



Stepping up to the challenges

I've been involved with our professional body for most of my career, in fact, as a student, it didn't occur to me that there was an option not to be involved. I've been fortunate to work in departments that have a strong ASMIRT presence and to be surrounded by people in state branches who are actively engaged in their professional body and in advancing our professions. These people have influenced and encouraged me throughout my professional career and in my involvement with the Society and it is in part due to them that I am now the President of ASMIRT.



Bronwyn Hilder
ASMIRT President

ASMIRT's mission is to empower medical radiation practitioners for the health of all Australians. In order to do that, the Society has to anticipate changes, inform members and respond to these changes in a transformative way. Times change, as do the professions of medical radiation science. Some of the skills that I learnt as a student are no longer practiced and there have been many innovations in technology requiring new skill sets for all of us. These shifts have led medical radiation professionals into different roles, and to have greater autonomy than was

possible when I was a new graduate. In an evolving world, medical radiation professionals play an increasingly important role in the health care continuum. The professional body has a responsibility to step up to the challenges that this presents.

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Our national conference, ASMIRT 2018, was held in March in Canberra. This annual conference gives medical radiation practitioners the opportunity to showcase their achievements and demonstrate our commitment to improving the care we provide to our patients. This relates directly to the Society's goals of advancing professional standards and pathways, and leading and engaging in research and learning. The presentations at the conference provide valuable learning for the participants and the opportunity to network with peers and colleagues.

ASMIRT 2018 also held a very successful student conference. Students are the future of our professions, and it is encouraging to see them becoming involved, sharing their knowledge and establishing networks that will be with them throughout their careers. This issue of *Spectrum* contains a special student section that features articles relating to student education including a Q&A with clinical educators from around Australia, student behavioural



President's message

styles and rural placement. We also feature articles written by students themselves, which provide valuable insight into the student experience.

In my time serving on the ASMIRT Board of Directors, I have seen how much time and energy is devoted to ensuring the ongoing success of the Society by the Secretariat, the panel members, the branches and the members of the organisation. I am grateful to the Board of Directors for placing their confidence in me to lead the Society. I'd like to thank Patrick Eastgate for his service as the President since 2016, and I am keen to continue with the momentum for change that has been evident during his stewardship.

During my term as President, I will strive to represent the members and the medical radiation professions. The Society will continue to advocate for patients, and to be involved in influencing local, national and international policy and practice. 2018 will see a number of positive changes for the Society, including a new website and review of the CPD program. As individual practitioners, our influence may be small. As a collective group, we can and do have an impact. It is important to remember that the Society is made up of members and that with your active involvement in the Society and in your profession, our goals can be achieved and we can serve our patients well into the future.