

Branch News – November 2004.

Executive Musings.

The current call for nominations for Regional Board representatives for 2005-2006 has been a large success. As members of the Society everyone should be proud that the process has gone smoothly and that democracy is alive and well amongst us.

Many members have participated by nominating, seconding a nomination or actually accepting nomination. For the first time elections will be held in 2 of the ANZSRS regions and they are scheduled during November. The other regions have all fielded 2 nominations each and it is expected that the nominees will accept the positions.

Some existing Regional Board Representatives have been nominated for a second term but the majority of nominees will be taking on the role for the first time. This blend of 'youth' and experience will provide a sound foundation for the continued governance of the Society.

The new Regional Representatives will be announced in the December edition of Executive musings.

Whilst most of us are aware that the membership of our Society is relatively small, especially in comparison to some other professional Societies such as the cardiac group or Ultrasonographers, it becomes immediately apparent when one must approach members to fulfil official Society duties. An exercise such as this demonstrates the willingness of our members to be fully involved with the running of their Society and shows that they are happy to contribute their skills.

ANZSRS can only be an active, vibrant and useful organisation if there is a need for a high participation rate from within its membership. This is the trade-off from having a small group. Perhaps this could be perceived to be a disadvantage. Instead this possible perception can be turned around and the view taken that we are a close-knit group of professionals with strong links to a greater proportion of our colleagues than might be the case within a larger Society. Newer members of ANZSRS have greater opportunity to meet the more senior membership and there are numerous opportunities for exchange of information and ideas. Very simply, there is more opportunity for participation and recognition because we are a smallish group.

Does size matter? We could all produce examples depicting where it does. But even if we could recruit every individual working within respiratory measurement and science in Australia and New Zealand our numbers would still not be much larger. ANZSRS needs to begin forging links with other professional organisations. These links will be forged upon common needs and goals. Some of these links may not be with similar respiratory-based Societies. Brenton Eckert began exploring these ideas during the previous Executive's term. Individual members have been excellent ambassadors for ANZSRS at national and international scientific meetings. These links are becoming stronger and will gradually bear fruit for the Society. The result will be more opportunities for us as individual professionals.

As a final reminder, applications for the 2005 ANZSRS Educational/Research Scholarships are due by the 30th November 2004 and should be sent to the Secretary.

The Scholarships are an opportunity for members that are continuing to study, or wish to participate in Research, to have financial support from the Society and to be recognised for their endeavours.

David Schembri, President

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Michelle Rozee, Secretary

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Glenn Thomas, Treasurer

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Perth 2005 Local Organising Committee

Abstracts should be well in hand by now so make sure they continue to happen. Don't forget the earlier than usual closing date of December 3rd.2004. You should also be organising support to attend what will be a great meeting in a great city. We are looking forward to seeing you all here in Perth.

Kevin Gain

for Perth 2005 LOC

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New South Wales

Nothing received

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New Zealand

NZ has been a little dormant on the news front, or so it seems from Lauren's and my point of view.

We can however fill you in on the EXCITING NEW GOSSIP that has developed recently in Christchurch. Now that we have your attention, there is no exciting gossip. We are settling in well to our new lab though and working hard to submit our accreditation documents by the end of the year.

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Queensland

A fascinating branch meeting was held in late October with Dr Andreas Schibler, a Paediatric Intensive Care specialist at Brisbane's Mater Children's Hospital presenting his investigations involving electrical impedance tomography and its use in the management of mechanically ventilated patients. This technique is still in the research stage, but certainly one to keep in mind over the coming years as the technique is refined and developed to a clinically applicable stage. Amongst other business, the search for replacement board representatives continued at the meeting and we thank those who considered taking on the role.

Thanks to Andrew Coates for his report of the recent TSQ scientific meeting held 16th-17th October on QLD's Sunshine Coast.....

The Thoracic Society of Queensland kindly invited our members to their Annual Scientific (Springtime) meeting. The weekend long meeting ran only in the mornings, allowing the delegates to bask in the glory of the venue- the Outrigger Resort at Mooloolaba. It was wonderful! Many thanks to the TSQ!

Two eminent international guest speakers, both pathologists, were in town

for an International meeting the previous week. Dr Susan Stewart (Papworth, UK) and Dr Andras Khor (Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida) presented the pathological perspectives of Pulmonary Hypertension, Interstitial Lung Diseases, and Mesothelioma. Case presentations by our physicians, and fellows, and presentations by our local pathologists, surgeons, patient testimonials, and lawyers, made for lively discussions, and we tried to contribute the best that we could.

Worth noting are findings that-

- Pathologists view conditions on a continuum, sometimes to the angst of our physicians.
- Mesothelioma will peak in Australia and the UK in about the year 2020.
- Chemotherapy is the treatment of choice using Pemetrexed with Cisplatin with B12 and folate, with numbers need to treat being 18:1. Surgeons want to change this!
- Leflunomide, an immunomodulator for active rheumatoid arthritis, can cause an ILD - a hypersensitivity pneumonitis.

This comment came from physicians. Do you agree with this?

”Diffusing capacity is more varied in ILDs like sarcoidosis, compared to other patients.”

At next year's TSQ Spring meet, we will try to organise a workshop/ session for ourselves. So keep it in your diaries - 15-16 October 2005. (dates, and great venue, to be confirmed) All members of ANZSRS would be welcome.

A reminder to those thinking ahead to next years ASM in Perth, keep an eye on deadlines for abstract submissions and applications for travel grants. We all know how hectic this time of year is and I'm sure these dates will be upon us before we know it! The next big event before we make it to Perth is of course our Christmas function, look out for an e-mail soon with times, dates and places for this.

Debbie Murray and Skye McLennan

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South Australia

Another month flies by and in SA the local Christmas pageant is about to hit the streets. Where has the year gone?! The local branch met on the 27th of October with a last minute shuffle in presenters, due to medical illness. Thank you to David Schembri for filling in at the last minute and presenting on the very topical issue of bronchodilator response standards and current practice at the Southern Respiratory Service. The presentation highlighted the difference in protocol in dose, type and delivery of bronchodilator across laboratories - within one organisation!. The various interpretations of bronchodilator reversibility were also discussed. The timeframe before performing post – bronchodilator measurements (up to 30 minutes) raised the main issue of time allocation for patients and controlling workload demands for all laboratories. Recently this issue of standardisation protocols to measure bronchodilator reversibility has been raised in the literature and it is very interesting to see the diverse differences that are currently in use within SA

Thank you goes to Marcus Cockshutt from Mayohealthcare and also Medtechnica for sponsoring the meeting. There is one final meeting for the year. Any suggestions on content and format can be forwarded to Derek by no later than the first week of December or the dreaded quiz will be unleashed for another year!

On a different tack, a small group is forming outside of the local ANZSRS meetings, to review topics relevant for CRFS. Depending on numbers a laboratory site may need to be

found. Any one interested can contact Derek, as this group will possibly meet sometime in mid November.

Derek Figurski and David Sharp

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns

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Victoria

Greetings all. We had an interesting morning at The Alfred on Wednesday of this week. The high winds were wreaking havoc with the calibration of our body plethysmographs – something that we haven't seen in a long, long time. We also had an influx of rainwater into the laboratory - yes, the lung function reports have dried and are only a little bit crinkly! Just goes to show that the weather can affect us whether we are inside or out!

December 1st will be the Victorian Branch's last meeting for the year. As it has worked so well in past years, we will be meeting at St Vincent's for a shorter than usual meeting at 6pm and then gathering for dinner at the Pumphouse Hotel close by. Continuing the CRFS workshop theme, Lung Mechanics, presented by Paul Guy, is the topic for this meeting. Invitations will be distributed in the next week or so.

Abstracts for next year's ASM are due at the beginning of December. So start getting those drafts written and perfected!

Danny Brazzale and Brigitte Borg

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Western Australia

Well October was a busy month 'encouraging' the local members to nominate for the board, since both Graham and Rob are being 'promoted' to the Executive next year. It looks like WA will be heading for its first election of board members as at last count there were 3 nominations, so good luck to everyone involved.

The monthly meeting was at PMH and involved a very topical subject: "Obesity and children" by Amanda Griffiths. It is frightening to see the problems that these children are having at such an early age (one 8 year old child presented lost 20 kilo's and was still over 100kg!!) and, if the statistics presented are correct, Australia (&NZ?) is heading towards an epidemic of obesity! It will be interesting to see what impact this has in the future for the respiratory labs, and more importantly, to the Sleep labs. Graham mentioned that when buying their new plethysmograph recently, they went for the adult model rather than a paediatric model, which was just as well as some children are as big as Kevin (Gain) and only just fit in! Our thanks to Niche Medical for sponsoring this meeting.

The WA Branch of the TSANZ also held a very interesting meeting in Mandurah, which was well attended by clinicians, researchers and respiratory scientists. This year's theme was "evidence based medicine" with guest speaker Peter Gibson. One of the highlights was the debate "Asthma is a curable disease" between Peter Le Souef and Alan James, and an insight into "How to create an asthmatic if you really try" by Peter Sly - a very funny talk on keeping the respiratory doctors employed by creating more asthmatics! Well done to all those that

presented and we hope to make this a joint ANZSRS and TSANZ WA Branch meeting in the future.

Graham Hall & Robert Tagliaferri

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CRFS news

Best wishes to the five candidates sitting the CRFS exam later this month.

The next round of examinations will be in May 2005. If you're planning to sit the exam in 2005 you will find it worthwhile to attend the CRFS Workshop being held in association with the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting. The specific aim is to assist members gain the CRFS qualification. The workshop will be held on Monday 21 March between 0930 and 1200.

Topics covered will include:

- Philosophy behind the CRFS qualification
- Update on the best textbooks and other resources
- Studying techniques
- Determining the depth of knowledge required
- Form of the exam
- Examination techniques
- Practice questions and discussion of answers

The workshop will be facilitated by a team of senior ANZSRS members and will be weighted towards a discussion format. Application to attend the workshop will be included in the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting Registration Brochure.

This month's CRFS questions relate to anatomy and therapeutics. These questions, and the answers to last month's questions, are accessed from the Members Only Area of the web-site.

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

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