



Submission Guidelines

for the Marks-Hirschfeld Museum of Medical History Newsletter

Thank-you

for your interest in contributing to The University of Queensland's Marks-Hirschfeld Museum of Medical History newsletter. The newsletter is published four times a year, with a current readership of around 200. We are looking to expand our range of newsletter contributors and with it the area of interests we cover. In growing our newsletter, we hope to cultivate an active community of people with an interest in the Museum collection and Museum activities.

The Museum aims to celebrate Queensland's medical history by telling the stories of its people, events, objects, scandals and triumphs. You may wish to write about: the evolution of an instrument, procedure or technology; the biography of a Queensland practitioner; past attitudes in medicine; or ways in which medicine has shaped our modern society. The options are limitless, and the Museum team is happy to discuss ideas with you and provide suggestions for content. Articles can range from short features (250 to 500 words) to long-form features (1000 to 1500 words). Compelling first-person or personal stories and opinion pieces also are welcome.

Any submissions we receive will be reviewed and edited by the Museum team to ensure they are appropriate for publishing. You will approve the final edited version before the newsletter is distributed to ensure you are happy with the finished product. After publication we are happy to pass on any feedback we receive from readers.

Our audience is diverse in industry and experience—but they all have this in common: they are passionate about history, quality content and lifelong learning.

Need help?

If you would like to write a contribution but are unsure of a subject or how to start, the Museum team is here to help. We understand that often a writer has great enthusiasm for a subject but may need a bit of discussion to give it focus and develop a narrative structure. Please don't be perturbed by the format—if you have any desire to explore a topic, we will give you all the support you need to create an engaging article.

Please contact the curator Ms Charla Strelan on c.strelan@uq.edu.au or phone 07 3365 5423 to discuss how you can contribute to the newsletter.

Writing tips

Consider your audience You're writing for a wide audience so keep in mind that the language you use must be simple and easy to understand—not all readers will understand some terms and you may need to explain further. Try not to get bogged down in scientific or medical jargon as readers can get lost in too much technical talk.

Be considerate While your opinion is your own, submissions will not be accepted if they include personal attacks, discrimination, misleading information, overtly political comment, information and photos acquired without permissions, or material that is commercial in nature.

Create interest First impressions count. People decide within seconds whether to continue reading something. Not sure how to start your article? Try beginning it with an interesting anecdote, statistic or problem statement.

Write in a way that is interesting and accessible to a wide group of people. Try to be clear and concise in your writing and use bullets, lists and short sentences.

If appropriate, provide photographs, data, graphs—any visuals that will enhance your article are great if you have permission to use them. If in doubt, the Museum can help you gain permission for using images and/or find images to accompany your article. We generally like to feature photographs of objects in our collection where possible.

If the topic is complex, you might want to suggest additional resources or offer a contact for more information at the end of your article.

Be accurate As with any UQ publication, information published must be accurate and fair. Cite or link to sources and provide references to quotations and facts where possible.

Content ideas

- Film reviews, for example, a review of the 2019 film *Radioactive* or the 2016 film *Marie Curie: The Courage of Knowledge*
- Book reviews, perhaps John Pearn's *A Doctor in the Garden* or a classic book from the collection, for example, Osler's text (reproduction), or Robert James's (1705 – 1766) *Medical Dictionary*
- The history of tonsillectomy (the Museum has numerous examples of guillotines, snares and anaesthetic techniques)
- A reflection on treatments and procedures now considered unnecessary
- A short biography of a medical practitioner with ties to Queensland. The Museum holds several objects which once belonged to Joseph Bancroft, for example.