



Promoting our professions

Research underpins our practice. All radiographers and radiation therapists strive to provide safe, high quality service to their patients. This is achieved through the use of evidence based practice, be it protocols for imaging in plain film, CT or MRI, or in radiation therapy. The evidence for these protocols comes from research in those fields. It can seem a little daunting to become involved in research but there are real benefits to be had, both for yourself and, importantly, for your patients. There are a number of resources you can use to get started, such as those on the Australian and New Zealand Medical Radiations Research Network, and in this issue of *Spectrum* which includes an article on how to get your research published. Our journal, the *Journal of Medical Radiation Sciences (JMRS)* showcases research by medical radiation practitioners.



Bronwyn Hilder
ASMIRT President

In August I was fortunate to attend the New Zealand Institute of Medical Radiation Technologists Annual Conference, 'Beyond the Button'. The conference showcased an excellent range of speakers and practitioners who shared their knowledge and experience. Paul Kane, one of the two Deputy Editors on the *JMRS*, reported the success of the journal. The publisher, Wiley, is able to provide a number of metrics around the journal. These metrics demonstrate an increase in the number of article downloads to 256,565 at the end of 2017 with 50,423 unique visitors (a unique visitor is counted only once regardless of the number of separate visits) to the journal's pages in 2017.

Also in this issue we feature a Q&A with the Queensland State Branch Chair, Luke Millar, practice articles on paediatric chest X-ray and MRI safety and two students recount their experiences while undertaking placements through the ASMIRT Rural Clinical Placement Scholarship.

ASMIRT 2019 is being held in conjunction with the Asia-Australasia Conference of Radiological Technologists (AACRT 2019). This conference promises to be a truly international event with over 340 abstracts received from 22 different countries. Registration for the conference is now open with early bird registration closing 20 December.

November is fast approaching so I encourage you to start thinking about what your department can do for National Radiographers and Radiation Therapists Week. NRRTW gives us the opportunity to promote our professions and to celebrate the work we do for our patients. I look forward to seeing the photos of this year's celebrations.

Lastly, this issue includes a nomination form for state branch positions. With the proposed changes to the structure of the panels, there will be no call for panel nominations this year. Shortly we will be asking members to send expressions of interest to their branches for membership of each of the lead committees. The November issue of *Spectrum* will outline this process and the responsibilities of the new lead committees. This information will also be disseminated through our e-news in October. One of the most important changes that we are hoping to initiate is a broader engagement with members, providing opportunities for those who may not have had an opportunity to engage at this level in the past. This is an exciting opportunity for ASMIRT to better address the needs of members, and the changing requirements of our professions.