



## Awards and Prizes

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### Citation for Nicholas Outterside Medallion **Sharon Ada Maresse**

Sharon Maresse (Brackenridge) began her career in Radiation Therapy in January 1986 working at the Queensland Radium Institute. In 1988, Sharon gained her Diploma in Applied Science (Therapeutic Radiography) from the Queensland University of Technology and continued her employment with QRI until she left in January 1990.

For the next 9 years, Sharon changed her professional focus and direction, working in the Banking sector initially for the Metway Banking Corporation and then Westpac Banking Corporation. With Westpac, Sharon commenced in the role as Executive Assistant covering the Northern Territory. Sharon then advanced in the organisation taking on the role of Business Analyst covering Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Northern Territory before reaching the position of Regional Operations Manager for Tasmania.

A few months after leaving Westpac in November 1999, Sharon returned to Radiation Therapy at the W.P. Holman Clinic in Hobart, initially working as a volunteer before gaining permanent employment in May 2000. It wasn't long before Sharon volunteered for professional roles with the Tasmanian PAEC and as Honorary Secretary of the Tasmanian Branch of the AIR. Sharon remained in this role until August 2001, when she resigned from these positions and her job to head west. Up until this point in her career, Western Australia was the only State that Sharon had not been involved in.

One month after leaving Tasmania, Sharon commenced employment at Perth Radiation Oncology as a Radiation Therapist. Seven months later, Sharon was promoted to the role of Education Officer, Senior Radiation Therapist. In July 2003, Sharon became an Honorary Lecturer for Monash University in association with Western Australia's support for the postgraduate Master of Medical Radiations (Radiation Therapy) distance education course run by Monash University in Victoria.

After a settling-in period in WA of just over a year, Sharon resumed her association with the AIR, taking on the role of Honorary Secretary of the WA Branch and committee member in December 2002. Her secretarial role was expanded in January 2006 to include the WA PAEC. Those who worked closely with Sharon in the same role at Perth Radiation Oncology and on the WA Branch Committee since 2006, were saddened when they learnt that Sharon had tendered her resignation from Perth Radiation Oncology in the second half of 2008.

Sharon could never be criticised for doing the bare minimum. Whilst fulfilling her work responsibilities and voluntary responsibilities for the WA Branch, Sharon was the Co-Convenor of the WA Branch annual Seminars in 2004 & 2005, was a content reviewer for the Radiation Oncology Treatment Services Quality Program from September 2005 until November 2006, a



member of the consultative group for the review and development of the AIR's Competency Based Assessment and Honorary Secretary of the Perth 2007 ASMMIRT organising committee to highlight only a few of her professional involvements.

To better understand the amazing aptitude that Sharon demonstrates in managing her workload, Sharon also successfully completed a

- Certificate of Specialisation in Advanced Radiation Therapy from the University of Sydney 2003,
- Master of Health Science (Medical Radiation Sciences) from the University of Sydney 2003, and
- Master of Higher Education (Teaching & Learning) from Macquarie University in 2006.

Over this period in her life, Sharon was a regular presenter at AIR conferences.

These personal achievements are most remarkable considering the focus, the work ethic and level of commitment Sharon puts into other areas of her professional career. These accomplishments tell us a lot about Sharon. She never commits to anything half-heartedly.

After leaving Perth Radiation Oncology in mid-late 2008, Sharon faced another important personal and professional challenge. Sharon was appointed the Director of the NPDP (National Professional Development Program) with the AIR in October 2008 where she was responsible for reviewing, overhauling and redesigning the former PDY program. After a two phase consultation process involving many face-to-face meetings and consultation with nearly 2500 practitioners and professional stakeholders across Australia, Sharon developed the NPDP.

With the collaborative efforts of Paul Gloster, AIR Operations Manager, the associated framework of the NPDP was transformed from a paper based system into an on-line webpage reality. It was further enhanced through the implementation and provision of a NPDP Liaison Educator training program delivered via workshops or completion of on-line modules. During this time, Sharon also took on a significant role with the PAEB and OQAP.

By the end of 2011, Sharon's tenure with the AIR had drawn to a close. Her role in transforming the PDY into the NPDP was complete. The significance and impact of this change should not be underestimated by the profession.

In December 2014, Sharon resigned from the WA Branch after 12 years serving in the role as Honorary Secretary. The WA Branch will always be in awe of the dedicated service that Sharon has provided to the membership in WA. If you know Sharon, her resignation didn't mean that she was about to take a holiday and relax. It may have been on her mind and completely justified after over a decade of service but Sharon needed to concentrate her efforts on two new challenges.



In 2014, Curtin University in Western Australia commenced a post-graduate entry Masters course in Radiation Therapy. Under the leadership of Associate Professor Jan McKay, Discipline Leader of Medical Imaging Science at Curtin University, Sharon became the course co-ordinator of the Radiation Therapy stream.

While in the process of coordinating the Radiation Therapy course, Sharon managed to find time to write her thesis titled “Australian medical radiation science graduates’ experiences of resilience during transition to professional practice” in successfully completing her PhD.

In recent times, Sharon has been involved in the planning and development of an undergraduate Bachelor degree Radiation Therapy course for Curtin University, confirmed to start in February this year. Sharon has also assumed the responsibility that once was Jan’s, currently acting as Discipline Leader for Medical Radiation Sciences at Curtin University.

It is impossible for Sharon not to remain active in the profession in some manner. This should be very clear by now. In January this year, Sharon was appointed as one of three co-convenors for ASMMIRT 2017 – REACH which will be held in Perth in March next year. Sharon’s past conference experience will be invaluable to the WA organising committee.

On recommendation of the Western Australia Branch of the AIR, the Board is pleased to present the Nicholas Outterside Medallion for services to the profession to Sharon Maresse, in acknowledging her contribution to Radiation Therapy and service to the Medical Radiation Science profession. There is no more deserving person in Australia that has had a positive and lasting impact across the broader Medical Radiation Science profession than Sharon. Sharon has always gone above and beyond the professional call of duty and is most worthy to be recognised in this way.



Citation for Nicholas Outterside Medallion  
**Leigh Jeffrey Smith**

Leigh Smith completed his Associate Diploma of Medical Radiography (Therapeutic) from Sydney Technical College in 1980. His original choice of study once leaving school was architecture, which he studied for three years prior to commencing his Radiation Therapy training and career. His first role was at the Institute of Radiation Oncology at Prince of Wales Hospital, where he commenced as a student in 1978 and worked as a qualified practitioner from 1981 to 1982. From here, Leigh travelled overseas, working at the London Hospital as a locum Radiation Therapist for one year. On returning to Australia, Leigh worked at Westmead Hospital, holding a position as a Senior Radiation Therapist from 1988 to 1990.

After leaving Westmead, Leigh undertook a Health Services Management Training Programme through the Australian College of Health Services Executives. This involved secondments to various health services learning administration and finance. In 1991, he became part of the Area Executive Unit for the Eastern Sydney Area Health Service where he worked as an Administration Officer.

Leigh returned to Radiation Therapy in 1992 when he commenced as the Assistant Chief Radiation Therapist at the William Buckland Radiotherapy Centre at The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne. In 1997 he was appointed Chief Radiation Therapist, a role which he holds today. Leigh has been an active member of the AIR and has served on many panels, some of which include the Radiation Therapy Advisory Panel, the Tripartite Committee for Radiation Oncology and the Victorian Branch of the AIR. In 1999 he was co-convenor of the AIR National Conference in Melbourne and he has delivered many presentations at both state and national level.

As a member of the Radiation Therapy Advisory Panel (and Chair for many years) from 2000 to 2014 Leigh was involved in the Tripartite committee representing the 3 peak bodies in radiation oncology, the AIR, RANZCR and ACPSEM which initially produced a national strategic plan for radiation oncology, which identified and raised political awareness at a national level of the issues in Radiation Oncology relating to workforce, equipment and referral rates. This finally resulted in a national study into Radiation Oncology, The Baume Report and following on from this, various committees and bodies of work were initiated by the Department of Health and Ageing (DOHA) to tackle the many and varied issues identified.

Leigh was appointed to the DOHA RORIC Quality Working Group, a federal government multidisciplinary panel reviewing various Quality issues in Radiation Oncology. This panel focused on the issues of incident monitoring, national equipment levels and future forecast needs, the development of national practice standards and the proposal for a national dosimetry service. Leigh was Chairman of this committee for many years undoubtedly resulting in the productivity of this group until it closed. The committee led the production of the Radiation Oncology Practice Standards which Leigh launched at a DOHA conference, "Beyond Bricks and Mortar" in August of 2011.



In 1999 the Radiation Oncology Tripartite Committee began developing a national strategic plan for a sustainable radiation oncology service in Australia. On the back of that work, Leigh and his RTAP colleagues, developed and published the staffing model for radiation therapy, published in 2001.

Like many of Leigh's projects, the model was initiated over a few glasses of red wines with his RTAP colleagues, with the model developing into a widely used resource, being referenced across many jurisdictions throughout Australia.

This model provided a predictive level of staffing that could be tuned specifically to the activity level and operation of any Radiation Therapy facility.

In recent years, on the back of the successful model in place, Leigh has led the review and redevelopment of the staffing model to better reflect today's needs and the professional practice of modern radiation therapy facilities. This work was presented at the 2014 national conference and is awaiting imminent publication, again to benefit the wider profession across Australia.

In 2008 Leigh as chair of the RTAP group, led the development of a Department of Health and Ageing funded program to conduct a series of "train-the-trainer" courses for radiation therapists involved in providing preceptor support to learners. The program titled, "Enhancing Clinical Training Skills for Radiation Therapists", saw the delivery of 10 identical training workshops across Australia, with over 520 radiation therapists attending. The program was a huge success and again can be attributed in no small part to Leigh's commitment, leadership and expertise.

Leigh is a genuine and dedicated Radiation Therapist who has given his time and significant expertise to the profession. He is highly respected by those who have worked with him in his various capacities. Leigh received the Varian Award in 2010, which recognised his significant contribution to the field of Radiation Oncology.

On recommendation of the Victorian Branch of the AIR, the Board is pleased to present the Nicholas Outterside Medallion for services to the profession to Leigh Smith.

# ASMMIRT 2016

## rise and shine

22-24 April Brisbane

