Welcome to this milestone issue of HIM-I. This issue marks five years of publication of the HIM-Interchange. Reflecting on those five years prompted me to revisit the very first issue (Volume 1, Number 1, 2011). The theme for that issue was ‘Health information management human resources and industrial relations’ and the guest editorial was written by Ross Buchanan, the then Director of Health information Services at Alfred Health in Victoria. Health reform was a very hot topic in 2011 and this issue contained articles on that topic as well as articles on scanning of medical records and clinical analysis of coded data, two other topics that are still current today.

Fifteen issues of HIM-I have been published in those five years and we have not yet repeated a theme. This illustrates for me the diversity of health information management effort and the capacity of HIMs to engage with the constant change that is taking place in our health systems. Every one of those issues, as well as containing articles on the theme, contains articles and reflections on the current areas of endeavour for HIMs around Australia. This is something to be very proud of, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our Managing Editor, Liz Morrison, in making this happen. A very big thank you is also due to all of you who responded to our requests for contributions and for doing so with grace and good humour.

You have been instrumental in producing a journal that has represented and served HIMAA members for five years and provided a reference document for many of our themes that may be used for many years to come. And finally of course, thank you to all the members of the Editorial Board for their unconditional support and generosity with feedback and ideas, which have supported the editors in producing this, Australia’s very own health information management professional practice journal.

But the milestone is not just about marking five years of production; it is also about introducing a new process for the ongoing publication of HIM-I and in the current issue you will find an article by Stella Rowlands, which introduces to you the new HIM-I Subcommittee: your very own subcommittee that is committed to taking HIM-I into the future, responding to your needs and your feedback, while continuing to provide education, opportunities for reflection and celebration. This
This is the beginning of a new chapter for the Journal and I look forward to sharing this journey with you all.

Our current theme of ‘Opportunities and challenges for the management of health information in regional, rural and remote healthcare settings’ acknowledges that management of health information varies significantly depending on the environment in which we work and that HIMs in rural and remote locations deal with challenges that HIMs in urban areas never have to think about. I will expand further on this in my editorial in this Issue but I encourage you to read these articles even if you don’t work in these areas. You never know where your future lies, and you never know when you may find yourselves engaging and collaborating with HIMs from these areas on a joint committee or a special interest group, and in that circumstance an understanding of the challenges faced in these areas may be just what sets you apart from the crowd.

I’ll leave you on that note to read Stella’s and all the other articles we have for you in this Issue. Enjoy!

References

Jennie Shepheard
Editor