

## *Branch News – April 2005.*

### **President's report**

The annual scientific meeting has now passed and hopefully you have now all reached the end of patient and in-tray backlogs. The past year has been period of rapid growth both for me personally and for the Society in general.

Personally, in the past twelve months I have been involved in the organisation of the Perth ASM, accreditation of our lab and the development of a graduate certificate of paediatric respiratory science. Each of these has challenged my abilities in different ways and while at times the individual trees loomed large and the forest disappeared, I am nearly through this forest and have a broader perspective as a result.

As a Society, ANZSRS has played a lead role in the development of the Spirometer Buyers Guide and our thanks go once again to Debbie Burton, David Johns and Maureen Swanney for their highly professional work on this task. In the same vein the work of the Spirometry training committee culminated in a set of guidelines for the basic standard of courses teaching the underlying principles of spirometry and it's use in general practice. This has lead the National Asthma Council to approach ANZSRS to develop a national course in spirometry training for GPs and we look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

A little over a year ago, Rob Tagliaferri, Derek Figuski and myself were elected as the incoming ANZSRS executive. At the time we said our Vision for the Society was to extend the experience within the Society. Firstly, in terms of improving access by ANZSRS members to the cumulative knowledge of it's senior members; and to increase the recognition that laboratory based research can directly change our work practices within the Respiratory Function Laboratory. Secondly, we believe the Society has a commitment to provide support to those regional centres that do not have access to the facilities the majority of us take for granted. The challenge here is to make our Society relevant to those health practitioners working in these areas and encouraging active communication and participation whenever possible.

The Executive have a number of initiatives we wish investigate and if feasible initiate and we will be pursuing these over the coming months. Please keep in contact with your regional board representatives to ensure that each of you can contribute to the development of these and other projects currently being undertaken by the Society.

We look forward to a challenging but rewarding term as the Executive of the ANZSRS over the next two years.

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### ***New South Wales***

Hi all,

Thanks to the organising committee of the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth. It was a great meeting that seemed to be enjoyed by all!

We decided to cancel the meeting proposed for this weekend (9th April) at Charles Sturt University, Wagga as it falls too close to the recent ASM and Easter. It seemed likely that many of you would not be ready to travel to a regional meeting so soon after these activities. The residential school for students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Respiratory Science is still being held at CSU from 12-15th April inclusive and I'm really looking forward to catching up again with those of you that I met in Perth.

The next meeting is scheduled for May and will be held at the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle. It will be hosted by Majella Maher from the paediatric lab and Trevor Borgas from the adult lab. Come along and visit these laboratories and enjoy some lively discussion and a good meal with your NSW colleagues. More details will be circulated via the NSW members' distribution list in the next few days.

Welcome to two new ANZSRS members in NSW Charlotte Tekstra-Kay and Kay Haggart. We hope to meet up with you both in person at one of the branch meetings.

Cheers,

*Alison and Debbie*

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## **New Zealand**

# Yay!!!

Maureen and the team at the Christchurch Respiratory Physiology Laboratory have finally sent their accreditation documents off! Fantastic work! Check out the mug shot. We hear that Dunedin has already sent documentation away and Wellington is not too far off.

Not much more news this month except to say that it looks like the NZ branch meeting will be held in Wellington in November this year. Watch this space for more details.



Maureen Swanney – accreditation document subMISSION!

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## **Queensland**

The hot topic of discussion this month is naturally the huge success of the recent ASM held in Perth prior to Easter. There was a strong QLD contingent who undertook the journey west and several who presented recent work as posters, a special note of congratulations to Andrew Coates whose pilot study evaluating the Easy One spirometer in the paediatric population gained the best poster award. I'm sure those able to attend the meeting would agree that all sessions were very interesting, enjoyable and informative. Many thanks to the local organising committee who worked long and hard to come up with this year's program featuring several new ideas and formats.

As was mentioned several times during the course of the ASM, the society could not hold such a meeting without ongoing industry support. Once again we thank those companies who have shown their support by participating in the trade display, sponsoring the welcome reception, conference dinner, workshops and scientific awards. I personally would like to thank Bob Bird for his support again this year and another bottle of Grange which has gone out to a good home. We won't say which home though.....

The next item on the agenda in QLD is the April branch meeting. Keep the 27th free as Dr Ian Yang from the Prince Charles Hospital will be speaking to the group on pharmacogenetics in respiratory medicine. A reminder notice went out recently; please contact either of us if you didn't receive a copy, we hope to see all your smiling faces there.

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan

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## **South Australia**

The ANZSRS Conference in Perth was quite an event. For those of you who were unable to make it to Perth, never fear, there will be discussion from the Conference meetings at the local ANZSRS branch meetings over this year.

Our South Australian members (Sonia Johnston and Todd Lorenz) who presented their research as a 15 minute talk did a superb job and were well received. (There will be further discussion at our next local branch meeting.)

I would like to encourage everyone working in the Respiratory Labs to consider attempting CRFS (Certification for Respiratory Scientists). Motivation to do so should come from several corners

Personal challenge / goal setting

Personal Development

Service Quality – to patients and colleagues

Personal development is a hallmark of any professional and should be part of own work culture. This is where the rubber hits the road. A key factor in any professional

JDF, and more than likely in your own, will be a statement such as “Keeping up to date with developments in the field.” Reading the literature and texts relevant to your work ( perhaps 30 minutes/day) outside work hours would be a general expectation in most professions. It is little to ask when we consider the responsibility we carry to produce sound measurements upon which clinical judgements will be based.

CRFS is not a bar that has to be jumped but rather a means of testing your knowledge and experience to see what areas you need to update yourself in. It is founded on, and depends on for its success, a culture of cooperation and support. Talk to others who are considering attempting the exam, are studying for it or have been successful. Get a study group together and share the load. It is amazing how rewarding it is to study and succeed as a group. Whatever the approach you take, give it a go.

I am in the process of studying for the CRFS myself so please feel free to contact me. I may be able to help you, motivate you or simply help put things into perspective. So be encouraged.

Our next Branch meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, at the Chest Clinic (off North Tce), starting at 6pm. A light dinner will be available and we have a presentation coming from the Repat Hospital. I hope to see you all there.

*Donna Keatley*

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### **Tasmania**

Nothing received.

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### **Victoria**

Congratulations to the Perth LOC for hosting a great ASM for the ANZSRS. The content was varied and mostly catered for the mix of attendees (primarily research to complex testing laboratories to smaller laboratories).

I enjoyed getting back to basics with Robert Jensen. Often we forget to make sure the standard, regularly performed tests are utilising best practice and it was interesting to note that the recent review of our service with respect to performance of spirometry, reference values, test validity and interpretation of results was mirrored by an expert in the field. It's good to know you're on the right track!

Victoria was well represented with three oral and three poster presentations as well as having a substantial presence at the meeting itself. It is also important to acknowledge and congratulate Faizel on receiving the Young Investigator Award (no bias of course being one of the other authors on the abstract!!!).

The social activities were fabulous and the Victorians contributed the most people on the dance floor at the ASM dinner on Saturday night! We really enjoyed the opportunity to 'let our hair down' and dance – take note 2006 LOC! (oh, I'm on that, aren't I?). The one thing we did scratch our heads about was being thrown out of a restaurant at 10pm on Sunday night due to WA closing regulations. The nightlife in Melbourne is definitely later in the night.

Looking forward. I hope that plans are already in place for abstracts for Canberra ASM 2006. We have already started making plans here.

Our next Branch Meeting is set down for Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. Venue and topics are still to be decided, though we will be providing feedback from Board Meeting and AGM. Invitations will follow in the next week or so.

*Brigitte* (on behalf of Bruce too, who is on holidays at present)

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### **Western Australia**

Well, what a full- on month this has been. . . anticipation, preparation, and participation at the ANZSRS and TSANZ ASMs. The respective LOCs are now in recovery! Many thanks for your dedicated work over the last two years.

The ANZSRS ASM was interest and activity packed with the feedback from the local members being overwhelmingly positive, several of whom had not attended an ASM previously. The most frequently heard comment to date has been just how relevant and valuable the content and speakers were to the day to day experiences and practices of respiratory scientists, whilst also identifying and providing some challenges.

A highlight of the ASM for many local members was the CRFS workshop. It is fair to say that the general feelings towards the CRFS locally have been nervous and negative. The workshop was terrific in that it addressed the premise and basis of why and how the CRFS has been established, tips for studying and how to approach the exam content and how to sit the exam itself. In doing so, the workshop presenters have hopefully been able to dispel the negativity, nervousness, and perceived threat of the CRFS. This workshop has, therefore, thrown out the challenge to our local members whilst providing invaluable guidance and support on how to best achieve a positive result. This workshop is essential for anyone interested in the CRFS qualification and Chris and Sally strongly support the inclusion of this workshop at future ASMs.

A very important, if not critical activity, of an ASM is the opportunity to meet and chat with peers from different labs to discuss/compare/contrast how 'we do things' around Australia and across the Tasman. We certainly saw a lot of chatting going on around the place and hope that across The Society, members have been able to take the opportunity to expand their collegial horizon and we look forward to catching-up with everyone again in Canberra, 2006.

Hopefully the enthusiasm and energy generated by the ASM will be translated into challenging and productive initiatives during the next 12 months, within and between

the labs around Perth and provide the opportunity for inclusion and participation by members of all career levels.

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March and was again very well attended. Presenting in preparation for the ASMs were: Maureen Verheggen (ANZSRS poster), Elise McKeon (ANZSRS oral and Young Investigator Award candidate), & Catherine Gangell (TSANZ oral). Congratulations to all three on excellent presentations and on the interest generated by your work, at the respective sessions at the ASMs. The meeting was generously sponsored by Melanie Dunn of Astra Zeneca.

On behalf of the local membership, Chris and Sally would like to extend condolences to Kevin Gain, on his recent bereavement. We would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Kevin on his nomination and election to 'Life Membership' of the ANZSRS, in recognition of his contributions to The Society over many years.

Our next clinical presentation meeting will be held on Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup> at Royal Perth Hospital.

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS, and Sally Young

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### ***CRFS news***

Approximately 30 members attended the CRFS workshop at the 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting. Thanks are extended to Debbie Burton and Paul Guy for their contribution to the success of the workshop.

A reminder that the closing date for applications to attend the next CRFS exam (scheduled for 13 May 2005) is 15 April.

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

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