



Focus Newsletter - December 2020 Edition



The ACPSEM head office will be closed over the festive period from 24 December 2020 until 4 January 2021. We look forward to seeing you in the near year.

ACPSEM President's Words - Richard Dove



In opening this last ACPSEM newsletter of 2020 I want to acknowledge the members and staff who have worked with dedication throughout 2020 to ensure the College remained vibrant and relevant in this difficult environment. As with every other workplace, the College has had to adapt both the way it has worked and the product it has delivered.

During 2020 the Particle Therapy Working Group continued to work toward this exciting new technology for the region. Associated with this is a fellowship to help develop the local skill base. While the initial fellowship visit to the USA has been postponed due to COVID-19 we remain hopeful for 2021. Also launched was the MR Linac Working Group to support the uptake of MRI-Linacs. With the growth in both diagnostic MRI and MRI-Linacs a need for more safety expertise was recognised and a MR Safety Expert (MRSE) certification was launched. The first intake to this course continues to work their way through the training material.

The way we all do professional development also changed in 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. Once we got through the initial shock of March/April, professional development quickly moved online. The ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch and MIRSIG have been particularly active with regular online content which many members have enjoyed. Other branches and specialty groups have also delivered webinars and online CPD, with a total recorded attendance of almost 2,500 participants throughout the year. In addition to this, the two key ACPSEM CPD events ran online - Summer School (112 participants) and EPSM (424 participants). None of these events ran themselves, so I circle back to acknowledging the dedication of all those who put in effort to make these events work.

In January I will hand over the role of President after three years in the position. That time has been stimulating and at times challenging. I have been rewarded by seeing the programs of the College mature and expand. I have had the opportunity to work with many members who inevitably brought enthusiasm and ambition for our College. With this internal drive to develop, the ACPSEM will continue building.

I wish all members an enjoyable summer. I'm sure everyone feels they've earned that.

Mandatory Registration and AHPRA

A Members' update on Friday 30th October 2020 outlined the decisions of the Board with respect to mandatory registration, plotting separate actions for Australia and New Zealand. A link to this October Members' update is provided [here](#).

The Terms of Reference for the Australian Working Group responsible for the development of the Australian Position Paper are [here](#).

It was aimed to complete the Australian Position paper before the end of March 2021 but after consultation with the sonographers (who are just going through the process now in Australia) the date has been extended to 31 May 2021.

Additional fact finding and feasibility discussion of NZ registration options will be undertaken by the CEO and NZ Branch between now and March 2021, enabling a report to the Board by March 2021 and a decision made soon after. The CEO will develop a plan with the branch executive before the end of January 2021

Careers

Building a successful career series



Introducing Dr Dilli Banjade!

Dr Dilli Banjade has provided an enchanting career profile demonstrating that rural living is not a barrier to success.

Dilli talks about his humble roots - he hadn't seen a motor vehicle or electricity until his 8th grade at school, let alone the internet! - and explains measures he and his team

have put in place to ensure that people living outside of metropolitan areas receive the best patient care, regardless of where they live. [Read more](#)

Vacancies

Radiation Oncology Medical Physicist - Senior

Woolloongabba, QLD | Closing: 4 Jan

Senior Medical Physicist

Dunedin, NZ | Closing: 31 Jan

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](#).

Farewell to Angela Wong

Angela Wong, ACPSEM Membership Officer, will be retiring from her role at the end of this year. We would like to thank Angela for her hard work throughout her time at the College.

Many of you will have been in contact with Angela over the years, but you may be unaware that she's been at ACPSEM for over 13 years. Angela started as the ROMP TEAP Administrator back in 2007 where she worked with Steve Howlett and Kristie Harrison to roll-out the ROMP TEAP under Carol James, Manager at the time and Lyn Oliver, President. Angela was responsible for the DIMP TEAP rollout in late 2013 with John Cormack and RPS TEAP rollout with Jennifer Guille in 2015. 2.5 years ago she moved across to the membership team.

Angela has enjoyed the diversity and challenges within her roles, and says she's met many wonderful people and enjoyed her time working at the College. Please join us in wishing Angela a happy and relaxing retirement.



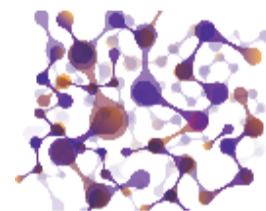
EPSM 2020 - a quick recap

A big thank you to all attendees, contributors and sponsors of EPSM 2020 (the Engineering & Physical Sciences in Medicine conference) who helped to make the first virtual conference a successful one!

EPSM is the premier annual event for medical physicists, biomedical engineers and radiopharmaceutical scientists in Australia and New Zealand. This year's virtual EPSM attracted 424 participants from 20 countries, and included 75 speakers and dozens of oral abstracts and poster abstracts. [See all the stats here](#).

You can see a full list of presentations and speakers [here](#).

Save the date for EPSM 2021 - taking place in person on 7-10 November 2021 in Brisbane, QLD.



Australian "Supporting Medical Physicist (including RPS)" Grants

Reminder: the 2021 grant round opened this month. Applications are due by 20 February 2021. Grant lengths vary from 1-3 years and in early 2021 the ACPSEM will determine if particular disciplines are given priority. Successful applicants will be announced by early March 2021. Please keep a look out for updates. [Read more](#) and see useful documentation below:

- [Grant guide and application form](#)
- [Grant contract](#)



Call for nominations for the SA/NT Branch Committee

A call for nominations is open for the following ACPSEM SA/NT Branch Committee 2021 positions:

- SA/NT Branch Chair
- 1 Finance Member
- 1 General Member



Terms are for 2 years and the deadline is COB 13 January. Please send a short EOI to James Rijken and Matthew Jennings, and send any questions to Susie Zhong. Further information is in an email sent on 18 December.

ACPSEM Software Development Task Group

The ACPSEM Software Development Task Group was established to produce College-tailored guidelines on best practice software development and maintenance, and the safe sharing of software between institutions. The Task Group is pleased to announce its members. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM Annual Report - 2019-2020

The ACPSEM 2019-2020 Annual Report is available to view, and includes messages from the President and CEO, the Board of Directors and the Branch Chairs. There are also a number of reports and reviews of College and branch activities from the past financial year. [Read more](#)



Sign up for or renew your ESTRO Affiliate Membership

Did you know that ACPSEM members are eligible for a discounted ESTRO membership? ACPSEM and ESTRO signed a reciprocated agreement in December 2018 which enabled our members to obtain an ESTRO Affiliate Membership at a reduced rate. To start or renew your ESTRO membership, [read more](#)



Updates and awards from APSIG

At EPSM, the [Asia-Pacific Special Interest Group](#) (APSIG) hosted an exciting virtual trivia night and revealed the highly anticipated results of the APSIG Fun Run competition. This year's trivia night was won by "Team Axis" from Melbourne - congratulations team! The APSIG Fun Run changed format this year to make it COVID safe, and instead involved innovate Strava Art designs. Three categories received awards - congratulations to all winners:



- The best long course - won by Peta Lonski and Tomas Kron from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne
- The best short course - won by Max Hanlon and colleagues at Team Quality Melbourne
- The popular vote - won by Sir Charles Gairdner Radiation Oncology Team, Perth

[See the winning entries](#). These events and the Photography in Medical Physics calendar (below) raise funds which go towards increasing the patient-care capacity of radiotherapy services in under-resourced countries across Asia-Pacific.

You voted in the photography awards - now get the calendar

The winners of the Photography in Medical Physics Awards 2020 [were announced at EPSM](#) - congratulations to all winners! You can purchase a limited edition calendar with images from the finalists. Funds raised will support the Asia-Pacific Special Interest Group (APSIG). [Read more](#)



ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch MedPhys20

On 15 December the NSW/ACT branch held their 15th Student Research and Education Symposium which featured a full day of over 30 presentations and student prize committee meetings. The event concluded with the NSW/ACT branch AGM. Thank you to all who attended and to the sponsors of this event: DTect Innovation, alphaXRT and the University of Sydney.



ACPSEM QLD branch social event and EPSM trivia night

After EPSM the QLD branch hosted a social event offering members a rare opportunity to see each other face-to-face. The branch also put forward teams for the EPSM trivia night where funds were raised in support of APSIG. [See the pictures here](#)



International Day of Medical Physics 2020

For the International Day of Medical Physics (IDMP) 2020 on 7 November, IOMP celebrated with a video which includes messages from the President, a look back at recent celebrations and insights from partnering organisations. [Watch it here](#)



The IOMP Women Group also hosted a special IDMP webinar on 1 December: '*Challenges and Contribution for Women in STEM: Medical Physics*' which ACPSEM Member Prof Eva Bezak took part in. [Read more](#)

AFOMP host virtual awards ceremony

On 17 December 2020, AFOMP conducted a special virtual awards ceremony. See all the winners and all IUPESM Fellow recipients from the AFOMP region in the celebratory video. [Watch it here](#)



ESTRO 2021 Radiobiology Course - cancelled

Please be advised that the 2021 ESTRO Radiobiology Course has been cancelled due to border closures within Australia. As the content of the course cannot be taught online ESTRO plan to run the course in 2022.



Have you ever wondered how a linac is installed?

Wonder no more! ACPSEM Member Dr Sean Geoghegan has recorded a step-by-step account of the intricacies of the delivery of a new linac in Adelaide. Be prepared to be amazed by all the components and the man and machine power which goes into installing linacs. You may even see some pretty sunrise shots too! [Read more](#)

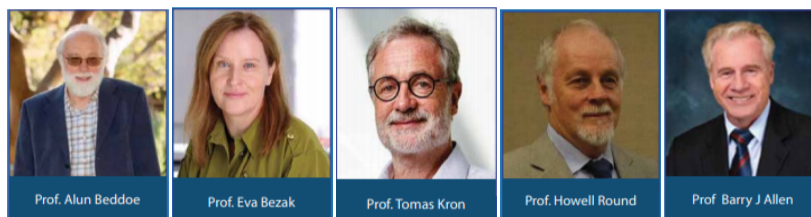


Members

ACPSEM Members receive inaugural IUPESM Fellowship Awards

We wish to extend a well-deserved congratulations and honourable mention to five ACPSEM Members who have been awarded the Inaugural Fellowship from IUPESM:

- Prof Alun Beddoe
- Prof Eva Bezak
- Prof Tomas Kron
- Prof Howell Round
- the late Prof Barry J Allen



The Fellows were chosen due to their prominence and international leadership within our profession over the last 40 years, and the fellowship pays tribute to the important work done by our professions within healthcare.

The Fellows and their families were congratulated at a virtual ceremony on 20 Nov 2020. See the full list of all IUPESM Inaugural Fellows [here](#). Congratulations all! [Read more](#)

ACPSEM Distinguished Services Award - 2019 & 2020

Congratulations to Anne Perkins and Andrew Campbell for receiving the ACPSEM Distinguished Services Award! The annual award acknowledges members who have made an outstanding contribution to the College over many years, and was established in 2001. **Dr Andrew Campbell** has been awarded for 2019, and **Anne Perkins** has been awarded for 2020. Congratulations to Andrew and Anne, and thank you to both for their ongoing contributions to the College.



Better Healthcare Technology Awards & the Kenneth Clarke Journal Award 2020 winners

In case you missed it, here are the notable winners of the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation Awards 2020.

- Boyce Worthley Early Career Award - **A/Prof Scott Crowe**
- PhD Award - **Dr Giordano Biasi**
- 2020 David Robinson Award for Innovation - **Juliette Harley**
 - An honorable mention also goes to **Seonaid Rodgers**
- Kenneth Clarke Journal Award 2020 - **A/Prof Tanya Kairn** and **A/Prof Scott Crowe**



Congratulations to all award winners. [Read more](#) to find out why the awardees were chosen and more about the individual awards.

Changing the future of people living with cancer

Congratulations to ACPSEM Director Dr Nataalka Suchowska, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse's Director of Physics Research and Education, who formed part of the team celebrating the new Sarcoma and Surgical Research Centre in Sydney. The research centre is home to a new laser sintering 3D printer which will be used to create and grow implants from a patients' tissue and bone - outside of their body. [Read more](#)



UWA group receives perfect student feedback score

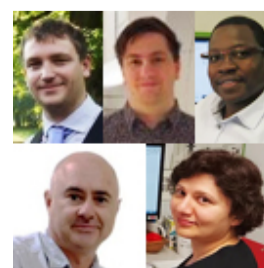
Several ACPSEM Members, including Prof Martin Ebert, Dr Marco Marcello, Brendon Wright, Jake Kendrick, Brani Rusanov, Warwick Smith, Rikki Nezich, Seonaid Rodgers and colleagues form part of the University of Western Australia Medical Physics Group which has recently received a perfect score in all 6 SURFR (student feedback) categories. This is the fifth time this has happened since 2019, and the team are proud of the high quality teaching and student satisfaction. Congratulations team!



ACPSEM Members write paper on kV imaging systems

Congratulations to ACPSEM members Prof Martin Ebert, Brendon Wright, Godfrey Mukwada, Simon Goodall and A/Prof Mahsheed Sabet, and also to Ghulam Mubashar Hassan and Pejman Rowshanfarzad, who have written a paper on 'Comprehensive investigation into the stability of Varian and Elekta kV imaging systems during arc delivery'.

The paper looks at radiotherapy treatments utilising accelerator gantry rotation and gantry-mounted kV imaging systems and their integral use in treatment verification. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM Members present at AOCMP/SEACOMP 2020

Recently, ACPSEM members Prof Eva Bezak, Prof Tomas Kron and Dr Siva Sarasanandarajah presented and facilitated at the AOCMP/SEACOMP 2020 congress, where a number of medical physics societies from across Asia, and several international speakers, came together for the congress. Our thanks to Eva, Tomas and Siva for their efforts supporting this event. [Read more](#)



Prof Eva Bezak takes part in international women's celebration

Congratulations to Prof Eva Bezak who took part in an IDMP celebration event 'Challenges and Contribution for Women in STEM: Medical Physics' where she spoke on the 'Inspiring Motivational Speech for the Young Generations' segment of the webinar. Thank you to Eva for her continued involvement in so many parts of our industry, and for representing both women and Australia in this special celebratory event. [Read more](#)



Prof David Thwaites releases editorial on Particle Therapy

Well done to Prof David Thwaites and colleagues who have written editorial on *Particle Therapy in Australia: iacta alea est!* (the die is cast). The editorial looks at the site preparation being done for The Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research in South Australia, alongside manuscripts on particle therapy (PT) and the journey to delivering PT to Australia thus far. [Read more](#)



Prof David Thwaites and colleagues have also written review articles on [Particle therapy tumour outcomes: An updated systematic review](#) and [Particle therapy toxicity outcomes: A systematic review](#). Congratulations to Prof Thwaites on his recent published works.

ACPSEM represented at National Particle Therapy Symposium

ACPSEM Members Prof Tomas Kron, Dr Scott Penfold and colleagues took part in the National Particle Therapy Symposium on 10-11 December, hosted by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne. Prof Tomas Kron sat on the organising committee and Dr Scott Penfold formed part of a team presenting on *Particle Therapy in ANZ - The view of the professions: RANZCR, ASMIRT, ACPSEM*. Thank you to Tomas and Scott for their efforts and for taking part in this event.



Dr Scott Penfold writes article on proton vs photon treatment

Well done to Dr Scott Penfold and colleagues who have written an article on *Comparative proton versus photon treatment planning for the Medicare Medical Treatment Overseas Program: The Royal Adelaide Hospital experience*. The article aims to provide a descriptive overview of the proton vs photon treatment planning process ahead of the opening of The Australian Bragg Centre for Proton Therapy and Research. [Read more](#)



Prof Martin Ebert investigates MV radiation isocentre calculations

Prof Martin Ebert and colleagues at UWA have written an intriguing article on *Investigation of the accuracy of MV radiation isocentre calculations in the Elekta cone-beam CT software XVI*. The article aims to evaluate the accuracy of the software tool for MV radiation isocentre calculation as delivered by Elekta using independent software. Well done to Prof Martin Ebert and team. [Read more](#)



A lifetime of healthcare work, Dr Lyn Oliver experiences it from the other side

Dr Lyn Oliver has spent over 50 years working on providing healthcare for cancer patients, but earlier this year he unexpectedly found himself at the receiving end of it. Dr Oliver bravely tells the story of his cancer journey and the surgery and scans which followed, and speaks highly of the medical treatment and care he received. We wish Lyn a speedy and continually positive recovery. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM SA Members take on tutoring challenge

Thank you to a few ACPSEM SA/NT Branch members in South Australia who have recently been participating in a mentoring/tutoring program at Adelaide High School. More information to come.



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.

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.



ACPSEM VicTas branch - ABM

22 December 2020, online

The ACPSEM VicTas branch are holding their quick Annual Branch Meeting at 12pm AEDT via Zoom. Nominations for 2021 committee positions were recently opened - tune in to the meeting to find out more.



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](#)



External Events

Australasian Brachytherapy Group Annual Scientific Meeting

25-27 February 2021, online

The Australasian Brachytherapy Group (ABG) are holding their 30th Annual Scientific Meeting as a virtual event. Registrations are open, and this year includes the Brachy Film Festival which is taking submissions until 8 January. Dr Joel Poder, ACPSEM NSW/ACT Branch Chair, sits on the Executive Committee of ABG and encourages attendance. [Read more](#)



Call for Contributions

We'd love to hear from you!

Tell us what you and your colleagues have done recently. Please contribute by emailing Kath at communications@acpsem.org.au

- Awards and achievements
- Events and activities
- Published articles, reviews and feedback
- Pictures and videos

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