



EDITORIAL

## AIRING OUR RESEARCH

**T**HINK is evolving. For 2017 we picked four elements as our inspiration for each issue. We begin with this Air special focus, followed by Water, Earth, and Fire.

Each element is a launch pad into the web of research happening at the University of Malta. The Air special focus features studies as diverse as theories to understand mysterious extreme stars (pg. 22) to reimagining airplane's cockpits (pg. 40). Students are also doing tremendous work in trying to understand Titan, Saturn's largest moon (pg. 16), and the brightness of distant stars (pg. 17). In our new section Lab to Life, Iman Omar writes about her research developing a technology to improve radio telescopes, some of which has already been patented (pg. 62).

In addition to the focus, Think has a wide swath of opinion pieces. Prof. Giuseppe Di Giovanni talks about why marijuana should be used to treat pain (pg. 14), while Prof. Godfrey Baldacchino thinks that Malta should aim to produce the next Nobel Laureate (pg. 12), as other, smaller countries managed. Maltese academics have some big opinions.

Not shying away from the latest hot topic, Dr George Zammit talks about the current state of world politics and why the status quo is simply not working anymore—think Donald Trump's election and Brexit (pg. 45). Our alumni article also touches upon governance, with Kora Muscat talking about behavioural economics and how it should be used in Malta for both public policy and business (pg. 68).

The issue is full of other articles on sustainable tourism, culture, art, equipment, and digital games. We have even snuck in another two new sections: Startup featuring the game studio Mighty Box (pg. 56) and a new To-do List.

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