

## *Branch News – May 2005.*

### **Exec Musings May 2005**

The WA portion of the Exec travelled to Adelaide in April to have the officially hand-over from David, Michelle and Glenn. At this hand-over a few issues being carried forward were raised. These include the Governance and Vision sub-committee and the Registration working group. A number of the Society's forms and position statements are under review and these will be updated in the coming months. The first update - membership applications - should be on the web now.

A number of ANZSRS members act as representatives on committees of other allied groups to ensure the interests of the Society are relayed to these groups. The Executive would like to thank the following for volunteering to become involved with the following committees:

- TSANZ Clinical Care and Resources sub-committee: Dr Bruce Thompson
- TSANZ Education and Research sub-committee: A/Prof David Johns
- TSANZ Professional Standards sub-committee: Mr David Schembri
- TSANZ Central Programming sub-committee: Mr Mike Brown
- Australian Council of Smoking & Health: Dr Sunalene Devadason and Mrs Mari Noffsinger

Many thanks to Stephen West, Brenton Eckert, Michelle Rozee and Sina Panic for their involvement with their respective committees over the past few years.

At the Board meeting in Perth and subsequently the annual general meeting a motion was passed to increase membership fees for the Society effective 2006. As of 2006 membership fees for all members will double, with an adjustment for CPI every three years after that. Some members may feel that this increase is not justified, if this is the case please speak to your regional representative as consideration will be given to students and members with genuine hardships.

The reasons for these increases are multi-factorial and include:

1. Costs for the Society have increased, and will continue to increase as our profile increases.
2. For the Society to continue to offer travel, educational and research grants it is critical to ensure that our reserves are not progressively decreased due to the increasing operating costs of the Society.

One of the most important items discussed at the Board meeting and the AGM was the Society's Vision and Mission statements. The previous Executive have already thanked Brigitte Borg and Kevin Gain for their considerable work in the development of the Society Vision and to David Robiony-Rogers for his insightful input and the current Executive would like to echo those thanks. At the Perth ASM the Board voted to adopt the following Vision statement, with unanimous support at the AGM

Australian and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science  
Leading Respiratory Science in Australasia through the 21st  
Century.

This is the Society Vision that the Executive and Board will use over the course of the next term to move the Society forward.

One thing that was clear from the Board meeting in Perth is that we all have lots of enthusiasm for the Society and Board members enthusiastic about taking the development of the Society in the short and medium term. So, please support our local Representative. Contact them if you have any queries, concerns or even ideas on how we can make the Society even more relevant to you.

*Graham, Rob and Derek.*

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

#### **NSW Branch News**

News from the Respiratory Lab at **Nepean Hospital** is that the new Jaeger Masterscreen system has arrived, effectively doubling the capacity of the lab. Currently doing a population study and performing a survey of the GPs and Respiratory Specialists in the Nepean District (Western Cluster of SWAHS) to discover the current use of spirometry in the area. We are also looking at how often these are calibrated, and if the doctors are aware of ATS criteria etc. The only info is that we had a good and worthwhile attendance at the ASM in Perth

#### **Concord Hospital**

Perth was a great success with good attendance, and we were pleased to receive an award for Best Presentation (Seccombe) for work undertaken in our Lab.

Also last Saturday, attended by many respiratory scientists from at least four states there was the successful closing meeting for the Phase III Safety Trial of the Mannitol BPT.

The **RPA** lab is setting things up for the TSANZ 2005 Advanced Course: The Physiology of Exercise in Health and Disease (or: What can we learn from stressing the system?) which is being held here between 24 – 26 June 2005. The course is for everyone interested, but I think it will mainly be doctors attending (the registration fees are not insignificant!). A link to some information for the advanced course is:

<http://www.thoracic.org.au/advancedcourse2005.html>

**Gosford Hospital** has a new conference facility and which we will get to see and use at our next branch meeting on **FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> of MAY at 5.00pm**. The topic is

**'Targeting COPD in the community, Spirometry, case findings and more....'**

Jon Bird of R.J. & V.K Bird Pty Ltd has generously offered to sponsor the meeting. This is the first meeting of the year so please come along and make the discussions lively!! Very easy by train with a free (donation only) bus ride to the hospital.

See you all at the next meeting.

*Alison and Debbie*

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### ***New Zealand***

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### ***Queensland***

Having returned from 2 weeks holiday and a string of long weekends, I'll warn you now that this will be a haphazard report! Maybe I should have given it some thought while snorkeling in the Cook Islands.....

At last week's April branch meeting, Queenslanders enjoyed a great presentation by Dr Ian Yang from The Prince Charles Hospital. Dr Yang presented some of his amazing work investigating the role of pharmacogenetics in respiratory medicine. Those who attended the meeting will agree that this was a fantastic topic of discussion and certainly something that we will hear more about as work progresses. Unfortunately, I found myself distracted and very disappointed by the realisation of how much I have forgotten from my university days! We extend our greatest thanks to Dr Yang for making the time to spend the evening with us and sharing his knowledge and expertise. It was wonderful to meet a few new faces at this meeting, and we welcome those who have made the transition to respiratory science in Australia from a background of respiratory therapy in Canada.

Several scientists traveled to Sydney for the weekend to attend the Aridol end of study meeting. From all reports this was a great success and we look forward to the next step in the development of the product. Congratulations to Dr Sandra Anderson & crew, the Pharmaxis group and everyone else who have worked so hard on this project.

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan

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## **South Australia**

Our second meeting for the year was held on Tuesday night (12th April). We enjoyed a delicious light dinner of gourmet pizza (as sponsored by our Mayo HealthCare reps Michelle Norton and Adam Clemments), and drinks (sponsored by AirLiquide). Derek Figurski (Repatriation general Hospital) gave a presentation on “Ventilation Limitations in Exercise”, which followed on well from the Perth Conference. There was a lot of discussion about this topic following Derek’s presentation. I’m sure everyone who attended the meeting learnt something new or confirmed their existing knowledge. It was a very informative presentation and discussion indeed!

Following this, David Sharp and I presented news that came from the ANZSRS board meeting (which was held in Perth before the conference). Again, there was lots of interesting discussion around these topics. I would encourage ALL members and interested readers to visit the ANZSRS web site regularly as there will be significant changes to come soon and in the longer term. Some of the changes will include:

- An increase in membership fees. You NEED to understand the reasoning behind this before you form your opinions / decisions. So keep you’re eye on the web site for information regarding these changes or ASK me (or Derek Figurski (the General Repatriation Hospital) - our new treasurer, or Glenn Thomas (Ashford) – our immediate past treasurer) if you have ANY questions about this.
- A Spirometer Buys Guide should be available very soon. A very well put together and useful tool. If you would like more information about obtaining a copy or anything else, perhaps email Debbie Burton ([dburton@csu.edu.au](mailto:dburton@csu.edu.au)) as a starting point. There is now a link to the document on the web-site ([http://www.nationalasthma.org.au/HTML/management/spiro\\_guide/index.asp](http://www.nationalasthma.org.au/HTML/management/spiro_guide/index.asp))
- The infrastructure of the ANZSRS executive / committees is about to change – for the better. You need to understand that ANZSRS, as a society, is entering into a transitional phase. Until now we have been a small, self-sufficient group. But times are changing and we need to become well recognised amongst the large professional bodies if we are to be taken seriously and grow as a Society. So, in moving from a small society to a large professional body, the way things are currently done are under review and will be subject to (some sort of) change. This includes Accreditation, possible development of a Mentoring system, possible development of a Spirometry training course, possible development of a CRFS study program, and more! There will be more information about these things to come. I’ll let you know in due time.
- Just a note on the CFRS.... If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to develop a study program / course, please forward your comments / ideas onto Stephen West: [stephen\\_west@wsahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stephen_west@wsahs.nsw.gov.au)
- Also, on the topic of Accreditation, if you have any comments about your experiences with Accreditation (good or bad or just new /fresh ideas) PLEASE send these to onto me and I will forward these to the Accreditation Review Committee. Your input will be very helpful to the committee reviewing the Accreditation process.

Finally, David Sharp, who you all know and who is the other ANZSRS representative for SA, has stepped down from this position and Sharla Anderson (from Burnside Hospital) has taken up the position. Thankyou VERY much David for being willing to step in, in our time of need. And a warm welcome Sharla! We look forward to having you represent us (SA), and are sure your enthusiasm will be beneficial to all!

Well, our next meeting is June 14<sup>th</sup> (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month). I hope to see you all there, ready for some more interesting presentations as arranged by the RAH team. I look forward to seeing you all in June! Until then...

*Donna and Sharla*

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### ***Tasmania***

Nothing received.

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### ***Victoria***

With Brigitte breathing down my neck to write something for the branch news so we do not blemish our track record of contributions, I now have writers block!

I have to admit I cannot believe it is now May. With the year kicking off with NHMRC grant submissions followed by preparation for the ANZSRS/ TSANZ meetings and then Easter, School holidays and lectures topping it all off, the year is rapidly passing by.

Accreditation will be on the agenda this year for a number of laboratories in the state. With only 2 being accredited in Victoria so far there is a significant amount of work going on in a number of laboratories preparing laboratory manuals and tightening up procedures. I know one other laboratory has submitted their application and we will be submitting our application before the end of May. As we all know this is an enormous amount of work for the laboratory however it is fundamentally important for good laboratory practice. We are planning to have a couple of sessions at our meetings during the year regarding the process of accreditation. We will discuss what is potentially required pulling in the experience from a number of people from within the state who have either accredited a laboratory or have had their laboratory accredited. This issue is very contentious as the accreditation document is not clear on this subject. Hopefully having people talk about what they did with their own laboratory accreditation or what an assessor expected may assist others with their preparation. I know this is something that a sub-group of the ANZSRS board are looking into.

Happy lab manual writing.

*Bruce and Brigitte*

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## **Western Australia**

April has come and gone very quickly indeed! Chris has been in recovery from being a member of the Perth LOC and an ongoing saga as a result of a tussle between one human foot and a deeply imbedded tapestry needle . . . makes us wince just thinking about it. Sally had a terrific break in New Zealand but is now in need of recovery after returning to work and opening her email in-box.

The Branch meeting was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at the Dept Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital. The clinical presentation was 'Inspiratory muscle and whole-body exercise training in COPD', presented by Kylie Hill: PhD Candidate; Dept's Physiotherapy (Curtin University) & Pulmonary Physiology (SCGH). This was an excellent, highly informative and enlightening presentation about Pulmonary Rehabilitation in COPD and the group expressed the wish for a follow-up presentation once Kylie has completed Phase II of her PhD project. The local Branch also took the opportunity to congratulate Kylie on being the 2005 recipient of the TSANZ 'Young Investigator Award'.

Local Branch Business conducted at the meeting included:

### **Presentation of Professional Membership Awards To Kevin Gain:**

- ANZSRS: Life Membership Award
  - TSANZ: Contribution to Laboratory Accreditation & Ongoing Education
- These awards were announced at the recent ASM's and are in recognition of Kevin's contributions to both Societies. Robert Tagliaferri presented the awards. Congrats to Kevin!

**ANZSRS ASM:** There was agreement by those who had attended the ASM that this was a successful conference. Several new initiatives were tried e.g. special interest workshops and although there were a few 'hitches' in some areas, these experiences can be used to build on for future ASM's. The LOC were congratulated on their hard work in both organising the ASM and the way in which they handled unexpected dilemmas, problems, & challenges that arose throughout the conference period. We are already looking forward to and planning for the 2006 Canberra meeting.

**CRFS:** At the February meeting it was agreed to leave the organising of the CRFS/Ongoing Ed workshop initiative until after the ASM. Now the time has come to get stuck into our ongoing ed asap! Kevin Gain volunteered (or was volunteered - everyone seemed to be looking in his direction at the time) to be

the coordinator of the workshops. Local members can expect to hear from Kevin shortly.

**TSANZ-WA Associates:** Sally Young is currently on the TSANZ-WA Associates planning committee, as the ANZSRS-WA rep. There is much interest in involving the local ANZSRS members in the annual TSANZ-WA Associates meeting. This scientific meeting provides an excellent opportunity for the local clinicians, researchers, and respiratory scientists to come together and is highly regarded nationally. This year's meeting will be held on the weekend of October 22 & 23 in Mandurah and the theme for the meeting is 'Breathing Under Extreme Conditions'. ANZSRS-WA members are being encouraged to present posters at this meeting and a prize (type to be decided) will be awarded for the best ANZSRS poster at the meeting.

**Perth QA Program:** After a hiatus, Kevin Gain advised that this program would restart shortly. The initial aim is to get the program up and running again on a regular basis and then look at working on the additional features, such as a web based database. Given the emphasis on the importance of inter-institution quality assurance, at the recent ASM, the WA membership were very keen and supportive to have this program on the go again. The program currently includes respiratory departments at Sir Charles Gairdner, Royal Perth, Princess Margaret Hospital and The Mount Hospital and is coordinated by Rob Tagliaferri, Graham Hall, and Kevin Gain. Welcome to Fremantle Hospital as a new member of the QA program. Bill Smith, Fremantle Hospital, raised the equally important issue of standardisation of predicted values between labs. This issue of predicted values was another key issue raised throughout the recent ASM - so more food for thought!

**ACOSH Representation:** Sina Panic (SCGH) has been representing ANZSRS-WA on the Australian Council of Smoking & Health for several years now, a position previously held by Sharon Lagan (SCGH). Due to other commitments, Sina will be resigning from this position. Sina gave the meeting an overview of: the activity of ACOSH, the frequency of meeting attendance, and what is required of being a representative. The meeting agreed that this was an important organisation to be involved with and wished to continue having a representative at ACOSH. In light of this, interested volunteers were asked for and Sunalene Devadason (CCRF) and Mari Noffsinger (SCGH) voluntarily put up their hands . . . no coercion required! So Sunalene and Mari will jointly represent ANZSRS-WA at ACOSH. We wish them luck and look forward, with interest, to hearing about the activities of ACOSH.

Thanks to MayoHealthcare, represented by Alison Spocter, for sponsorship of the April meeting: the delicious food and drinks were enjoyed and appreciated.

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

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS, and Sally Young

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***CRFS news***

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