



ACPSEM

Australasian College of Physical
Scientists & Engineers in Medicine

FOCUS

APRIL 2020

ACPSEM PRESIDENT'S WORDS - RICHARD DOVE



Over the past month we have all shared a unique period in history.

I feel fortunate to work in healthcare through this period so I can contribute my skills and knowledge to the united effort to suppress COVID-19. We have worked with various versions of lockdown requirements across Australia and New Zealand - so details vary - but for me the ability to go into the hospital and make a contribution feels like a privilege.

I also find it fascinating how many people are now experts in data analysis. I've seen coverage in the mass media using second derivatives of infection rates – so to all those doubters (surely not our Members!) who couldn't see the point of calculus: *there it is!*

ACPSEM has responded to COVID-19 in a range of ways. We have been pushing relevant information out to Members via regular email updates, **website postings** and forum content. TEAP support and exams have continued in ways that meet lockdown rules. Unfortunately a number of face-to-face events have had to be postponed and online replacements are still being worked on. Our flagship conference **EPSM** is still planned to go ahead in Brisbane in November 2020, with **abstract submission currently open**.

I am grateful that the vast majority of members have taken the time to renew their membership during this period of uncertainty. Deliverables from the College may look a little different this year, but a huge amount of work continues thanks to our volunteers and staff. Thank you to those who have found time in their new working arrangements to contribute to the College.

COVID-19 UPDATE

EXAMINATIONS

As foreshadowed in March the ACPSEM has devised and implemented revised arrangements for ROMP TEAP part A and B examinations to be held in May/June 2020. If these arrangements need to remain in place beyond May/June they will be broadly publicised but at this stage it is not anticipated that this will be required. The DIMP written exam proceeded unhindered because it is already conducted online with onsite invigilation.

TEAP FROM HOME

Training sites that have focussed on reviewing TEAP requirements from the perspective of what could be usefully done from home are encouraged to share their ideas and plans broadly among all registrars and

supervisors. To this end please email Kath Singer (communications@acpsem.org.au) and we will start a new thread in the news update section, as well as store material offered in COMET.

The range of circumstances registrars find themselves in and being anecdotally relayed to the ACPSEM with respect to their working arrangements and progress through TEAP are very varied. These range from revised shift arrangements and reduced patient load allowing greater access to machines for education purposes, to being at home with either no access or full access to (for ROMPs) treatment planning systems.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Remember the ACPSEM has undertaken to consider special circumstances faced by registrars that impact TEAP completion, so if this applies to you, and you haven't done so already, please contact your TEAP coordinator and update them of your circumstances. Don't risk leaving it for many months and having your circumstances considered as not sufficient for special consideration. You don't have to give full details or explanations but just let the coordinators know that you may be looking for assistance.

To date most of the queries have been around when people might be able to sit exams, but even those in earlier stages of TEAP may be facing challenging circumstances, so don't hesitate.

A special note for our NZ registrars: with the departure of your training coordinator please remember that Australian-based ACPSEM staff are filling the gap and you should contact Claire Dempsey immediately if you have concerns or questions.

WORKSHOPS UPDATE

Work has begun apace on adapting planned F2F workshops to an online environment (predominantly webinars).

- The following workshops were already underdevelopment as part of supporting the Three Year Duration of TEAP project:
 1. ROMP Treatment Planning (Webinar based course) - likely August 2020
 2. MR Safety Course (one pre-course self-paced learning module and 12 weekly webinars)- Likely July 2020 (priority given to registrars and ACPSEM members but will be opened up more broadly)
- A small group of ROMP members have proposed an online modular Coding course (for ROMPs) – this will be budgeted for in 20/21 and the interest of DIMPs and RPS will be invited to consider a similar option.

The Leadership and Management workshop planned for June is postponed and consideration is now being given holding something in conjunction with EPSM 2020 while work also continues on modules suitable for use by workplace-based teams. The implementation of this has been delayed until June.

At the request of the Board attention is now being focussed on professional development and mentoring opportunities for chief physicists and equivalents.

Finally the EOI for the 2020 Mentoring Program will be released by 19 May 2020.

PREVIOUS UPDATES WITH RESPECT TO COVID-19 ARE SHOWN BELOW:

The ACPSEM has collated and made available resources provided by our Members and others to assist Members, colleagues and the interested public in dealing with the challenges wrought by the COVID-19 virus. These include general advice and more specific information for those working within the field of medical physics. The resource planning list is being continuously updated - please [click here](#) to be kept updated.

If you have additional information which would benefit members and colleagues within our industry, please email details to [Sharon Flynn](#) and [Kath Singer](#).

The ACPSEM has also distributed important information and updates on the impact of COVID-19 and our response to it. See our updates below:

- **March 2020 Members Update** - featuring key information on the impact of COVID-19 and our response to it.
- **April 2020 Members Update** - featuring progressions at ACPSEM and further information on the impact of COVID-19.

CPD AWARENESS

REGISTERED QMPS' ARE REMINDED TO LOG IN AND CONTINUE THEIR CPD ACTIVITIES

At this unique time, the College is gently reminding people not to overlook their CPD compliance. Those on the Register of QMPS need to maintain their CPD contributions to ensure their QMPS registration can be maintained after December 2021 (please see requirements below). Don't forget that in January 2019 the College moved to time limited (3 years) registration.

We understand that Registered Members may be temporarily restricted in fulfilling certain traditional and scheduled CPD activities due to restrictions brought about by COVID-19. Some ideas for how CPD can be achieved remotely are:

- Major new learning - internal report
- Internal departmental reports (commissioning equipment, introduction of new treatment technique)
- Teaching (Registrars, Medical Registrars, MRT's, RTs etc)
- Reading and publishing in journals
- Text book and technical report review
- Approved structured self-study
- Refereeing an academic paper

A full list of categories can be found [here](#).

To ensure Members meet CPD criteria and maintain their ACPSEM Registration the following communications was sent out in May 2019 outlining updates and requirements of the **CPD program** and all of this information can be found on the website: *Our work/Continuing Professional Development/CPD Program Requirements*:

- Participants are required to collect **50 points per year** when their total amount is averaged over a 3-year period. A **minimum of 15 points** must be achieved in any 3 of the 6 categories within a CPD period.
 - The categories are: Approved Scientific Meeting; Education; Informal Meeting; Professional Service; Publishing; Structured Self Study.
- Categories have been updated and a **minimum points requirement** has been implemented instead of the maximum point system that was previously in place.
- Quality Assurance – **Auditing section** has been updated with the new process of auditing;
- Insufficient CPD Participation for Qualified Medical Physics Specialists & Radiopharmaceutical Scientists on the Register has been updated with the new system that will occur.
- Exemption section has been updated to only be an exemption from using the ACPSEM CPD Tracker if the participant is using another professional organisations CPD system; and
- Appendix 1 has now been incorporated into the **handbook** instead of being a separate document.

LOGGING YOUR CPD

We have noted that a number of Registered QMPS have not logged their 2019 CPD activities which may impact your ACPSEM Registration. By logging onto the **ACPSEM website** ('login' button on the top right of page) QMPS will be taken to a dashboard to enter relevant CPD contributions.

CPD QUALIFIERS

SIIM 20 - 24-26 June, online

#SIIM20 has gone virtual and is offering a 3 day educational event. Participants can get involved in education sessions, abstract presentations, general daily snapshot sessions and more. Note that these sessions run from 12:00-5:30pm ET (2:00-7.30am AEST the following day) which makes them perfect for early risers. [Register](#)

SFRP - free online access during COVID-19

The Journal of the French Society have opened up their access during the COVID-19. The English-written articles are available to [read here](#)

NEWS AND BRANCH REPORTS

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS ARE OPEN FOR EPSM

EPSM is our flagship conference scheduled to take place in Brisbane this November. Abstract submissions are open for oral presentations and posters which encapsulate exciting, innovative and creative work which blends science, engineering and technology in medicine. [Read more](#)



AFOMP LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A call for nominations is now open for the AFOMP Lifetime Achievement Awards. The awards acknowledges the work and contributions of a medical physicist whose distinguished career has served the profession and their community. Deadline: 11 May 2020. [Read more](#)

AFOMP CELEBRATE THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

AFOMP have celebrated their 20th anniversary with a special logo and a dedicated newsletter. AFOMP requests your assistance in making this milestone memorable. [Read more](#)



PHOTOGRAPHY IN MEDICAL PHYSICS - SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN

Submissions are now open for PiMP 2020! This year the awards include an additional category, '*At Distance Together*', which takes into account restrictions imposed by COVID-19. The other categories remain as '*Technical/Technology*' and '*Professionals at Work*'. [Read more](#)



NZPEM 2020 - APCSEM'S NZ BRANCH CONFERENCE

This year's annual NZPEM 2020 Conference continued its successful streak with a plethora of insightful presentations and workshops from Members, sponsors, and guest speakers. This year's well-attended and commended conference was held in Hamilton, NZ, in March 2020. [Read more](#)

SIGN UP TO oMAMQA - ONLINE COURSE

The CPD approved Online Mammography QA course is a valuable training tool for mammography radiographers within Australia and New Zealand. Comprising of 12 modules, this course allows you the flexibility to tailor the course to your personal needs, experience and equipment. [Read more](#)

MEDICAL PHYSICS INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL - MARCH 2020 EDITION

The International Organization for Medical Physics (IOMP) have released the March 2020 edition of the Medical Physics International (MPI) journal. [Read more](#)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BHT FOUNDATION AWARDS

We are pleased to announce that the Better Healthcare Technology Foundation awards are open for nominations. There are 5 categories open for submissions; *PhD Award*, *Boyce Worthley Young Achiever*

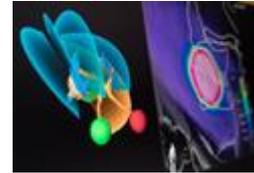
Award, Richard Bates Travel Award, Distinguished Service Award, and the David Robinson Innovation Award. Deadline for submissions: 30 June 2020. [Read more](#)

BETTER HEALTH TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The BHT Foundation have released their 2019 annual report which you can view online. The report also includes background information on the Foundation, updates from APSIG (Asia Pacific Special Interest Group), initiatives, highlights, financial reports and more. [Read more](#)

WHAT IS STEREOTACTIC RADIOTHERAPY?

The BHT Foundation have published a news item on stereotactic radiotherapy, looking at its description, application, and its use on patients and planning treatment. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM VIC/TAS BRANCH FUNDRAISING DESIGN COMPETITION

It's time to pull your socks up and get involved in the Victoria/Tasmania branch's fundraising competition! You can submit up to 3 designs for a motif to be printed on the socks alongside your sock colour of choice, and the winning design will be made available to purchase at EPSM 2020. Designs linked to biomedical engineering or medical physics are preferred. Please email victoria.branch@acpsem.org.au for details.



HELP FOR TANZANIA

In January an email was circulated requesting items for a radiation oncology facility in Tanzania, Africa. If you have any radiotherapy and medical physics books, journals, reports, conference proceedings, ICRP reports etc, that you no longer need (earlier editions included), please contact Howell Round (howell.round@gmail.com).

NSW/ACT BRANCH SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS SURVEY

The NSW/ACT ACPSEM Branch is seeking feedback from its members about establishing regular virtual scientific meetings. It is hypothesised that each month a department of organisation hosts a meeting, and this may help contribute to available CPD opportunities. [Complete the survey](#)

VIC/TAS BRANCH MEMBER SURVEY

The VIC/TAS ACPSEM Branch is seeking feedback from its members about the work they do and events they run, in addition to the meeting timings their members would prefer. [Complete the survey](#)

ACPSEM WA BRANCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

On 12 March the Western Australia Branch held a casual get-together in aid of International Women's Day. The event was held at Theo & Co Pizza in Perth, WA, and was open to men and women, members and non-members. Future events will be indefinitely postponed.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ACPSEM MRI-LINAC WORKING GROUP

The ACPSEM MRI-Linac Working Group (MRILWG) has successfully appointed a number of new members from across Australia and New Zealand following a successful EOI process. The MRILWG was established to ensure preparations for the safe clinical introduction and optimal use of MR-guided treatment units, and to discuss and scope activities within this emerging and strongly influential area of development. [Read more](#)

WHAT DO CRABS HAVE TO DO WITH CANCER? TAKE THE QUIZ!

2020 marks the 125th anniversary of the discovery of x-rays, and Siemens Healthineers have a monthly series which looks at their many applications, and covers the history of x-rays, current research projects, and future developments. See how much you know about the history of x-rays in their quiz! [Read more](#)



MEMBERS

A/PROF NATALKA SUCHOWERSKA AND TEAM RECEIVE NHMRC AWARD

Congratulations to A/Prof Natalka Suchowerska and the team of scientists who have been recognised by their peers for the top idea at the prestigious NHMRC Research Excellence Awards, 2019. Their award-winning research looks at ways to protect medical devices from infection. [Read more](#)



DR MARTIN EBERT AWARDED FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to ACPSEM Board member Dr Martin Ebert who has recently been awarded the Fulbright Future Scholarship! The scholarship enables Senior Scholar Dr Ebert to spend time in the US and to participate in programs to improve collaboration and enhance particular areas of research. [Read more](#)



MATTHEW JENNINGS RECEIVES PARTICLE THERAPY WORKING GROUP FELLOWSHIP

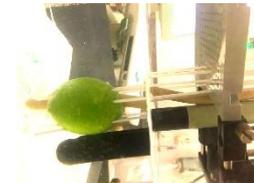
Congratulations to Matthew Jennings who has been appointed as the ACPSEM Ion Beam Therapy Training Fellow 2020. Matthew will be undertaking training in an overseas clinical centres to gain the necessary ion beam therapy physics experience to operate safely. He will use this knowledge to contribute to the safe implementation of ion beam therapy in Australia. [Read more](#)

DR LYN OLIVER'S MEMOIRS (cont'd) - "MY 'BOYS LIVING FOREVER' CERTIFICATE"

Dr Lyn Oliver has had many interesting personal and professional experiences throughout his career, and I'm pleased to say that working through a pandemic, thankfully, has not been one of them. At this time Lyn has shared his own experience of doctor-patient care with an important message attached. [Read more](#)

NO PROSTATE? NO PROBLEM!

Members Mira Moran and Luke Gilling in the ACPSEM NZ Branch have been practising prostate brachytherapy procedures on a prostate phantom! The pair were without a commercial tool, so Mira decided to make them one out of a feijoa! 10 points for creativity!



A POLITE REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR ACPSEM MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for your continued loyalty and support over the last year, and to all members who have already renewed their membership. In 2019, the College will be expanding on our 2019 achievements (see our [video](#)) in addition to helping our Members build a solid professional network. To do this we need your support to remain as a Member, and for you to involve yourself in our programs and provide suggestions and ideas on our Member services and delivery.

To renew please log into the [ACPSEM website](#), click "My ACPSEM" and then "Renew My Membership" where you will be able to pay online by credit card. You will receive your tax invoice afterwards via email and it's also downloadable via "My Invoices". We encourage members to make online payment, however if you would like to do an EFT transfer instead please contact Angela or Susie in our Membership Team (P: +61 (0)2 8305 3900).

CAREERS



BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL CAREER SERIES

Dr Chris Leatherday is a DIMP working at Royal Perth and Fiona Stanley Hospitals, WA.

Chris reveals his physics career so far, and shares some top advice to PhD students and postdocs! [Read more](#)

Are you interested in telling others about your career journey? Or perhaps you would like to nominate someone? If so, please email communications@acpsem.org.au

VACANCIES

There are no current job vacancies. Upcoming vacancies can be found [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please be aware that event dates and locations may change due to uncertainty and safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. The event information below was accurate at the time of email delivery, but we advise that you double-check information on upcoming events that you wish to attend, and to keep an eye out for updates.

EPSM 2020

1-4 November 2020, Brisbane, QLD

Our flagship conference, EPSM 2020 - the Engineering & Physical Sciences in Medicine Conference - is still planned to go ahead in Brisbane, QLD, this November. EPSM is the premier annual event for medical physicists, biomedical engineers and radiopharmaceutical scientists in Australia and New Zealand. [Read more](#)



See the first EPSM newsletter [here](#), and [submit an abstract](#).

IOMP INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL PHYSICS WEEK

11-15 May 2020, Online

The International Organization for Medical Physics is holding an online event to mark International Medical Physics Week. The week will feature a number of webinars. [Read more](#)

SIIM 20

24-26 June 2020, Online

#SIIM20 has gone virtual and is offering a 3 day educational event. Participants can get involved in education sessions, abstract presentations, general daily snapshot sessions and more. Note that these sessions run from 12:00-5:30pm ET (2:00-7.30am AEST the following day) which makes them perfect for early risers. [Register](#)

ACPSEM NSW/ACT BRANCH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM

tbc - 7 July 2020 proposed, Sydney, NSW

The ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch are organising a Research and Development Symposium. More details to come soon!

ESTRO 2020

31 July - 4 August 2020, Vienna, Austria

ESTRO is a multi-professional society focusing on radiation oncology as a core component of high-quality, multidisciplinary cancer treatment, in partnership with other oncology societies. [Read more](#)

Additionally, join Elekta, one of our sponsors, for their User Meeting prior to ESTRO 2020. [Read more](#)



RANZCR ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

7-9 August 2020, Wellington, NZ / 15-18 October 2020, Melbourne, VIC

Register for this year's RANZCR (The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists) Annual Scientific Meetings. The ASMs provide an opportunity to learn about recent advances in the fields of clinical radiology and radiation oncology. [Read more](#)

ACPSEM - PRACTICAL IMAGE REGISTRATION

19 September 2020, Sydney, NSW

The ACPSEM Medical Image Registration Special Interest Group (MIRSIG) and TROG Image Registration Subgroup are holding an activity-based workshop designed to improve image registration skills for Radiation Oncologists, Radiation Therapists and Medical Physicists. [Read more](#)

(This workshop was scheduled to take place on 15 March but has been postponed until 19 September.)



MEDLAB ASIA & ASIA HEALTH - DATE CHANGE

28-30 October 2020, Bangkok, Thailand

The Medlab Asia & Asian Health event has been postponed until 28-30 October 2020 (originally scheduled to take place 10-12 June 2020). The events look at improving healthcare through laboratory diagnostics, and through the evolution of healthcare in Asia. [Read more](#)

SAVE THE DATES AND TBC EVENTS

ACPSEM NSW/ACT BRANCH SRS WORKSHOP

tbc, Sydney, NSW

The ACPSEM NSW/ACT branch are organising an SRS Workshop. More details to come soon!

ACPSEM QLD BRANCH PRIMPS EVENT

tbc - May/June 2020 proposed, online, NSW

The ACPSEM Queensland branch are organising an online PRIMPs event in May or June. More details to come soon!

ACPSEM SA/NT BRANCH MEDICAL & RADIATION PHYSICS STUDENT PAPER NIGHT

POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, Adelaide, SA

The ACPSEM SA/NT branch is putting on a Medical & Radiation Physics Student Paper Night at the Cancer Research Institute, University of South Australia. [Read more](#)

ASMIRT-NZIMRT 2020 VISION (postponed until 2021)

11-14 February 2021, Melbourne, VIC

ASMIRT-NZIMRT brings together radiographers, radiation therapists and the wider medical radiation sciences community from across Australasia in their 4 day conference. This year's conference has been postponed. [Read more](#)



ACPSEM NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, Brisbane, QLD

The 2nd ACPSEM National Leadership Workshop is a members-only event which provides you with the

tools to enhance your leadership skills. This year's workshop is currently postponed, but keep your eyes peeled for updates. [Read more](#)

ACPSEM WA BRANCH - WINTER SOCIAL EVENT

Date and details TBC

Save the date for the Western Australia Branch social event taking place in July. More details to come - watch this space!

ACPSEM WA BRANCH - SCIENTIFIC MEETING

4 October 2020, details TBC

Save the date for the Western Australia Branch scientific meeting taking place on 4 October, 9:00-13:30. More details to come - watch this space!

ACPSEM SUMMER SCHOOL

Date TBC, online

The ACPSEM Summer School will be taking place towards the end of this year/beginning of next year in an online format. More details to come.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

We'd love to hear from you! Some ideas for contributions include:

- [Awards and achievements](#) - celebrating our members and their successes
- [Your career background](#) - as part of the Building a Successful Career series
- [Events and activities](#) - promotions or updates within your branch
- [Specialty groups](#) - updates, plans, and group outcomes
- [Reviews and feedback](#) - from industry conferences, events, workshops, etc
- [Pictures and videos](#) - show us your work, your colleagues (with their permission!), your events, or anything else that your work involves!

If you are interested in contributing, please email Kath at communications@acpsem.org.au

LET'S GET SOCIAL

