



The year ahead

At the start of 2019, I would like to thank all members of panels and state branches for their responsiveness to the many and varied documents sent to them in 2018. The Society experienced an extremely busy year, responding to a significant number of position papers, policy papers and guidelines from a range of industry bodies, all of which could have a material impact on the way we conduct our professional lives. This is at the very heart of what the Society does – advocating for our members locally, by state and nationally. There are many changes afoot, with the advance in artificial intelligence, the increased merging and expansion of practice and government eyes on costs and practice models. We fully appreciate the dedication of all our expert members who have assisted by working through these matters to enhance opportunities for all members. This year we are looking forward to the establishment of our new Lead Committees, details of membership of which can be found on page 4. My sincere thanks go to the many members who responded to our call for expressions of interest in these committees, and I wish we could have appointed everyone! At our annual conference, the next level of advisory groups (i.e. more closely defined reference groups) will be outlined. We very much hope that those who are not on Lead Committees will consider putting their names forward for one or more of these. Lead Committees will be meeting face-to-face for the first time in February in Melbourne, to begin planning their work for the next three years. They will be able to expand on this to delegates at our conference. Exciting times!



Bronwyn Hilder
ASMIRT President

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Speaking of the conference... I am really looking forward to welcoming delegates to the ASMIRT/AACRT 2019 Conference in March in Adelaide. This issue of *Spectrum* highlights the varied and exciting program the Conference Committee has been working towards, and the comprehensive selection of sessions across all professional streams that they have lined up for delegates.

Every year the bar is raised higher, and 2019 will be no exception. We received over 300 submitted abstracts, almost one-third of which came from overseas contributors. In terms of delegates, we are expecting over 1000 from Australia and beyond to attend three full days of conferencing, pre-conference workshops and a range of social functions. The ASMIRT Conference is combined with the 22nd AACRT Conference providing extensive opportunities for interacting with a broad range of international attendees from the Asia Australasia region, sharing ideas and discussions around the theme **Patients Professionals Possibilities**.

Students are actively encouraged to join us on Friday 29 March for the Student Conference, with thought-provoking presentations by fellow students, posters on display and the Q&A Panel, once again bringing their wisdom and expertise to the sessions. I am also looking forward to constructive meetings with international leaders in the profession across the conference week, which will bring ideas to the table for a greater understanding and collaboration of each other's aims and a sharing of our plans for the future.

So here's to another full and challenging year – and I wish each and every one of you, health and happiness for it.