

## *Branch News – August 2005.*

### **Executive Musings**

August is here and Spring is rapidly approaching. With Spring, of course, comes preparation for abstract submission. The local organising committee has put together a varied program and all members are encouraged to make the trip to Canberra for the 2006 annual scientific meeting. Updates, including abstract submission information will be posted in the near future.

The composition and Terms of Reference of the Registration working party have now been finalised. This group is being Chaired by Jacqui Furler and will be reporting back to the Board on a recommended voluntary registration model for ANZSRS. This is a critical advance for the Society and will ensure all members working in the field of respiratory function measurement meet international best practice education, skills and continuing education benchmarks. This process is particularly important for the New Zealand members with the introduction of the NZ Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act.

The revision and updating of the CRFS process was also initiated at the 2005 Board Meeting. A CRFS working group has been formed and is being chaired by Peter Rochford and Stephen West. This group will be looking at all aspects of the CRFS process to ensure the Credential continues to meet International Best Practice. The Executive would like to take the opportunity to once again thank Stephen West for the tireless work he has performed in the administration and running of the CRFS over the past 10 years.

Information on the composition and the terms of reference for all ANZSRS committees can be found on the [committees](#) page of the web-site

Last month we were able to announce that a five year agreement with Bird Healthcare had been reached for the sponsorship of the ANZSRS ASM Young Investigator Award, which will be known as the Bird Healthcare Young Investigator Award. Agreements have been reached with Technipro and Compumedics for the sponsorship of the Best Oral and Best Poster Prizes, respectively. These awards will now be known as the Technipro Best Oral Presentation and the Compumedics Best Poster Prize. These agreements are an important advance in the Societies recognition of the high quality of science produced by our members and the Executive would like to thank these companies for their continued support of ANZSRS and it's advancement.

The Executive would like to remind all members that your local representative plays an important part in the direction and progress of the Society. However, these representatives can only represent you if you take the time to talk to them and tell them your views.

The Executive would like to take this opportunity to inform the membership that the current Treasurer, Derek Figurski, will be unavailable for all of August and the early part of September. Derek will resume full duties from September in the ACT. Enquires should be directed to the Secretary during this period.

*Graham, Rob and Derek.*

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Derek Figurski, Treasurer

## ***New South Wales***

### **Retirement of Jacqui Furler**

Many members will have had frequent occasions on which to interact with Jacqui and I know you will join with us in wishing Jacqui well in her retirement. Jacqui retires from the Respiratory Laboratory at Canberra Hospital in early September after 15 years and we took the opportunity of marking the occasion at the Branch meeting with a few words of appreciation and lovely chocolate cake from Gary Nolan and Dana Anquetil. A bouquet of flowers were also sent to Jacqui today. Thank you Jacqui, for all your efforts to further the professionalism of respiratory scientists and the ANZSRS. The good news is that Jacqui is keen to continue her involvement with ANZSRS and will remain as Chair of the Registration sub-committee.

### **Penrith Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> July**

Thanks to Merylese Mercieca and Chris O'Dea for hosting the ANZSRS Branch meeting last Friday at the Medical Investigations Unit at Nepean Hospital. Thanks also to Jenny Armstrong from Hospital Supplies of Australia (HAS) for sponsoring the meeting in the form of light refreshments and some beautiful sweets! Jenny also brought along information on the range of respiratory equipment supported by HSA, including the new CO monitors for detection of cigarette smoking.

This was very fitting considering the involvement of (patient denied) cigarette smoking in the Case Studies that Merylese and Chris presented at the meeting. We learnt about 'Chop-Chop', home grown or illegally acquired tobacco, and the problems associated with it due to the high likelihood of it containing mould and fungal spores. I think everyone was quite surprised to find out how widespread the practice of smoking Chop-Chop appears to be.

The meeting was attended by about 15 respiratory scientists representing labs at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Gosford Hospital, the Childrens' Hospital at Westmead and Royal North Shore and Canberra Hospitals. Robyn Schoeffel from RNSH had made some interesting observations of variation in FRC in patients she had tested and this led to discussion of protocols for measuring static lung volumes and the effect that full inspiration vs. full expiration immediately after the TGV manoeuvre has on FRC. We also discussed the variety of measurement methods for tangents to airway resistance curves and their advantages and disadvantages. I really enjoyed the discussion and this along with viewing different labs and keeping contact with friends and colleagues is the reason for holding Branch Meetings.

There was some discussion about the best days and times to hold meetings so give us some feedback on which day and time would suit you best.

Cheers for now,  
*Alison and Debbie*

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## ***New Zealand***

### **Voluntary Registration**

The registration meeting considering voluntary registration for all NZ ANZSRS members with the Society of Cardiopulmonary Registration Board (SCTRB) took place on 5 July. The representatives present were Lauren Wallace and David Robiony-Rogers (NZ Board), Maureen Swanney (Christchurch and ANZSRS Registration Group), Kevin Ellyet (Auckland) and Sue Filsell (Dunedin). The meeting laid the groundwork for the writing of a new registration discussion document and proposal for movement towards voluntary registration with a view to attaining Registration under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. The proposal has been forwarded to the SCTRFB for consideration and presentation at the next SCTRFB meeting. Our ANZSRS representative on the SCTRFB is Maureen Swanney. The proposal was also submitted to the ANZSRS Executive and the ANZSRS Registration Group for inclusion in the wider discussion around Registration for all ANZSRS members. Events are moving ahead and we will keep you informed as developments occur.

### **Accreditation**

A number of New Zealand labs have submitted their documentation to the TSANZ and are currently awaiting site visits. Good work guys and all the best to all of the other labs who are getting ready to submit. Keep up the good work, there is light at the end of the tunnel!

### **ANZSRS NZ Branch Members**

***We haven't had any new recruits in the last month but we know there are quite a few people who should be pursued. As your branch representatives, we try to make contact with potential members, however we rely heavily on the current membership to encourage others in their area to send in an application or at least get in contact with us. The more ANZSRS members we have in NZ, the higher the standard of work we can achieve for the profession.***

### **NZ local meeting**

We are still awaiting more information in regards to the local meeting this year. At this stage we know that it will be held in Wellington on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November so remember to highlight this date in your diaries.

*Lauren & David*

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## **Queensland**

Here in QLD we're looking forward to a teaching day at The Prince Charles Hospital on August 18<sup>th</sup> where Professor J. Stuart Elborn from Queens University of Belfast and Belfast City Hospital in conjunction with several registrars will be discussing "Clinical assessment in the real world". RSVP's to Annette Dent at The Prince Charles by August 8<sup>th</sup>, alternatively, you can contact Leanne or Skye with any questions about this session.

Later in August we will be gathering for our next QLD branch meeting, so keep an eye out for a notice coming your way soon. Hopefully this meeting will feature the issue of chemotherapy and its effect on the lungs.

Following on from their poster presentation in Perth this year, Jenni Savage and Linda Ruedinger are working toward establishing an inter-laboratory quality assurance program in the south-east. We wish them well with this and look forward to hearing the results of their investigations.

And while we're at it, good luck to anyone preparing to sit the CRFS exam soon and to the labs who are finalising their accreditation submissions.

*Leanne & Skye*

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan

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## **South Australia**

Nothing received

*Donna and Sharla*

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Sharla Anderson

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## **Tasmania**

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS

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## **Victoria**

Hi All. Well, those of you who missed our last branch meeting missed out on a treat! Dr Ian Millar, Head Hyperbaric Medicine, The Alfred, and Bruce Thompson, presented a 1.75 hour multimedia spectacular on the affects of hypo and hyperbaric conditions on human physiology. The discussion included the affects in health and disease, with the topics of altitude sickness, decompression sickness and the role of hyperbaric medicine as a therapy for disease and trauma covered. Snippets from 'Into the Blue' and 'The Abyss' set the scene for the extremes of conditions and reality video of colleagues of Dr Millar's climbing Mt Everest was awe inspiring. We are grateful to Dr Millar for giving of his time and knowledge generously.

Congratulations to Joan Green on her retirement. After many years running the laboratory at Box Hill Hospital, Joan is 'hanging up the lab coat' on August 12. Joan completed her Bachelor of Science in 1961 and commenced work the following year with the task of setting up the Respiratory Laboratory at Prince Henry's Hospital on St Kilda Rd, Melbourne (these days, it is an apartment block). In addition to running the laboratory, Joan helped with training of students, including Judy Roget, a founding member of ANZSRS and talented past Head Scientist of the Alfred. In 1965, Joan left Prince Henry's to have her first child and stayed out of the workforce for 20 years, in which time she remained very busy bringing up five children. She returned to the field in 1986, working at the Epworth and Moorabin, before setting up and running the respiratory laboratory at Box Hill Hospital. She has been there ever since. This softly spoken lady with a caring attitude to both patients and peers will be sadly missed by her Victorian colleagues in particular. Joan on the other hand is looking forward to initially having a break and then taking up some casual work which will include working as a volunteer for the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne next year. We wish her all the best and thank her for her contribution to respiratory science over the years.

On August 19<sup>th</sup> we will also farewell our colleague Stuart Jack from The Alfred. Stuart has decided on a career change and is moving into a role as a product manager for an IT company. Stuart is looking forward to the challenge ahead and while we will miss him, we recognise the great opportunity that awaits him and wish him well in his future endeavours. Bruce is relieved that he no longer needs to try to keep up with Stuart in the gym!

Our next meeting, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005, will be held at Monash, Clayton. We are anticipating that the ATS/ERS collaboration on the Standardisation of Spirometry will have been published by then and are intending to give a brief review of the paper to highlight differences from the 1995 ATS Spirometry update paper. Our other aim is to find some interesting cases for presentation from the membership – so please bring them along. An invitation with details will follow in the next couple of weeks.

*Bruce and Brigitte*

Bruce Thompson, CRFS, and Brigitte Borg, CRFS  
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## **Western Australia**

Welcome to the following new members: Estrolita Green (Resp Technologist) and Ming Lam (Scientific Officer), both of the Dept of Pulmonary Physiology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. We look forward to seeing you at our clinical meetings and ongoing education workshops.

CRFS/Ongoing Education workshop #2 was held on July 28<sup>th</sup> at the Dept Pulmonary Physiology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Another excellent presentation was given by Bill Noffsinger on the topic of 'Instrumentation Part 2: Measuring Pressure, Flow, and Volume'. Well done to the 12 people who made the effort to attend the early

morning meeting and thanks to the labs around town for recognizing the importance of ongoing education and releasing their staff from clinical duties to attend. Bill has placed the resource information from the workshops on his Yahoo site. If you have not received information about this site, or are having difficulties accessing the site, please contact Bill Noffsinger directly. The next workshop will be held on Thursday August 25<sup>th</sup>, 7.45 for 8am start, at the Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital.

The next clinical presentation meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August at Department of Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH, 5-6pm. The topic will be 'Lung Mechanics in Clinical Practice: physiology, measurement & interpretation', presented by Dr. Bhajan Singh, Consultant Respiratory Physician, SCGH. As a continuation of the recent membership drive, an invitation to attend the August clinical presentation meeting has been forwarded to all metropolitan respiratory scientists who are currently non-members of ANZSRS. We hope that the non-members take advantage of this invitation to meet with their local colleagues. This meeting will be sponsored by Kevin Hick of Niche Medical.

The WA membership recently voted on several suggested names for the new local poster award and chose '*The WA Respiratory Science Research Award*'. This award is accompanied by a prize of \$500.00. for use specifically towards attendance at a national or international respiratory meeting. Guidelines for the Award have been distributed. The call for abstracts for the The TSANZ-WA Associates/ANZSRS-WA local ASM will be made shortly. Just a reminder for those wishing to attend the meeting, to book your accommodation early. The ASM organising committee have secured an accommodation allocation for the weekend, however, rooms are limited and first in, first housed. When booking, please advise reservations that you are with the TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA meeting.

The evening of 'Moroccan Passion' appears to have hit the spot with the foodies amongst us. The date for the social get together has been changed from Sept 15<sup>th</sup> to Sept 28<sup>th</sup> to accommodate those who contacted Sally in foodie distress from not being able to attend on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The class size is 12, and we currently have only 2 places remaining, so if you would like to come along, please contact Sally directly to book your spot for a taste treat.

#### **News from around town:**

- The staff in the Dept Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital are heads down, tails up preparing their accreditation documentation.
- A workshop entitled 'Which Challenge to Use?' will be held October 24<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm, Dept Pulmonary Physiology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Dr Sandy Anderson is the invited speaker. Additional presentations on this topic will be made by local respiratory scientists and clinicians with an interest in the area of airway challenges. All interested clinicians and respiratory scientists are invited to attend.
- 'Consent: Why and How' will be presented by Sally Young on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August at 9.30 – 10.30am at the Dept Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH. This ongoing education session will cover the: origin/history of contemporary consent, why and when consent is required, and how to administer. All respiratory scientists are welcome to attend.

### **Diary Reminders - ANZSRS**

- Clinical Presentation Meeting: Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-6pm, SCGH.
- CRFS/Ongoing Ed Workshop: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August, 8-9am, RPH
- Social Evening: 'Moroccan Passion', Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 7-9pm
- TSANZ-WA Associates/ANZSRS-WA ASM: October 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>, Mandurah

### **Diary Reminders - Others**

- Airway Challenge Workshop: 'Which Challenge to Use?', Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2-5pm, SCGH
- Ongoing Ed Session: 'Consent: Why and How', Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 9.30-10.30am, SCGH

. . . and that's the WA news for July.

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS, and Sally Young, PhD

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### **CRFS news**

The answers to the CRFS questions posted last month (Set 10) are posted.

*Stephen*

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

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