



ACPSEM

Australasian College of Physical
Scientists & Engineers in Medicine

Members Update

MARCH 2020

COVID-19 IMPACTS AND OUR RESPONSE

STAY SAFE

These are new and strange times for the ACPSEM as we take time to reconsider and adjust how we deliver member support and education services. However, these activities can be undertaken in a relatively measured way, as compared to the unfolding or already realised disruptions to our members' personal and work lives. The following information is offered by way of an update and assurance.

ENABLING MEMBERS TO CONNECT

In response to demand the ACPSEM is enhancing communication channels and facilitating resource sharing;

1. The inclusion of **resources** recommended by members and staff in the general news section of the ACPSEM website has begun – this practice will remain in place for the foreseeable future.
2. By Friday 27 March 2020 all members will be uploaded to COMET (the learning management system) to enable use of a secure password protected discussion forum for exchanging views, ideas and concerns.
3. The College's Zoom classrooms (also managed via COMET) will be made available to support webinars, discussions or teaching sessions that may be useful over the coming months.
4. Members can continue to use the ACPSEM Members email list, noting however that this tool will be phased out in the coming weeks (replaced by the secure discussion forum).

EPSM 2020

EPSM 2020 planning and arrangements continue on the basis that the conference will be held as scheduled in Brisbane in November 2020. Let's hope this can be a shared celebration of getting through this pandemic. Members are encouraged to **submit abstracts** noting that should EPSM 2020 eventually not take place a, it will be postponed and not cancelled. Worst case scenario is that EPSM 2020 will become EPSM 2021 and will still be held in Brisbane in the traditional period (October - November).

IMPORTANT WORK CONTINUES

Key Initiatives and Projects also continue:

1. ROMP CTG Review (ramping up from April 2020)
2. DIMP and ROMP Workforce Modelling
3. MR Linac and Particle Therapy Working Group operation
4. AHPRA Registration (or Not) Phase 2 consultation paper development
5. Three Year Duration of TEAP Project (Focussing on APR Replacement, Research Support Strategy, ROMP Level 1 Competency Project, and workshop development)
6. Development of an alternate (general) pathway to registration (feasibility stage)

Specialty Groups are also increasingly active and will separately report to members.

If a project or initiative you are involved with on behalf of the College is not listed above, it has likely been delayed and further information will be provided to you. We are aware that members are working at capacity or beyond so are slowing down some College activities.

ALTERNATIVE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The June 2020 **ACPSEM National Leadership Workshop** is postponed indefinitely. However, the 2020 Mentoring Program will be launched in late April 2020 on a larger scale (than 2019).

A series of 3 Leadership and Management Q&A webinar sessions will be held during 2020 on dates to be advised and subject to demand (questions and requests from members).

Work continues on the development of modules for use in the workplace.

Members will be consulted with respect to interest in Chief Physicist Leadership (and equivalent) Masterclass series for later in 2020.

Please contact leadership@acpsem.org.au if you have any ideas or requests regarding how the College might best continue to support leadership and management skills development and situational leadership issues in these challenging times.

MEMBERSHIP AND TEAP FEES

If your employment situation has changed due to Covid-19 making it difficult to pay membership or TEAP fees, please **get in contact**. We will address individual circumstances to find a solution.

TEAP DISRUPTIONS

The ACPSEM recognises that there will be disruptions experienced to **TEAP** training caused by missing work for personal and family reasons, being called on to cover routine clinical work for those who are away and overall limited access to equipment.

No registrar will be disadvantaged as a consequence of Covid-19 -caused disruptions to training. This includes implementation of the TEAP Duration work. In the short term please focus on staying safe and doing what's needed to protect yourselves, your families, **your patients** and the public; while also taking the time to record the detail of those periods where your training is affected.

From mid-April we will have procedures in place to logically deal with individual circumstances as they arise, including ensuring that impact on individuals is visible to the **PSB** and **the Board**.

The ACPSEM has set a goal to equally support those with justification to delay assessments and those (close to finishing) who wish to complete as soon as possible.

If you are required to work from home for extended periods, please use the opportunity to get on track with background reading, writing up reports and documentation of evidence. The message is to carry on and do what you can within your own workplace situation.

Also, please look for opportunities to undertake online courses and initiatives and keep connected with other registrars both within your individual hospital site, as well as intra- and inter-state.

If supervisors and registrars have ideas for teaching or skills development sessions that may benefit the broader registrar community and they wish to share them, ACPSEM staff will facilitate the scheduling and management of live streaming and webinars.

In early April the College will also launch a competition to encourage the development of innovative and practical approaches based on the theme of *Doing TEAPs from Home*.

ROMP TEAP NEWS

The ACPSEM will provide advice and updates with respect to the May/June 2020 scheduled Part A and B ROMP Exams in the next 10 days as it explores alternative modes of delivery of these exams. The ACPSEM is seeking to avoid the creation of a lengthy backlog of examination candidates.

Please continue to enrol in the May/June 2020 examination cycle, if that was always your intention, and you remain in a position to do so. The ACPSEM recognises that requests for withdrawal, based on changes in circumstances, may escalate in this period.

The September Written exam will proceed as scheduled and will likely be conducted online.

April APRs have all been scheduled.

DIMP TEAP NEWS

DIMP examinations will likely be unaffected by Covid-19 related circumstances.

Part I and Part II written exams are already undertaken online and therefore should not be affected.

Oral exams will continue as necessary (rather than be delayed) conducted remotely rather than in person using appropriate technology (most likely Zoom).

The ACPSEM has been advised by NSW HETI that it is intending to provide its 2020 DIMP workshop

program online, and that it will welcome the participation of other interstate registrars. This will enable TEAP some competency completion, without having to be on a hospital site and without having to travel. While the ACPSEM will provide updates on this program, Registrars are encouraged to monitor opportunities themselves.

Progress reviews will continue as usual, using teleconference or Zoom facilities.

RPS TEAP NEWS

The RPS progressive assessment program will continue in its usual form. The planned F2F supervisor workshop has been postponed and alternate dates and means of delivery are being considered.

LET'S GET SOCIAL

