



2021 Research Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of the following scholarships:

Research Scholarship – Medical Imaging

Yobelli Jimenez for their project titled “Breathe in: Student radiographer podcast series”. This project will develop and evaluate a podcast series, consisting of a combination of student-led and academic-led podcasts. The project aims to improve diagnostic radiography students’ short- and long-term experience of wellbeing during clinical placements, by fostering the importance of resilience and wellbeing as emerging health practitioners. Results from this project will provide insights for the advancement of research in diagnostic radiography education by identifying innovative and flexible emotional support strategies.

Novice Researcher Scholarship – Radiation Therapy

Mikaela Doig for their project titled “Development and clinical implementation of a digital platform for patient reported health-related quality of life assessment in paediatric radiation therapy”. This project aims to address the current gaps in knowledge by implementing and investigating the effect of a novel digital platform to collect patient reported health related quality of life (HRQoL) assessments in paediatric radiation therapy patients. This novel study will fill an urgent clinical need to include HRQoL assessment into routine paediatric oncology care. Additionally, longitudinal analysis of results produced by the platform can be used to compare proton and photon HRQoL outcomes of this vulnerable patient cohort.

2020 Research Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of the following scholarships:

Medical Imaging

Chelsea Castillo for her project titled “Assessing the effectiveness of an education program aimed at improving the quality of clinical information in acute CT requests.” This project aims to:

- Provide education to several cohorts of CT referrers on the clinical details considered essential by radiologists for three common CT scans performed in the Emergency Department.
- Investigate the impact of the education program on the quality of clinical information in requests for CT.

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Radiation Therapy

Rachael Beldham-Collins for her project titled “Research in the Australian radiation therapy landscape: evaluating research capacity and culture.” Rachael’s project aims to evaluate research capacity and culture among radiation therapists using research capacity measures and explore the driving factors for transition to clinician researchers.

2019 Research Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of the following scholarships.

Medical Imaging

Professor Rob Davidson for his project titled “Can x-ray and imaging services for residents of residential aged care facilities be improved? A pilot project.” The aim of this project is to evaluate imaging services of residents in residential aged care facilities across Australia including those in metropolitan, regional and rural locations and those in differing socio-economic locations.

Radiation Therapy

Scott Jones for his project titled “Hydrogel Spacers in External Beam Radiation Therapy of Prostate Cancer: Patient Selection and Cost-Effectiveness.” Scott’s project investigates which prostate cancer external beam radiation therapy patients, are most likely to develop rectal toxicities and benefit from a hydrogel spacer.

The research will employ statistical machine learning to make predictions on available patient data, alongside a cost – effectiveness analysis.

2018 Research Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of the following scholarships.

Diagnostic Radiography

Gordon Mander for his project titled “Diagnostic accuracy of computed tomography coronary angiography utilising recent advances in technology in patients with high heart rates.” The aim of this project is to determine the diagnostic accuracy of computed tomography coronary angiography (CTCA) from recent scan technologies, specifically as they relate to adult patients with high heart rates (HR). The influence individual scan technologies have on diagnostic accuracy will also be investigated.

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Radiation Therapy

Nigel Anderson for his project titled “Better Preparing Prostate Cancer Patients for Radiotherapy: incorporating Telehealth Consultations into Pre-Treatment Patient Management”. The aim of this project is to assess patient compliance following the introduction of a radiation therapist-driven telehealth consultation with integrated educational components prior to radiotherapy planning. It is hypothesised that the introduction of a telehealth educational consultation will:

- a) Improve patient health literacy
- b) Improve patient compliance to bladder/rectum/bowel preparation
- c) Reduce the need for the following due to non-adherence to required preparation:
 - CT simulation rescans
 - Radiotherapy treatment rescans/adjustments
 - Treatment replanning

Telehealth has the potential for significant patient (treatment precision optimisation) and operational (reduced procedural repetition) benefit. Success of this project will provide a platform for wider telehealth applications to other radiotherapy patient groups requiring pre-treatment preparation (e.g. breath-hold for breast cancer radiotherapy).

2017 Research Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to the recipient of the following scholarship.

Diagnostic Radiography

Professor Pamela Rowntree and Associate Professor Debbie Starkey for their project titled “Analysis of trends in diagnostic imaging examinations across Australia across a ten-year period.” This project analysed the trend in the profile of diagnostic imaging examinations and modalities utilized in contemporary imaging services across Australia within the ten years from 2004/5 to 2014/15. Investigation and analysis of existing publicly available data accessed through Australian Government and Medicare websites for the periods 2004/5 and 2014/15 were interrogated.

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2016 Research Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients of the following scholarships.

Diagnostic Radiography

Laura DiMichele graduated as a medical imaging professional in 2011 and is currently working as an Associate Lecturer at the University of Sydney. Laura has a keen interest in improving patient outcomes and finding ways to create greater efficiency within radiology department. Laura's research project is titled: "The Translation of research findings into evidence-based practice within diagnostic radiography in Australia".

This research that Laura is undertaking, aims to explore the barrier and incentives to achieve evidence-based practice within diagnostic radiography to identify the most appropriate change management models. It is the first study to systematically explore research translation in diagnostic radiography through exploring the perspective of students and practicing professionals.

Radiation Therapy

Caroline Wright is the Course Convenor for the Graduate Entry Master of Radiation Therapy, Bachelor of Radiation Science and Master of Advanced Radiation Therapy Practice programs at Monash University. Caroline completed her PhD investigating fitness to practise in radiation therapy in 2015. Caroline's other research interests include patient care, clinical assessment, student selection and curriculum development for advanced practice roles in radiation therapy. Caroline is currently the Chair of the Australia and New Zealand Medical Radiations Research Network. Caroline is also a member of the Editorial Review Board for the Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice. Caroline will be undertaking a qualitative-cross sectional study looking into:

"Professionalism in the medical radiations practice professions: understanding professional dilemmas through student narratives about workplace learning".

Workplace learning/clinical placement is an integral part of all radiation therapy and radiography curricula. Students spend many hours in the clinical environment developing their technical and professional skills prior to graduation. However, in practice, professionalism is not always modelled by practitioners. Given that clinical placement comprises such a large part of the curriculum, students may be exposed or even participate in unprofessional practice. These professional dilemmas may have a negative impact on students and affect their future performance, health, and well-being. This study will explore MRS student narratives of professional dilemmas, the types of events they encounter and the ways in which they narrate those events.

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