

Branch News – June 2004.

Executive Musings.

Much has happened in the past few weeks. One could have a full time job just working for the Society.

Registration

Registration is looming as a big issue with the implementation of the New Zealand Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Bill on the 19th of September this year. Unfortunately, this has created a level of uncertainty for the New Zealand members. Maureen Swanney has been gently urging some action regarding the Society's position on registration so that concerns can be addressed. There are several options open to the New Zealanders but none of them are as good as the Society having its own registration process. Gary Nolan has been working with David Robiony-Rogers and the Executive preparing a document to be considered by the Registration Committee before being put to the Board. David Robiony-Rogers has been extremely helpful, particularly in a link role with the New Zealand Health Ministry. A letter is being drafted to send to the NZ Ministry of Health requesting that ANZSRS be the professional body that represents staff working in respiratory laboratories within NZ.

Many challenges remain but there is a group of people working hard to come up with the best solution that will satisfy members and HPCA Bill requirements. A letter has been sent to all New Zealand members on this topic and the Executive would like to reinforce the plea for any concerns to be raised with the Regional Representatives or directly with the Executive. It is envisaged that a workable registration process can be developed ready for implementation across NZ and Australia. Whether this process will be a statutory requirement within Australia, as it will be in New Zealand, remains open and investigations are continuing in this area.

Spirometry Buyers Guide

There is finally good news regarding the Spirometry Buyers Guide tender from the Department of Health and Ageing. In conjunction with the TSANZ we have been the successful bidders and the hard work of meeting the tender requirements has begun. A contract has been presented to ANZSRS for signing but even before the ink is dry Debbie Burton, David Johns and Maureen Swanney have got off to a flying start.

Governance

Early in June the Governance Review Committee will hold a teleconference to discuss progress made to date with tasks assigned to Committee members during the Sydney ASM. The Executive would anticipate presenting an interim progress report to the Board soon after the teleconference.

Asia Pacific Society of Respiriology (APSR)

Those of us who are also members of TSANZ may be aware that Professor Dick Ruffin (President, TSANZ) is about to negotiate with the APSR on behalf of TSANZ for a block membership. There are several reasons for this initiative including development of closer links with like minded health professionals within our geographic region. There would be a small increase to TSANZ annual membership rates to cover the cost of the Respiriology journal. As a group ANZSRS may well be too small to negotiate a similar deal independently. However, in conjunction with TSANZ a stronger representation could be made to the APSR. Kevin Gain and David Johns' Publications Review canvassed closer links with Respiriology and it was decided at this year's Board Meeting to investigate the publication of our ASM abstracts within the journal. Discussions with TSANZ and

subsequently APSR will continue and information will be distributed via this report as it becomes available.

Association for Respiratory Technology & Physiology

The Executive and Dr Brendan Cooper, Chair of the ARTP, have been discussing the mutual benefits of a closer relationship between the two Societies. There are many similarities between the Societies which share some common challenges and everyday issues. Dr Cooper invites all members to visit the ARTP website at www.artp.org.uk Dr Cooper will make a short visit to Australia late in June and plans to meet with ANZRS members to continue discussions.

Christchurch

The 2004 RACP Joint Annual Scientific Meeting is being held from Tuesday 3 to Friday 6 August 2004 in beautiful, but chilly, Christchurch. ANZSRS is a joint partner in this meeting and we urge members to support this event and contribute towards its success. An excellent program has been prepared and is well worth your consideration. For more details visit the Conference Secretariat's web pages at www.sixhats.co.nz and click the 'Upcoming Events' button at the top of the page.

Vale Professor EJ Moran Campbell

The world of respiratory medicine and science is saddened by the recent passing of Professor EJ Moran Campbell. Professor Campbell contributed enormously to the development of respiratory medicine through his role as Professor at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. In particular, he had a very significant direct influence on many Australians which has perfused through our part of the world.

David Schembri, President

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New South Wales

The NSW Branch meeting for May took the form of a workshop for those contemplating sitting for the CRFS (and for those who already have the credential, but who would like refreshing). Stephen West generously gave his time to lead the workshop, and Rein Simmul and the Royal North Shore Hospital offered their lab as the venue. Many thanks to Charles Berry and Mayohealth for providing food and drink to keep the participants alert (not anxious) and happy. Feedback indicated that participants felt the workshop was well worthwhile, and that more need to be scheduled. We'll work on that!! Some of the "oldies" appreciated the chance to refresh some of their earlier knowledge that may have been hidden by other stuff that keeps piling on top. A suggestion was to add a CRFS workshop onto the mini-seminar to be held in September at CSU in Wagga. Others thought that September was too far away and another needs to be held before then. Thanks to everyone for such positive feedback.

The Canberra Hospital was fortunate to have the services of Chris O'Dea, a final year Respiratory Science student at CSU, for a couple of weeks at the end of April. Chris was on a work placement and we all learnt a thing or two. Plus we all had a lot of fun. If any labs have the opportunity to take part in a work experience placement, please do take it. It is a very worthwhile experience, both from a learning perspective and personally.

Gary Nolan & Jacqui Furler

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New Zealand

Christchurch Meeting.

Don't forget the dates for NZ branch ASM 3-6 Aug 2004, Christchurch. Great physiology content!! Beautiful city! -

- Call for abstracts 21st June 2004
- Early bird registration 1st July 2004

Check out ANZSRS main page for more details. All ANZSRS members are welcome.

SCT Meeting

The Society of Cardiopulmonary Technologists (SCT) in NZ are holding a meeting in last week of May to discuss the issues of the Health Competency Assurance Act (HPCA), training needs and a registration process for Cardiac, ECG, Respiratory and Sleep Techs/Scientists for throughout NZ. Senior Techs/Scientists from throughout NZ have been invited to attend this meeting in Auckland with many of them being ANZSRS members. We will let you know the outcome of this meeting next month.

Survey Response

Thankyou to all NZ members who responded to the NZ Branch ASM Attendance survey. We had an 81% response (22 out of 27 members) One more is still on it's way. Not too bad but I had hoped for 100%.

- **Meeting Attendance Statistics:** 27% attend every year; 5% attend every second year; 36% have attended in the past but do not attend regularly; 14% have never attended; 18% have never attended but would like to attend.
- **Reason's Members Haven't Attended:** 5% (1 member) application for funds unsuccessful; 5% didn't receive info prior to the meeting; 14% were more interested in attending the Australasian ANZSRS ASM. Other reasons: No or limited financial assistance available from employers/departmental funds; new members; not currently employed in industry but still keen to stay involved via correspondance and website; insufficient staffing to get away; too busy; living away from NZ.

Other Comments: 68% welcomed the opportunity to give a presentation at these meetings (I'd like to see this actioned!);
59% would like to attend the AGM for the opportunity to discuss society business, etc (7 members admitted to not welcoming the opportunity!);
73% regularly visit the ANZSRS web-site for monthly updates;
90% agree the NZ branch meeting should continue to be held in conjunction with the TSANZ (the other 10% did not comment on this question).

Enjoy the sunny hours of June

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Queensland

Another quiet month has slipped by in QLD with little Society business going on. All labs seem to be keeping themselves busy with the cooler weather bringing in the start of the winter chests for the year.

For those who are able to attend, the TSQ winter meeting is the next item on the agenda. The thought of a long weekend in Noosa with a fantastic program focussed on restrictive and orphan lung diseases is enough to motivate anyone! The details for this meeting have been finalised and registration forms circulated, if anyone hasn't received this information or would like to know more, please contact Skye or Debbie.

Debbie has been out and about in the neighbourhood, on a mission to check out some of the other local labs. We are keen to get in touch with those working in the field that don't routinely attend branch meetings and encourage them to participate in society activities. Please let us know if you haven't been receiving any correspondence from us. Speaking of society activities, there are 3 branch meetings remaining for the year with the next scheduled for the 30th June. We have some very interesting speakers lined up for these meetings but we will keep you all in suspense until closer to the date!

Debbie Murray and Skye McLennan

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South Australia

Another month has passed and there will be another SA Branch meeting. This meeting will be held at Mayo Healthcare on 15th of June 2004 at 18:00pm.

The address is 206 Gilles Street Adelaide. Thank you to Mayo Healthcare for providing their facilities for the meeting.

Another important series of dates this month is Dr Hugh Greville from RAH providing lectures on Respiratory Physiology (for the TSANZ) throughout June.

Dates as follows:

June 7th at the Chest Clinic 6pm – 8pm.

RSVP by the 31st of May by contacting 8222 5132

June 21st at the Chest Clinic 6pm – 8pm

RSVP by the 15th of June by contacting 8222 5132

Hope to see you at the SA Branch meeting.

Derek Figurski and David Sharp

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns
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Victoria

This last week I have had the pleasure to be involved in the presentation of The Alfred's Principles and Practise of Spirometry Course. Participants with very basic knowledge of respiratory function had their eyes opened to the vast knowledge required and consideration that needs to be given, in the assessment of ventilatory function, to ensure the results are accurate and valid. This is a good thing! The participants ranged from nurse practitioners to asthma educators to companies performing pre employment medical evaluations to scientists working in lung function laboratories to registrars. The best thing about the course, is that it

reminds me of the skills and knowledge I have developed over the 11 years I have worked in the field and provides me with the opportunity to refresh these skills and knowledge as well!

One of the topics raised for discussion during the course was the need for a “contraindications to test” list. It is often difficult to ascertain from a referral possible contraindications for testing. At the Alfred, we list the contraindications for testing on the back of our request slip, but it is unclear how many referring doctors read the contraindications prior to sending the referral to us. I would be interested to find out from other laboratories whether they have a checklist they go through with the patient prior to commencing an assessment and what others think about the need for such a checklist.

Brigitte

NEXT BRANCH MEETING 6th July 2004

The next branch meeting will be held at the Austin on Tuesday 6th July @ 6pm. As discussed in last month's Branch News, we have a guest speaker from RMIT University presenting Basic Radiology of the Chest. E-invitations will be sent in the next week or so.

CRFS Workshop.

Thankyou to those members who responded to our e-mail regarding a CRFS Workshop. The numbers are sufficient to make it worthwhile holding a workshop.

The workshop will be held on the 10th July. The venue is yet to be confirmed, but is likely to be either the Austin or the Alfred, as they are more central to those attending.

Members put forward the following topics for discussion:

- Pulmonary Physiology and Anatomy
- Neural Pathways (Control of ventilation)
- Plethysmography – Lung volumes
- Arterial Blood Gas - Physiology
- Aerosol medicine – particle deposition, action of pharmacological agents

The workshop timetable will be finalised in the next two weeks to allow those members who offered to tutor time to get their presentations organised. Any other topics members would like discussed need to be forwarded to Danny or Brigitte asap. The timetable will be e-mailed as soon as it is finalised. Anybody visiting from interstate is more than welcome to attend.

Danny Brazzale and Brigitte Borg
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Western Australia

As the weather gets colder and wetter (yes, we do have winter in WA), it's a reminder that June is not far away, nor the busy season. The temperature and our workload seems to be inversely proportional, as the temperature drops, the workload increases! Postponed are all the great research projects for the next AGM as any small gap between patients is used to refill the caffeine drip. As Kevin once remarked, our job would be thoroughly enjoyable if it wasn't for all the patients!

But I waffle on and there is some big news from WA this month. Graham, our president-elect, and his wife, Karen, are the proud parents of Tahlie Rose, born Friday 7th May. I heard a rumour that she arrived carrying a nosepeg in one hand and a mouthpiece in the other!

Other, minor in comparison, events occurring in WA:

- planning for next year's ASM has jumped up a notch and it seems that the closer we get, the more work there is to do, and , of course, the less time to do it in.
- We have a branch meeting scheduled for Wednesday 16th June at RPH
- An education session at SCGH on Thursday 10th June on Methacholine Challenges by Sally Young. Due to the rapidly diminishing supplies of histamine over here, we will soon be changing to using methacholine for our bronchial challenge tests at SCGH.

So, that's it from WA for another month. Until next time.

Graham Hall & Robert Tagliaferri

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CRFS news

Congratulations to Ian Martin for successfully achieving CRFS status at a recent exam. Ian is a member of the Department of Respiratory Medicine at Wellington Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand.

Ian's success continues the strong support of the CRFS credential by the New Zealand branch of the society.

Many members preparing for the CRFS exam ask for guidance regarding the topics to study and the depth of knowledge required for success. The topics examined are specified in the Content Outline contained within the CRFS Examination Study Guide that can be downloaded from this Website. As a further aid the following table has been assembled to show the number of questions in the CRFS exam (& the CRFS Study Guide Self-Assessment Exam) that relate to a particular topic as per the Study Guide Content Outline. Candidates preparing for the CRFS exam can use this data to determine the proportion of study time they should devote to a topic.

1	2	3	4
Topic	Content Outline	Study Guide	CRFS Exam
Respiratory Physiology	2.1-2.6, 3.1-3.2	35	28
Spirometry	4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.2, 6.2	8	14
Lung Volumes	4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.2, 6.2	15	14
TLCO	4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 5.2, 6.2	5	10
Respiratory Anatomy	1.0	6	7
Instrumentation	4.1-4.7	9	5
Interpretation of RFT's	6.1, 6.2	8	5
Therapeutics	5.1	3	5
Quality Assurance	4.1	2	4
Infection Control, Safety, CPR	4.2-4.3	5	4
Others		4	4

How much do you need to know for success? This is best learnt from experience by studying the self-assessment exam in the study guide plus the self-assessment questions in recommended textbooks and talking to others who have attempted the CRFS exam. Ultimately however the only way to know if your knowledge is sufficient is to attempt the actual CRFS exam. It's not important how many times you attempt the exam but that you continue to acquire knowledge and skills until you are successful.

Stephen West, CRFS
 CRFS Coordinator

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