

A MESSAGE FROM THE RADIATION ONCOLOGY SPECIALTY GROUP

Dear Members

I would like to take an opportunity to update you on some ROSG related projects, and provide an overview on what is on the agenda for the year ahead.

As many of you are aware the ROSG Leadership Committee undertakes activities in a number of areas that generally fall into two broad categories, namely:

1. Providing representation on radiation oncology medical physics matters
2. Supporting the profession in identified areas of need

Specific direction may be provided by the ACPSEM Board whom we report to.

The current members of the leadership committee are:

- Michael Bailey
- Paul Charles
- Claire Dempsey
- Michael Jameson
- Matthew Jennings
- Ajeet Mishra
- John Shakeshaft
- Matthew Sobolewski

We welcome your correspondence on any issues or concerns you may have affecting the wider profession, and welcome suggestions at where we should be devoting attention and resources. Until such time as a committee email is established, please direct emails to myself (msobolewski@riverinacancercare.com.au).

TEAP REVIEW

Last year we invited Radiation Oncology Specialty Group members to contribute your thoughts and ideas regarding the future of the ROMP TEAP scheme with particular emphasis on its structure and purpose. We would like to thank those who contributed responses, both as individuals and as part of departmental groups.

There were a wide range of opinions given covering a broad range of topics including; the purpose of TEAP, expectations of a newly certified ROMP, how to adapt an ever-changing field, CTG structure and content, program length, supervisor training, examination and assessment, and the role of universities among others. A strong theme of note amongst the responses was that the present requirement of achieving level 3 proficiency in all competencies is not ideal, and that having a better structured combination of core and elective competencies would be advantageous.

During the ROSG committee review process, the ACPSEM Board decision that TEAP would be 3 years going forward, was announced. A 3-year-TEAP working party has been formed, chaired by the ACPSEM President and consisting of representatives from the PSB as well as Certification Panel and Training Coordinator representatives from all streams. Its role is to determine improvements and

efficiencies to the current CTG to ensure registrars are completing TEAP in a 3-year period (for those entering TEAP with a completed MSc).

Due to this, the scope and timeframe of the ROSG review has changed. The development of a new CTG to accommodate a 3 year TEAP scheme is expected to occur soon, and the ROSG leadership committee will contribute to the future direction of TEAP in the following two key ways:

1. Providing consultation during the upcoming CTG review
2. Taking up a long term commitment to shape TEAP as it evolves in the coming years

The feedback provided will be invaluable for these two purposes and enable the ROSG Leadership Committee to offer a truly representative view. It must be noted that the review responses from members were not always in agreement and any advice provided, and ultimately the decisions made in this process may not meet the expectations of all ROSG members despite the best efforts of all involved.

MRI LINAC WORKING GROUP

As many of you would have seen a call for expressions of interest to join the new MRI Linac Working Group has recently been circulated. The group will support the safe clinical introduction of the technology in the region and has a reasonably broad scope as described in the terms of reference. Successful meeting of outcomes will require a diverse group in terms of experience and expertise, and membership is not limited to MRI-Linac subject matter experts. If you feel you can make a contribution to the working group, I encourage you to submit your expression of interest by the 28th of February closing date.

THE YEAR AHEAD

There are a range of areas the ROSG Leadership Committee will be directing its attention to over the coming year.

- The formation of a working group focused on the safe and effective use of non-commercial software (open source & in-house developed) is in its early phases.
- Workforce issues are central to a number of topical discussions and we recognise that the development of an adequate workforce model with which sound recommendations can be made is an area of need for ROMPs. The committee will look to work with the college and support the development of workforce model reflective of current practice.
- The Radiation Oncology Alliance Practice Standards are up for review this year. We will be actively involved in this review process.
- The MBS review is underway. Input on these reviews is dominated by clinicians, however the wording of specific radiation oncology items regarding QA activities has a direct impact on our day-to-day clinical practice. Contributing to this process is a priority of the specialty group.
- There are a number of areas of clinical practice which are not currently supported by locally developed, and current, position papers or guidelines. An assessment of what we should do in this space is on the agenda for the year. A consideration of how and if international guidelines should be adopted in these areas will be incorporated in this assessment.

The Australasian ROMP group is a diverse mix of professionals, with differing priorities, responsibilities, working conditions, and external pressures, all contained within a relatively small workforce number. We aim to support this group though these outlined activities (and inevitably others as the year unfolds) being mindful of this diversity, and at the same time focus on what is

common. I'd like to re-iterate that if you do have any issues or concerns regarding ROMP matters, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Matthew Sobolewski

ROSG LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR