

Better together



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ASMIRT President

Welcome to the May issue of *Spectrum*, your member magazine.

The ASMIRT/AACRT2019 conference was held at the Adelaide Conference Centre from 28 to 31 March. Our highly successful conference saw more than 900 delegates attend over the three days of plenary sessions and proffered papers; 172 of these delegates arrived the day before the conference opening to attend workshops on a range of topics including image interpretation, brachytherapy, proton therapy, angiography, clinical thinking and

adaptive radiography in the emergency department, research and person-centred care.

The ringing of the Asia Australasia Conference of Radiological Technologists' bell marked the official opening of the conference, with the conference theme 'Better Together - Patients. Professionals. Possibilities' evident throughout the following days in presentations on topics ranging from patient care and combined education to proton therapy and artificial intelligence. The opening plenary session, a panel discussion led by Julie McCrossin AM, provided the audience with a powerful lesson on the importance of working with and supporting our patients, their families and carers throughout their diagnosis and treatment. Throughout the conference I was approached by delegates telling me how this session had affected them, making them even more aware of the impact that they can and do have on their patients on a day-to-day basis.

The student conference saw delegates from 11 universities come together to present papers in both diagnostic imaging and radiation therapy. The first invited speaker, Daniel Johnstone, outlined his experience with head and neck cancer (including diagnosis and treatment) and, importantly, gave an honest insight into the thought processes of a cancer patient, giving the students an appreciation of the impact of the small things that practitioners do.

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During the conference we also saw the handover of the ASMIRT Panels to the Lead Committees. In 2017, the ASMIRT Board of Directors commenced a review of the advisory structure for the Society and throughout 2018 consulted with the panels, state branches and members in developing a structure which would allow the Society to be more agile in its ability to respond to the many issues affecting the Society, its members, the public and patients that arise. Importantly, this will give members increased opportunities to actively engage with their Society, no matter where in Australia they practise. The changes to the advisory structure are still in progress with calls for expressions of interest for four reference groups in train and others to follow.

The Board wishes to express their thanks and appreciation to past and present members of the Educational and Standards Advisory Panel (formerly the Professional Accreditation and Education Panel), Medical Imaging Advisory Panel 1, Medical Imaging Advisory Panel 2, Radiation Therapy Advisory Panel, and the Rural and Remote Advisory Panel for their hard work and contributions to the Society.