



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 22 March 2019

For immediate release

ASMIRT/AACRT 2019 International Conference features Julie McCrossin as MC, passionate journalist and cancer survivor.

The upcoming 22nd Asia-Australasia Conference of Radiological Technologists (AACRT 2019) in conjunction with the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy's 14th National Conference (ASMIRT 2019), will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, from 28-31 March 2019. The conference brings together national and international medical radiation professionals for four days of education lectures, interactive workshops, a student conference, social functions and more.

This year's MC is popular and socially active broadcaster Julie McCrossin, chosen not only for her engaging style, warmth and intelligence, but also her experience as a cancer survivor, having beaten the potentially career-ending diagnosis of stage 4 oropharyngeal cancer.

"It never crossed my mind that I could have cancer. Never." Julie McCrossin said.

However, in 2013 the seemingly impossible happened, Julie received the diagnosis from Dr Richard Gallagher, surgeon and director of cancer services and head and neck services at St Vincent's Hospital. After inserting a tube connected to a camera down through her nose, Dr Gallagher pointed to a "huge bundle" of lumps. He said he'd confirm it with a biopsy but knew what he was looking at. Julie remembers her first words to him. "I said, 'If you have to take my voice, do it. I want to live'. And then he said, 'That's good to know'," she recalls. "And that's the moment I knew I was in terrible trouble." Julie said.

Julie's experiences of radiation therapy and the traumatising occurrences of being bolted into the immobilisation mask for treatment each time, galvanised her into helping other patients to be prepared for the treatments ahead of them after diagnosis. She believes there should be better support for a patient's emotional wellbeing and psychosocial health before, during and after treatment.

Julie is now an ambassador for Targeting Cancer and a patron of Beyond 5, a charity that supports head and neck cancer patients. Six years on Julie is cancer-free, "enormously grateful" to the medical team who helped save her voice and a passionate, vocal advocate for patient care.

At the ASMIRT/AACRT 2019 Conference, Julie will bring her knowledge of the medical imaging and radiation therapy practices to the main stage as she facilitates two key sessions, interviewing several of the key speakers on Friday 29 March:

- Putting patients at the centre of care, official conference opening facilitated by Julie McCrossin
- Patient Centred Care: A collaborative session facilitated by Julie McCrossin

The theme of the ASMIRT/AACRT 2019 Conference is Better Together - patients, professionals, possibilities. The theme is focused on bringing people together to share information on the latest technologies, finding smart ways to use the resources we have for the best possible patient outcomes, and making long term friendships and networks to better the medical radiation profession, our patients and for our future possibilities.



Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy

The national professional organisation representing medical radiation practitioners

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References:

Julie McCrossin: <https://www.juliemccrossin.com/>

Targeting Cancer: <https://www.targetingcancer.com.au/>

Beyond Five: <https://www.beyondfive.org.au/>