EDITORIAL

In 2016 Australian Conference on Science and Mathematics Education (ACSME) makes its first trip to Brisbane and its first leap into the arms of the Australian Council of Deans of Science (ACDS). What a journey it has been! So much time, so much organisation, and so much team-work has gone into this year's conference and there are many people to thank. Usually an editorial would start with a description of the conference itself, but this time I will start with the people who made it happen.

First, I stand in awe of the organisational power of Manju Sharma who has been Chair of ACSME for many years. Manju has provided the new ACSME team with guidance, run sheets, budget templates, web site maintenance, and friendly reminders about things that need to be done (or should have been done yesterday). We may still have forgotten things, but that's probably because we missed a Manju email.

The Australian Council of Deans of Science (ACDS) has taken over the stewardship of ACSME this year. From now on ACDS will hold the ACSME purse strings and run the conference registration; I'm glad to say that the terrific turnout at ACSME this year has left ACDS in good shape for future iterations of the conference. Both Liz Johnson and Jen Aughterson at ACDS have been wonderful to work with and I think ACSME has found a wonderful home to take it into the future.

As we transitioned ACSME between stewards we struck some complexities with finance. We are so grateful to the Institute for Teaching and Learning Innovation (ITaLI) at the University of Queensland for bankrolling ACSME until the registration money came in. We very much appreciate this kindness – without it we would not have had a venue for the conference or for the dinner! Anyone for a conference on the lawn with BYO picnic? ITaLI also provided the USBs for all of the conference attendees. My particular thanks go to Doune MacDonald, Sarah Roberts-Thomson, Sandra Hartas, and Brenda Parker.

Alexandra Yeung has done a magnificent job on the proceedings (in her usual style) and I thank her for all her time, effort, and management prowess. It's been great to have an experienced person who, along with Manju, can tell us what to do next.

Thank you also to the ACSME committee members (Shaun Belward, Frances Breen, Kay Colthorpe, Sarah Cresswell, Jenny di Trapani, Sarah-Jane Gregory, Glenn Harrison, Gillian Isoardi, Michael Jennings, Effie Kartsonaki, Louise Kuchel, Dann Mallet, Jack Wang, and Eliza Whiteside) who have done all sorts of jobs before and during ACSME. Carol Wical and James Hardy have provided wonderful help, even in the absence of official committee titles. Gwen Lawrie, as Deputy Chair of ACSME 2016, has been her usual self - a constant help and a sensible advisor.

And last, but definitely not least, is Steph Beames, conference organiser extraordinaire. Steph's attention to detail and level of care for ACSME is extraordinary and extremely important. I overlook things, but Steph doesn't. Room bookings, catering quotes, potted plants, advertising banners, satchel stuffing – all of it comes from Steph. In addition, Steph is probably the only conference organiser who will think to bring spare wigs for a conference dinner. That's service, and it is always done with a smile.

Our conference theme this year is The 21st Century Science and Maths Graduate. We are encouraging the ACSME community to ask "What is the place of our STEM graduates in the world and how do we prepare them?" This two-part question is important. A recent report from the Office of the Chief Scientist show us that science graduates do not just work in laboratories and research institutions. Instead, their place is the world is much more complex (and, dare I say, more interesting!) – it goes way beyond the laboratory. Our science graduates find work in business, education, retail, legal, engineering, consulting, and health-related fields, to name just a few. This diversity means they by the time they leave university they need to be prepared with a variety of adaptable skills and the ability to be lifelong learners.

ACSME 2016 has multiple sub-themes that help us consider ways we can prepare our students for their futures beyond university. Networking and collaboration skills, digital literacy, and communication skills are all key for the world of work in science & mathematics. Industry engagement, community involvement, and work integrated learning (WIL) all contribute to broadening the scope of our

students' experience and improving their employability. Technology-enhanced learning gives us an opportunity to help students develop and display their skills in new ways.

On behalf of the Organising and Program Committees, I would like to thank all the authors and participants at the conference. We have a record number of participants, new formats for presentations, and eighteen registered workshops for the third day of our meeting. I hope you find the 22nd ACSME conference stimulating, thought provoking, and enjoyable. I also hope you leave feeling energised and ready to empower the new wave of 21st Century graduates in Science and Maths.

Associate Professor Susan Rowland
Chair, Australian Conference for Science and Mathematics Education 2016