

*'Young Women Young Doctors; our Inspiration our Future*

ACT MWS held their annual Celebration of Women in Medicine in the final quarter of 2019 and the theme that seemed to run through the four presentation from four women in medicine was exactly that of the MWIA Triennial aspiration "Young Women, Young Doctors ; Our Inspiration our future "

The Senior Australian of the Year for 2019, and a long term Canberra paediatrician, Dr Sue Packer, spoke about our need to always listen to young children and to encourage their curiosity. She has dedicated her year as Senior Australian of the year to the rights of children everywhere – in our communities, in refugee sites and in the climate crisis.

Our wonderful Dean of Medicine at the Australian National University, Professor Imogen Mitchell spoke of many of the bumps in the road to her current position, and highlighted how she is inspired by her 12 year old daughter who has recognised Imogen's courage and also taught her that she must smile more. It must have been somewhat reassuring to one of the other speakers on the night, the second Imogen, Imogen Faulds, to hear that even the Dean of Medicine had not got the entry scores she needed for some of the earlier jobs she went for. Prof Mitchell's other message was to live every day to the utmost and she admitted that comes from the fragility of life that she contends with as an ICU physician.

Imogen Faulds and Dr Betty Ge are the young women in medicine that ACT MWS sponsored to attend the Centennial MWIA Congress in New York and they did a really informative tandem presentation on their highlights from the Congress. Betty Ge has already taken up some committee and project work with MWIA. These two young women personify our "Inspiration Our Future", the MWIA theme for the triennium. Together they highlighted many of the excellent scientific presentation at the Congress. Their choices seemed to extend Prof Mitchell's message of living each day to the full. Betty quoted the congress keynote speaker Gloria Steinem who at 85years old told us to keep on dancing into the future, and Imogen Faulds highlighted the work of Dr Suzy Feigofsky, a US physician who emphasised a model of taking time out to care for ourselves.