

Branch News – February 2005.

Executive Musings.

Annual subscriptions.

You would have received a fees memo by now. The document contains some important information that requires your attention. We cannot stress how important it is for the Society to have accurate records to facilitate effective communication. This will be further enhanced by supplying a work contact address if at all possible. Please use the fees memo to either confirm your details as correct or to amend them.

The memo also contains a section for those members who DO NOT wish to have their work details published in the membership directory. Work details have previously been published on a voluntary basis following the completion of an 'authority' signed by the member. Work contact details of all members will be published in the membership directory after the 30/6/05 unless the signed form is received. No home details will be published.

ASM

The 2005 Board Meeting and AGM are scheduled for the 18/3/05 and 19/3/05 respectively. Any items for the agendas can be sent to either the Regional Board representatives or the Executive. We encourage all members to attend the AGM and to be involved in the running of the Society.

Nominations can still be made to the Executive for the **Society Fellowship** and **Life Membership** awards. The awards have now been in place for several years and recognise an individual's contribution to either the Society or the field of Respiratory Science. At the forthcoming Annual Dinner, Maureen Swanney will be presented with the Life Membership Award and Alan Crockett will be presented with the Society Fellowship Medal.

We also look forward to catching up with as many members as possible and hope you will consider attending the ASM if you have not already registered.

2005 Travel grants have been awarded to the following members, all of whom are presenting at the ASM. Congratulations to:

T Lorenz	SA	Robin Schoeffel	NSW
M Swanney	NZ	Faizel Hartley	VIC
Paul Kelly	NZ	Brigitte BORG	VIC
Ruth Martens	NSW		

Scholarships

This year there were a number of applications for Scholarship Funding. After much deliberation by the Executive the following members were granted Funding for their course of choice for the 2005 educational year.

Peter Briffa NSW
Jeff Pretto VIC

The decision making process was made all the harder due to the high standard of applications and by the desire of so many members to continue to improve their knowledge in the field of Respiratory Science.

We thoroughly encourage as many members as possible to apply for funding each year. This is an essential part of the encouragement that we offer to our members, and is something that is available to all who have been members of the society for at least 2 years.

For the year ahead we wish all members success in obtaining their goals.

David Schembri, CRFS, President

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Michelle Rozee, Secretary

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Glenn Thomas, Treasurer

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Perth 2005 Local Organising Committee

The 2005 ANZSRS ASM being held at the Perth Convention Exhibition Centre is rapidly approaching. As I write this we are only 6 weeks away. Early bird registration will close on February 11 so if you have yet to register the time to do so is NOW.

The LOC with the support of the Executive is trialing a number of new initiatives at the ASM. These are of course the concurrent workshop sessions and the additional workshops on CRFS and Laboratory Accreditation to be held on Monday. A small reminder that streams 2 and 3 will have limited numbers allowed ensuring that maximum benefit can be obtained for the attending members. These cut off levels are rapidly approaching and those members keen to be involved in either of these workshop streams should register soon. I am very pleased to say that the Monday workshops are filling fast with half of those people currently registered opting to stay on for one of these workshops. This is an excellent response and will hopefully provide us the opportunity to retain the Monday sessions in future meetings.

In addition to an excellent array of international and national invited speakers, we have 27 abstracts being presented in Perth, representing one of the highest levels of scientific presentations in recent years. This is hopefully a reflection of the increasing

involvement of a broad range of members in clinical and laboratory based research and promises much for the future of the Society.

On behalf of the Local Organising committee I would encourage you all to make the effort to come to Perth and we look forward to seeing you all soon

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New South Wales

We hope everyone had a Happy Festive season and wish you all the best for a productive and healthy 2005. Alison and I are the NSW ANZSRS representatives for 2005/6 and hope to be able to organise some interesting branch meetings and present your views to the ANZSRS Board. We will need to hear your ideas and receive your input to be able to represent you effectively, so please make contact anytime you have a spare minute or a bright idea. We'd both like to thank Gary Nolan and Jacqui Furler for the excellent programs they put together over the last two years and for encouraging us to 'have a go'.

For those of you who may not know us personally we thought we'd give you a brief outline. Alison works full-time at the Sydney Childrens' Hospital in Randwick and is enrolled in the Graduate Diploma in Respiratory Science at Charles Sturt University. A very busy person! (Alison is currently on annual leave so I am writing this on her behalf!) I am a full-time senior lecturer at Charles Sturt University in physiology, respiratory science and asthma education. I'm currently moving to our new campus at Orange and by the time you read this will be there and may be living on a park bench (finding somewhere to live has been difficult)!!!

Last year Jacqui and Gary organised 4 NSW Branch meetings; held in May, July, September and December. The September meeting was held at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga in conjunction with a residential school for respiratory science students. We hope to hold another country meeting this year and if any members would like to suggest another country venue we would love to hear from you....otherwise it might be Wagga Wagga again on 15-16th April 2005!

The CRFS workshop meeting was very popular last year and we propose to hold another one this year in Sydney at the Sydney Childrens' and Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick. This is something the respiratory scientists at these two hospitals were proposing anyway and so we will expand it into a branch meeting so others can join in as well.

Merylese Mercieca and Chris O'Dea at the Nepean Hospital in Penrith have kindly offered to host a branch meeting with the tentative topic of selection of appropriate reference values and laboratory accreditation.

We hope these meeting topics and venues have whetted your appetites for some informal respiratory science discussion and interaction. It is always interesting to see how others organise their laboratories and we hope to see you there. Please make contact if you have any suggestions for further venues or topics for branch meetings

and if you have any issues you'd like raised at the ANZSRS Board meeting on 18th March.

Alison Boynton & Debbie Burton, CRFS

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New Zealand

One month down and only 11 to go before another nice Christmas break! I can't gloat that we had a fabulous summer here in NZ but at least I didn't have to worry about getting sunburnt during my camping holiday. Nothing like a little rain and a good book to relax and unwind after a busy year.

The new lab in Christchurch has proved unable to accommodate the high humidity we are experiencing at present and our lovely white ceiling tiles now have ugly water stains appearing. Time to move again I think :)

Congratulations go out to one of our NZ members, Fiona McClymont (now Fiona Fulton), who tied the knot on the 5th of January. We wish Fiona and Tim a long and happy marriage and are pleased to welcome Fi back to Christchurch after her one-year stint in Auckland. Also, congratulations to Josh Stanton and his girlfriend Talisa on the new addition to their home. Josh is the proud owner of two beautiful little kittens called Tobasco and Tequila. Speaking from experience, they are very cool!

2005 should be a busy, but exciting year. A number of the NZ labs are in the final stages of accreditation and I'm sure that we will be seeing a few more members achieving CRFS this year. Maybe we need to think about how we can provide more support and encouragement for those members in NZ who are interested in studying for CRFS but who feel they have little or no support to achieve this goal. The topic of Registration is one that we really need to tackle this year. We need to make sure that all of the NZ members are up-to-date on this issue and that all get the chance to give feedback.

Hopefully everyone is busy finalising their presentations and travel plans for the ASM in Perth and we look forward to catching up with everyone there.

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Queensland

2005 is well and truly under way; January has come and gone, school is back, clinics are busy and beds are filling up. We hope that the New Year has found everyone relaxed, healthy and ready for the fun that lies ahead. Congratulations to those who have submitted abstracts for oral and poster presentations at the upcoming ASM, we look forward to learning about your work in Perth.

In QLD we welcome Leanne Rodwell from The Prince Charles Hospital as a new recruit to the board representative position. A huge thank you from everyone goes to Leanne's predecessor Debbie Murray. Deb's hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to the position certainly made my job as her partner in crime a lot easier, ensured a great line up of branch meetings last year and enabled us to fulfil our remaining responsibilities as board reps with a minimum of fuss. Thanks Deb, you're a star! Leanne comes from a Physiotherapy background, having completed her PhD with Dr

Sandra Anderson in Sydney. Much of Leanne's work has involved research into bronchial provocation, especially hypertonic saline challenges.

In keeping with tradition, QLD branch meetings will again be held on the last Wednesday of every second month. The first meeting for the year will be February 23rd which will serve as a warm up session for anyone who is presenting in Perth. Keep an eye on your inbox for a notice about this meeting. We have some interesting speakers lined up so far, but we're also keen to get some different or unusual topics of discussion happening at meetings this year, so let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas.

Leanne and I are looking forward to a great term representing QLD on the ANZSRS board; please feel free to contact us with your thoughts, enquiries, conundrums and any news you have to share.

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South Australia

Nothing received.

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS
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Victoria

I must say that the ANZSRS's year finished off with a big bang and an awful lot of fireworks from one editor's Train of Thought. Good on him, I say for being brave enough to put potentially professionally threatening and challenging thoughts onto the web.

I have sent a letter to the editor in response to his thoughts. The one issue that I will raise in this forum though is that of the quality of the abstracts. I was very disconcerted, as an author submitting an abstract, to read Kevin's Train of Thought. I was horrified at the thought that my abstract may not have been of good quality and been submitted for publication without the opportunity for revision. Apparently, those requiring revision were given feedback, while those that were of better quality did not. My question is, should the abstract review committee also have provided feedback to authors of good quality abstracts? Firstly, it is important to celebrate success and secondly, there still may be opportunities for further improvements on future submissions. Surely this is part of the mentoring process that the Society wishes to encourage and facilitate? How do we learn and improve if we are not given feedback?

On a completely different topic, I suppose I should welcome my newly elected fellow regional rep, Bruce Thompson, to the world of Branch News. For those of you that are not aware, Bruce and I work as Head and Lab Manager of the Respiratory Physiology Service at the Alfred. We already have animated discussions over laboratory issues, so adding ANZSRS matters to the list will just widen the scope!!! I'm looking forward to this!!!

Brigitte

The Victorian Branch meeting dates for 2005 have been set. Put them in your diaries (electronic or paper – we're not fussed) and keep them free!

- Tuesday 1st March
- Wednesday 4th May
- Tuesday 5th July
- Wednesday 7th September
- Tuesday 29th November

The first meeting for the year will be held at The Alfred, with the focus of the evening being for those presenting abstracts at the ASM to have a chance to practise and get some peer feedback. More details will be forwarded in the fortnight before the meeting.

Any branch members with topics they would like to see covered during the year, please contact us to discuss!!!!

Regards,

Brigitte & Bruce.

Bruce Thompson, CRFS, and Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

Welcome to a new year of ANZSRS (WA)!

Thank you to the WA membership for entrusting Chris and I to serve as your Board representatives for the next two years. Before anything else, we would like to thank Rob Tagliaferri (SCGH), founding member of the WA branch, and Graham Hall (PMH). Rob and Graham have been very active locally and we are indebted to them for their enthusiasm and commitment to our branch.

We have taken on board feedback from the meetings over the last couple of years and prior to the first meeting of the year, we wanted to outline 'our vision' for the WA branch. Input from the local members will be sought at the first meeting of 2005.

Meetings

Meetings have been held monthly for several years now but attendance has been by a core group of members. We would like to change frequency to bimonthly. The meetings will remain on the third Wednesday of the month, and run from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. The first 3 meetings will rotate between SCGH, RPH and PMH as previously but we would like to see others host subsequent meetings – using a meeting room at one of the public hospitals if a suitable venue was not available.

Please put the following dates in your diary for 2005:

Wednesday February 16

Wednesday April 20

Wednesday June 15

Wednesday August 17
Wednesday October 19
Wednesday December 14 (2nd Wed not 3rd but 3rd is 21/12 and a bit too close to Xmas)

The proposed meeting structure is

5.00 – 5.15pm: Arrive, eat, drink, & be merry
5.15 – 5.45pm: Presentation/discussion
5.45 – 6.00pm: Society business/member discussion

Peripheral & Off-the Topic Discussion Session
6.00 – 6.30pm: Out of session discussion

Anyone who works in a respiratory function laboratory (teaching & private), ANZSRS members and non-members, is invited to attend these meetings. Everyone brings with them valuable knowledge and experience.

CRFS / Ongoing Education Workshops

We would like to see the alternate third Wednesday of the month, to the general meetings, devoted to CRFS workshops. The aim of these workshops would be twofold:

1. provision of educational and experiential support for those members wishing to sit the CRFS exam,
2. provision of ongoing education to all members wishing to brush-up on a topic, you don't have to be planning to sit the CRFS; and lets face it, we all need 'brush-ups' every now and again.

Research

Research is vital and has a very positive influence on: the development of our individual interests and careers; the laboratory in which we work; and the wider practice of respiratory science/technology. As such we wish to encourage the development of collaborative studies and research mentoring. At all labs we have heard the cry of 'If only I had the time to do . . .'. There is a wellspring of opportunity for collaborative work and of equal importance, if not greater, the introduction of 'novices' to the world of research. You do not have to come up with the prime idea for a project to be involved in research.

Oldies are Goldies

This is not strictly chronologically determined! The WA Branch is fortunate to have a wealth of members with a broad range of clinical, research, technical, and administrative experience. This represents an important resource which needs to be exploited more! We will all benefit from improved information sharing between respiratory scientists of all career levels at both teaching and private labs.

Advocacy

Chris and Sally will always be available to discuss any issues, concerns or difficulties you may have (e.g. are you having trouble gaining permission to attend ANZSRS Annual Scientific meetings?). We represent not WA but each individual member in WA. All approaches and discussions will naturally be treated in confidence. We very much look forward to liaising with all current and prospective members. Our doors/e-mail boxes/phones are always open.

We look forward to meeting with you all on Wednesday 16th February where we plan to present these and other initiatives. We hope to see not only the 'usual' faces but new and 'newish' faces. For those members/nonmembers that came once or twice and never returned, we encourage you to consider revisiting ANZSRS (WA). For further details check with either of us.

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS, and Sally Young

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CRFS news

Here are the details regarding CRFS exams for 2005.

CRFS scheduled examination dates for 2005:

- Examination 13 May 2005. Applications close 15 April.
- Examination 22 July 2005. Applications close 24 June.
- Examination 25 November 2005. Applications close 28 October.

Candidates wishing to resit the examination are encouraged to contact me as these can be arranged outside of the scheduled dates.

Regards
Stephen

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

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