

Editorial

Celebrating 21 years of the AJCN

Moira Stephens • RN PhD MSc BSc (Hons)

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health, School of Nursing, University of Wollongong NSW 2522 Australia

For referencing Stephens M. Celebrating 21 years of the AJCN . Australian Journal of Cancer Nursing 2019; 20(1):2.

DOI <https://doi.org/10.33235/ajcn.20.1.2>

This issue of the *Australian Journal of Cancer Nurses* celebrates the 21st birthday of the Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA) and of the journal. So, happy birthday to us.

Volume #1 Edition #1 was published in September 1998, heralding the official launch of the CNSA in November 1998. The three articles in that inaugural volume reflected on the key professional and practice issues of the day:

- Advanced oncology nursing practice: An essential integration of clinical practice, education and the professional body by Lillian Daly;
- Collaboration between clinicians and academics: Achieving outcomes in oncology and palliative care nursing research (Lesley Wilkes, Kate White and Sally Tracy); and
- Factors influencing nurses' abilities to impact on cancer: Exploring graduates' perceptions (Gabrielle Prest).

Interestingly, the common theme inherent in that first volume — the value and importance of collaboration between nurses working in practice, education and research — has retained a place for discussion over the last 21 years. This theme is the mortar for the building blocks of excellence in cancer nursing practice, and the discussion has developed, influencing publications and practice as well as conversations at conferences and in tea rooms, and it remains as important today as it was 21 years ago.

The journal has grown and developed with the CNSA over its 21 years. Patsy Yates and Catherine Johnson took those initial leadership steps as the first Editors in September 1998, with only one edition a year initially published. Laurie Grealish joined the editorial team in 1999. The *AJCN* was initially published by Creative Logic, the PCO for CNSA, supported in part by a grant from Amgen. The journal publication later moved to Cambridge Media, where we have been supported to develop the journal publication further.

The journal took the — at the time — bold step to move to two editions a year in 2002.

In 2009, Tish Lancaster and Mei Krishnasamy took over as Editors. There had been difficulty in soliciting manuscripts in the previous two years, so a decision was made publish themed editions about a particular cancer or clinical issue, inviting clinical experts to provide overviews on the current state of play. This proved unsustainable, so the journal returned to proffered papers, with authors often being recruited at the annual congress. Mei Krishnasamy resigned at the end of 2011 and Moira Stephens, who had been a member of the Editorial Board, became Co-Editor in 2012.

The year 2018 saw the move to Scholar One — the electronic management system which has made an enormous difference to the editorial management and process — and thanks to Greg Paull and the team at Cambridge Media for their support and work with that.

This year — as we have come of age — we have, for the first time published as hard copy and electronic copy and appointed two new Associate Editors, as Tish and I say goodbye to the journal and move to pastures new.

We are pleased that the CNSA Board of Directors appointed Prof Karen Strickland and A/Prof Jacqueline Bloomfield as Associate Editors for 2019. They will assume the roles of Editors in 2020. Both Karen and Jacqueline bring a wealth of clinical, research, academic and publishing experience, addressing those themes highlighted in the very first edition.

On a personal note — I have loved and learned working with the CNSA, the editorial board, our generous growing team of reviewers and Tish, in particular.

Thank you, have fun and keep up the good fight for excellence in cancer care,

Moira Stephens