

Branch News – December 2005.

Executive Musings

Exec musings Dec 2005

Rob, Derek and I have now been “Exec” for nearly nine months, at the same time ANZSRS has had a influx of new Board members. So what has 2005 brought the Society? Good question!

There has been significant progress in the areas of Registration and Governance and it is hoped that plans will be advanced enough to allow the members to vote on these proposals at the 2007 AGM. The CRFS working party has been reviewing CRFS topics and procedures with the view to ensuring that the ANZSRS Respiratory Scientist Credentials remain at international best practice levels.

We have been communicating with APSR regarding ways in which the two Societies can collaborate more closely and these discussions are progressing well.

On a smaller scale I am sure 2005 has been the year of accreditation for many people. We would ask all members involved in this process to take the time to give TSANZ constructive feedback on the process.

The Executive and the Board of ANZSRS would like to wish all members a safe and relaxing festive season and we look forward to 2006!

Regards etc etc

Graham, Rob and Derek.

Graham Hall, President

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Canberra Local Organising Committee Update

As the meeting draws closer things are moving along smoothly in the organisation of next year's ASM. The year is nearly over and I will soon have to refer to it as "this year's meeting", not "next year's meeting" - a scary thought.

The registration brochures are at the printers and will be distributed shortly. All of the trade booths for our meeting have now been sold. The guest speakers are putting together their masterpieces. The abstract closing date has been and gone. The abstracts are now in the hands of the abstract review committee to allow them to work their magic. They are working within a relatively tight deadline to allow the abstracts to be published in Respiriology again this year.



All of this points towards a great meeting for next year and we hope to see you there.

Danny

Danny Brazzale
on behalf on the 2006 ASM LOC.
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New South Wales

ANZSRS NSW Branch News ~ December 2005

Branch meetings

Christmas Meeting

The Christmas meeting is being held at 7pm on Thursday 16th December at Jordan's Seafood Restaurant, Darling Harbour. It is being sponsored by RJ and VK Bird, Mayo Healthcare and Air Liquide. Thanks go to Alison for organising this meeting. We are fortunate to have Sandy Anderson (recently inducted into the Asthma NSW Research Hall of Fame ~Congratulations to Sandy for this well deserved recognition! ~for more details see below) present an update on the Aridol research trials at the meeting. Alison and I will also provide some advance notice of a survey that Pharmaxis the company developing and marketing Aridol will be circulating to respiratory scientists across Australia. The company is interested in determining specific requirements of members about the training and support required for the new challenge test.

February meeting

We are planning to ask those who will be giving oral presentations at the Canberra ANZSRS conference to give us a preview at the February meeting. Many states do this and it is a great way to get for presenters to gain some experience in presenting to a smaller group and also to get some friendly feedback. Also, the results of the Aridol survey will be discussed and the new test protocol outlined by Jo Prior from Pharmaxis.

Other news for December

Peter Briffa is a great newshound and has provided this update on RPA activities. Thanks so much Peter!

We had a very good turnout (60-70 people) for the Introduction to Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology course run here at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital on 26/27 November, with people attending from all over the country - and many stayed on for the Practical Course in Laboratory Based Sleep Medicine running for the remainder of this week.

The paper arising from the Phase 3 Aridol study which was conducted Australia-wide from November 2003 to August 2004 has been accepted by Respiratory Research and will be available at their website within the next couple of weeks. This is an open access journal and has an impact factor of 4.3. The paper is entitled:

"The safety and efficacy of inhaled dry powder mannitol as a bronchial provocation test for airway hyperresponsiveness: a phase 3 comparison study with hypertonic (4.5%) saline".

Finally, Sandy Anderson has just been inducted into the inaugural Asthma Research Hall of Fame. Read all about it at:

http://www.asthmansw.org.au/Research/Asthma_Research_Hall_Of_Fame/Sandra_Anderson.htm

Chris O'Dea from Nepean Hospital has achieved his CRFS. Congratulations Chris! He and Merylese Mercieca are busily putting the final touches on the documentation for laboratory accreditation so there is a hive of activity in the west of Sydney as well!

Cheers and we look forward to catching up with as many as possible at the Christmas meeting and everyone else at the Canberra Conference.

Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2006,
Debbie and Alison

Debbie

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New Zealand

Hi all,

NZ Branch Meeting: The NZ Branch TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM was held on Friday the 11th November in Wellington in conjunction with the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation of New Zealand. The meeting started with an enjoyable dinner on the Thursday night and as usual, the ANZSRS bunch were the last to vacate the premises! Friday morning started rather early with the ANZSRS NZ Branch AGM starting at 7:45am. Items addressed included welcoming new members, Voluntary Registration, Governance, CRFS, Accreditation, 2006 ASM in Canberra, Scholarships and Spirometry Training Course endorsement. The AGM closed early with time for a quick coffee before the first session of the day. The theme of the day was public health. The invited international guest speakers were Dr Mathew Peters (Head of Thoracic Medicine, Concord, Sydney) who gave an eye-opening talk on smoking cessation, and Dr Linda Schachter (Respiratory and Sleep Physician, Austin Hospital, Melbourne) who spoke on obesity and its effects on asthma, sleep apnoea, and hypoventilation. The other guest speakers included Robin Taylor, Bob Hancox, Rod Lambert, Jeremy Krebs, Peter Martin, Philippa Ellwood and Alister Neil, with topics ranging from "the effect of marijuana on lung function", to "deducing airway properties from a lung function test". With a vast array of people to entertain, the steering committee did a fantastic job of planning a great meeting with some really interesting topics. Well done!

International Guests: Dr Brendan Cooper and his wife and fellow Respiratory Scientist, Julie Lloyd, paid a visit to the Christchurch Respiratory Laboratory on the 21st November. Brendan is the current Chair of the ARTP and Consultant Clinical Scientist at the Lung Investigation Unit of University Hospital Birmingham and was visiting NZ to attend an Investigator's Meeting for a study we are about to take part in. We really enjoyed Brendan and Julie's visit and are pleased that Christchurch put on some good weather for them! I hope they will make their way back to NZ sometime in the future.

Accreditation: Congratulations to the Christchurch Respiratory Laboratory for achieving Level 4 accreditation status and well done to the Wellington Respiratory Laboratory for submitting their accreditation documentation.

Local Support: Christchurch and Palmerston North Respiratory Labs have been in close contact recently with Christchurch hosting a visit from Catherine Corble who has just moved to Palmerston North from the UK. Catherine has a number of year's experience behind her and has fitted in to the small team easily. Josh Stanton (Christchurch Lab) also recently paid a visit to his old haunts in Palmerston North to offer support for the new team. It is fantastic that this level of support is available especially for small centres with new staff. A great way to make sure that our high standards continue through each new generation of scientists.



New Arrival: Big congratulations to Paul Kelly (Christchurch Lab) on the birth of his daughter, Jessica Annabel. She was born on the 2nd of December. I hear that Mum and baby are doing well. We can't wait to see her! Life will never be the same again Paul!

This is getting a bit long so I will sign off with a little photo of my new puppy, Kimba (the little brown boxer puppy on the left). Christmas will be so much fun this year!

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Exciting New Year to all!

All the best,

Lauren & David

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Queensland

Leanne & Skye

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Donna and Sharla

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

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Victoria

ANZSRS Victorian Branch News December 2005

Hi All. The final Branch meeting for 2005 was held at St Vincent's last Tuesday evening. Bruce threw lollies to the crowd as a reward for firstly singing the first line of a Christmas song in order to answer a question and secondly for getting it right! Some interesting renditions and thoughts on what constituted a Christmas song were had. The 'End of Year' Quiz consisted of general science, respiratory science and brain teasers and much discussion ensued for a number of questions presented.

Following the quiz, we tracked down to the Pumphouse hotel for dinner. Although some of the topics for discussion are not suitable for a website, lively, friendly conversation was enjoyed by all.

We must thank the staff at St Vincent's for hosting our final meeting and to Bob, Nick and Jon from Bird Healthcare for sponsoring the evening – thank you for your ongoing support and generosity to the ANZSRS.

Looking ahead to next year.....

We will have news of dates for next year's meeting out in the next branch news. Any topics of interest you would like covered can be forwarded to us.

Finally, we would like to wish you a happy and safe festive season and thank the Victorian membership for attending our branch meetings and making them worthwhile events.

With Christmas cheer and seasons greetings,

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS, and Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

November has been the month for data analysis, abstract writing and submissions for the 2006 ASM.

The final clinical presentation meeting for 2005 was held on Wednesday 16th November, Dept Respiratory Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital. The invited speaker was Elizabeth Balding, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Dept Respiratory Medicine, PMH. Liz has an extensive experience in the area of cystic fibrosis in Western Australia and is closely involved with those with cystic fibrosis and their families from the time of diagnosis thru to the transition into the world of adult medicine.

Once again we were treated to an excellent presentation: 'Cystic Fibrosis: The Challenges of the Transition from the World of Paeds to Adults'. Liz reminded those involved in adult medicine that initially we are dealing with adolescents not adults, therefore, Liz reviewed and discussed the specific challenges of adolescence. In WA, the respiratory scientists at the adult teaching hospitals are generally not involved with CF matters beyond performing spirometry during hospital admissions. So Liz's presentation on how the transfer from paed to adults is prepared for and made, was highly informative. CF, historically a disease of childhood, is now well and truly a disease of adulthood with currently in WA approximately 170 adult CF patients cared for by the SCGH CF team and another 140 waiting-in-the-wings at PMH. Currently the transfer is made to the CF team at SCGH, headed by Dr. Gerard Ryan and Sue Morey.

Delicious snacks and drinks were provided by: Christine Nathan & Sally Young (food); Rob Tagliaferri & Kevin Gain (drinks). Thanks to Jan Oostryck for organising the essentials, such as glassware. The next clinical presentation session will be Wednesday 15th February, 2006. A flyer will be circulated early next year.

The CRFS/ongoing education sessions have finished for the year. Thanks to Bill Noffsinger for his contributions to these sessions during 2005. Ongoing education sessions will continue during 2006. At the recent clinical presentation session the members decided that a meeting of interested participants will be held early next year (January) to determine the schedule, time, format, location(s) and so on for 2006. A flyer advertising the meeting will be circulated. If further information is required, please contact either Chris Nathan or Sally Young.

ACOSH recently held their agm with several ANZSRS-WA members in attendance (Sunalene Devadason, Sina Panic, Sharon Lagan). Congratulations to Sunalene, who was elected to the ACOSH Executive Committee. The next ACOSH meeting will be held on Thursday 8th December. For more information about ACOSH activities, please contact Sunalene: sunalene@ichr.uwa.edu.au

The success of the joint bid for the 2007 APSR asm has been enthusiastically received. The meeting has been included in our calendar and the WA-Branch is and will continue to encourage and support not only attendance but, in particular, presentation at this important new event on the ANZSRS calendar.

News from around town:

- The staff of Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital are currently exhibiting all the 'A-Syndrome' symptoms . . . overworked, sleep deprived, and very very near the thin edge of the wedge They will be back to their normal gentle, relaxed, fun-loving selves shortly: after the 'A' deadline has been met.
- Research Bulletin: A research bulletin has been circulated for a project being conducted by the
Dept Respiratory Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children.
For more detailed information, please contact: Jan Oostryck or
Maureen Verheggen between 9 – 4pm daily, Respiratory
Function Laboratory, PMH, Telephone: 9340 8990.

2005 Diary Reminders - ANZSRS

14th December: End-of-year/Christmas dinner, 'Sassys-on-the-Swan'.

2006 Reminders – ANZSRS

January: CRFS/Ongoing Education planning meeting. Details to be circulated.

15th February: Clinical Presentation Meeting. Details to be circulated.

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



The WA-Branch would like to wish all our colleagues in Australia and New Zealand a **Merry Christmas** and all the best in their endeavours during the New Year. We look forward to catching-up in 2006, through the website news and at the ASM in Canberra.



Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS (RPH)
Sally Young, PhD (SCGH)
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CRFS news

During November CRFS exams were held in Dunedin, Melbourne and Sydney. Three candidates were successful – Cathy Dyroff (Gosford Hospital), Christopher O’Dea (Nepean Hospital) and Sarah Willis (Monash M.C.). Congratulations to these members and also thanks to the board members who supervised the exams.

In 2006 exams have been scheduled for May, July and November (the dates are listed on the Application Form available from the website). However, alternatives can be arranged by contacting me.

The CRFS Working Party has recommended a small number of modifications to the CRFS content. The revised content will be available from the website in February 2006. The revised list of suggested references will also be available at this time.

The CRFS questions are taking a break over the holiday period and will re-appear in the New Year.

I wish all members a joyful and safe festive season.

Stephen

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