong, on behalf of IOMP, is compiling photos of medical physicists during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please consider contributing to this initiative by submitting a photo of yourself wearing a mask whilst standing in front of a CT scanner, mobile x-ray or doing the TPS, or attending an online medical course or webinar. Photos will be displayed in a video at IDMP2020. [Read more](#)



## Lung Cancer Radiotherapy: new X-ray beam targeting techniques

Dr Ben Cooper has written a scientific and technical article for the Better Health Technology Foundation which looks at stereotactic treatments during lung cancer radiotherapy, focusing on new x-ray beam targeting techniques. [Read more](#)



## Radiotherapy: EPID position errors of small multi-leaf X-ray fields

Joshua Hiatt has written an overview of a prize-winning journal article titled "*MLC Positioning Verification for Small Fields: A New Investigation into Automatic EPID-based Verification Methods*". The scientific and technical overview article for the Better Health Technology Foundation looks at multi-leaf collimators in stereotactic techniques. [Read more](#)



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

A few copies of the '*A World of Physical Science and Coffee*' booklets are available, revealing an interesting look at the relationship between coffee and physical science. Funds raised will go to the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation. [Read more](#)



## Members

### Dr Howell Round receives prestigious medical physics award

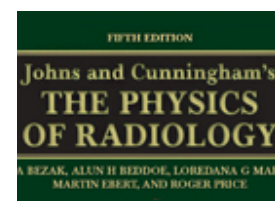
Congratulations to ACPSEM Member Dr Howell Round for being selected as one of AFOMP's "Outstanding Medical Physicists from AFOMP region" award, which recognises Dr Round's contribution to medical physics education, training, research and professional development in the AFOMP region. Dr Howell Round was selected from 36 nominations received from 14 countries, comprising of some of the most outstanding members of the medical physics field. [Read more](#)



See all 21 AFOMP awardees and further information about the Outstanding Medical Physicist Award [here](#).

### ACPSEM Members update respected medical physics textbook

Congratulations to ACPSEM Members Prof Eva Bezak, Prof Alun Beddoe, Prof Martin Ebert, Prof Roger Price and also to Prof Loredana Marcu for releasing the 5th edition of the Johns and Cunningham's "The Physics of Radiology" textbook. This respected textbook has been used as a reference tool for medical physicists since 1953, and encompasses advancements, new ideas and information from this rapidly developing field.



Thanks to the team of co-authors for their dedication in revising and updating the textbook for the use and benefit of current and future practitioners and students.

### Dr Wilson and Prof Bezak support PhD student to receive valuable research funding

Congratulations to ACPSEM Members Dr Puthenparampil Wilson and Prof Eva Bezak for working alongside Dr Michala Short in supervising PhD student Mikaela Dell'Oro as the lead researcher of *Reducing developmental disorders and other side effects with novel proton radiation treatment for children with brain cancers*. Mikaela's research has been awarded research funding by the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation which focusses on improving the physical and psychological health of children.



This shows how support from medical physicists of all levels can help to make a fundamental and positive difference to patients of all ages. [Read more](#)

### Chuan-Dong Wen Included in the Small Business Leaders 2020

Congratulations to ACPSEM member Chuan-Dong Wen who has been included in the this year's Small Business Leaders top 50. Innovator Chuan-Dong Wen has created and developed a medical device that seeks to enhance and improve medical imaging and radiotherapy treatment of conditions such breast cancer and lung cancer. [Read more](#)



### Updates from the ACPSEM office

Congratulations to our members who have been awarded certifications, registrar status, and have entered onto the Qualified Medical Physicist and Radiopharmaceutical Scientist Register. [Read more](#) to see the list.



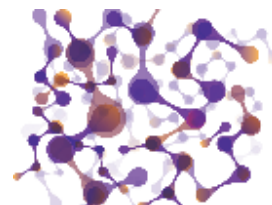
## Events

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, online**

Our flagship conference, EPSM 2020 (Engineering & Physical Sciences in Medicine Conference), is HAPPENING NOW. Get involved using the hashtag [#EPSM2020](#) and see conference updates across our social media channels (links at the bottom of this email!).



EPSM is the premier annual event for medical physicists, biomedical engineers and radiopharmaceutical scientists in Australia and New Zealand. [Read more](#)

### ACPSEM Specialty Group, Special Interest Group Annual Meeting and TEAP Workshop

**4 November 2020, online**

You are invited to attend the ACPSEM Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020 on 4 November at 13:30 AEST (QLD local time). If you have registered for EPSM you will be able to login to the EPSM Virtual Platform to attend the AGM. No further action is required. Due to COVID-19 the ACPSEM has extended the opportunities and access to the SG/SIG annual meetings and the TEAP workshops to all members. [Read more](#)



### ACPSEM MIRSIG: annual meeting

**4 November 2020, online**

The ACPSEM Medical Image Registration Special Interest Group (MIRSIG) are holding their annual meeting at 10:30am AEST via the EPSM 2020 Conference Platform. For MIRSIG members only. [Read more](#)





### ACPSEM QLD branch social event

**4 November 2020, Brisbane QLD**

After EPSM the QLD branch will be hosting a social event at Darling and Co. in Brisbane. This will be a great (and now somewhat rare) opportunity for members to see each other face-to-face. The event starts at 6pm and interested members should RSVP to Emma Whittle.



### AFOMP: International Day of Medical Physics

**7 November 2020, online**

As part of IOMP's International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP 2020), AFOMP are hosting a celebratory event. IDMP is celebrated annual to recognise the contribution of medical physicists in healthcare, and this year's theme is "Medical Physicist as Health Professional". The virtual event includes a number of talks including one from ACPSEM Member Prof Eva Bezak. Join the celebrations at 6-8pm AEDT (3-5pm AWST, 5-7pm AEST, 8-10pm NZDT). [Read more](#)



### ACPSEM MIRSIG: Evaluating DLCEXpert: Mirada's deep learning contouring model

**10 November 2020, online**

The ACPSEM Medical Image Registration Special Interest Group (MIRSIG) are continuing their online webinars on 10 November 13:00-14:00 AEDT with a talk on *Evaluating DLCEXpert: Mirada's deep learning contouring model* by Laurel Schmidt and Eddie Gibbons. Nb, this is a CPD accredited webinar and is free for ACPSEM Members. [Read more](#)



### ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch - MedPhys20

**15 December 2020, online**

The MedPhys sub-committee of the ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch are hosting this virtual event, and postgraduate medical physics students and TEAP registrars are invited to submit abstracts for presentation. Prizes will be offered and registration is free for all ACPSEM Members and postgraduate students. Please check your emails for further information.



### ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch annual meeting

**15 December 2020, online**

The ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch annual meeting (AM) is taking place after MedPhys20 and will be run virtually. The Branch will communicate details regarding a social function (or virtual replacement) closer to the time - keep an eye on your emails.



### ACPSEM QLD branch - PRIMPS 32

**December 2020, tbc**

The ACPSEM QLD branch are hosting their next PRIMPS event (PRIMPS 32) in December. PRIMPS (Progress and Research in Medical Physics Series) is a regular informal community meeting that allows branch members to present work to a group of their peers, and has been running for over 10 years. Keep a look out for details.



### 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](#)



## 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](mailto:communications@acpsem.org.au)

## International Events

### 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](#)

# ESTRO

### 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](#)

## Let's Get Social



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