

Branch News – November 2005.

Executive Musings

Abstract due dates are fast approaching. All the documents needed to submit your data are now posted in the Meetings section of the ANZSRS website. In particular don't forget to also get your travel grant applications in as well. We are very pleased to announce that GlaxoSmithKline has agreed to sponsor the ASM Welcome reception for the next two years and the Executive would like to thank GSK for their continued support of ANZSRS.

Dr Brendan Cooper current Chair of the ARPT and Consultant Clinical Scientist at the Lung Investigation Unit of University Hospital Birmingham will be holidaying in Australia later this week and will be presenting at the Alfred Hospital on Friday 11 November. I would encourage all members and other interested parties in or around Melbourne to make to effort to go along and hear Brendan present. If you are interested please contact Brigitte Borg for further information. I would like to thank Brendan for agreeing to take time out from his holiday to meet and share his experiences with us. Maintaining active contact with our international colleagues is an important part of ensuring Respiratory Science in Australia and New Zealand continues to keep pace with developments in our field.

At present, the board is voting on proposed constitution changes regarding financial status and period of time for payment of fees for the membership to vote on at the 2006 AGM.

Finally, as the end of the year approaches, it also is a time to begin thinking of the next Executive. While great strides have been taking place with the Governance review, under our current Constitution we need to elect a prospective Executive at the 2006 ASM for commencement of their term at the 2007 ASM. Depending on the outcome of the Governance review and how quickly this can be implemented, this could all change, but we do need to consider our options at the 2006 ASM. While Graham, Rob & Derek are considering several options for the transition period, we also encourage members to think about coming forward to fill the positions in the Executive.

Regards

Graham, Rob and Derek.

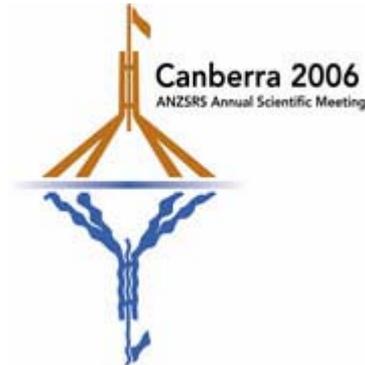
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Canberra Local Organising Committee Update

The months keep rolling on and the ASM keeps getting closer. Things are moving along quite smoothly. We have had confirmation from our sponsors for the Welcome Reception (GlaxoSmithKline) and Dinner (Mayo Healthcare) and almost all of the booths in the trade display have been booked. This is very important news and helps to ensure that the meeting is a financial as well as scientific success. The registration brochure is close to being finished and should be distributed to all members shortly.



Abstract closing date (Friday 25th November 2005) is rapidly approaching. I imagine people will be getting drafts together and gathering feedback from co-authors. This is always an interesting process and making everybody happy with the final product is a difficult task. The abstract submission form can be found on the ANZSRS web-site along with the Abstract submission guidelines. We look forward to seeing you in Canberra.

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on behalf on the 2006 ASM LOC.
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New South Wales

The year is slipping away and Alison has been busy organising our Christmas meeting and the details will be circulated soon.

What's news for November? Well here are two items....

Phillip Munoz will be staying on in Barcelona with Roberto Rodriguez-Roisin and Josep Roca to do his PhD at the University of Barcelona. His project will investigate exercise training in COPD patients and compare outcomes and metabolic adaptations based on different BMI groups. He will be using new and exciting diagnostic and prognostic markers and this aspect of his work has made the usually enthusiastic Phillip even more enthusiastic if that is possible! I know he is enjoying his lab experience but hear that he has been enjoying the partying and the Spanish culture as well! He is planning to present some early results at 2006 ATS so hopefully some local members will make it to the US to hear these! His decision to stay in Barcelona was a difficult one and I know he will miss his colleagues at the Woolcock Institute but hopefully the time will pass quickly and we will be able to welcome him back to Australia soon.

The RPA group have been busy as usual with this news on their activities provided by Peter Briffa.

“Our new part-time staff member, Jeni Norval, is settling in very well indeed. She started here 2 September, and works 3 days a week. We currently have a visiting fellow from Don Cockroft's lab in Saskatoon, Canada doing a little project during his sabbatical - looking at refractoriness after mannitol challenge testing.

Sandy has been gadding about the place and was very pleased to give a talk at the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health which is part of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario near Toronto. The talk entitled "Understanding airways disease: A celebration of the

Firestone Institute" was a farewell to Freddie Hargreaves (of Juniper & Hargreave / histamine & methacholine challenge testing fame).

I'm giving a talk on "Measuring Lung Function from Theory to Practice" at the Introduction to Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology course being run here at RPA 26-27 November 2005."

Thanks Peter for keeping us up to date with your dynamic laboratory!

Minutes of the ANZSRS Executive have been circulated via the email distribution list and I hope you have all had a chance to read them. I find it a really useful update on developments at the national level.

Cheers and I look forward to catching up with as many as possible at the Christmas meeting,

Debbie

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New Zealand

David and I would like to welcome 7 new NZ members! Scott Hay and Catherine Corble from Palmerston North, Anne-Marie Gibson from Sheffield in England, and Anna Wilson, Hayley Robinson, Ana Ng, Anderson Mok, Jacqueline Friel and Jenny White from Hamilton. Good stuff Hamilton! I think we will be seeing some of these faces at the Wellington meeting which will be fantastic. Our NZ numbers are almost at 40 now!

The TSANZ/ANZSRS Wellington meeting is on Friday the 11th November. A fantastic day is planned but it will be busy - hence the ANZSRS meeting at 7:45 AM! We are going to be treated to guest speakers, Rod Lambert, Mathew Peters, Peter Martin, Robin Taylor, Bob Hancox, Linda Schachter, Jeremy Krebs, Philippa Ellwood and Alister Neil. Topics range from "the effect of marijuana on lung function", "the effects of obesity on sleep apnea, and hypoventilation" to "deducing airway properties from a lung function test". It should be a good day.

Lauren & David

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Queensland

We held our last meeting for the year in October with invited speaker Dr Josie Larby from the Princess Alexandra Hospital presenting on the topic of "eNO" and its usefulness as a clinical marker for airway inflammation. She presented a very interesting talk with much of the following discussion based on its use in the clinical setting.

Following Dr Larby's presentation, QLD members on various ANZSRS committees gave brief summaries on the year's activities. The society has been busy this year!

Our final activity for the evening was to organise the end of year Christmas function. After some discussion it was decided on Wednesday November 30th, at 6.30pm, we will be meeting at Ahmet's Turkish restaurant on Little Stanley Street, South Bank. As well as Christmas cheer and beer, there may be belly dancing for those brave enough!! Family and friends are welcome.

And finally we wish to thank Sean Rafferty from GlaxoSmithKline for supporting our Queensland branch meetings. Thank you Sean for GSK's support throughout 2005.

Merry Christmas to all.

Cheers

Leanne & Skye

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South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

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Victoria

Hi all. As the abstract closing date fast approaches, Faizel and I sit at the computer day and night trying to get our data in some semblance of order, so it can be analysed and conclusions made. Actually, as of last Friday, it will only be me reviewing the data, as Faizel has taken a 12 month career break to travel the world! Our third staff member in as many months gone!!

We are looking forward to our final meeting of the year. Mark it in your diaries, if you have not done so already – Tuesday 29th November. As is traditional, we are looking forward to St Vincent's hosting our meeting (bring your thinking hats with you), followed by dinner at the Pump House down the road. Once again, Bird Healthcare has kindly offered to sponsor the meeting – Thank you. Times and details to follow in an invitation shortly!

We also have the pleasure of hosting a visit from Brendan Cooper, President of Association of Respiratory Technology and Physiology, the ANZSRS equivalent in the UK. Brendan will be speaking on a topic of his choosing (Spirometry in Primary care or Lung Function Issues in the UK) at The Alfred on Friday 11th November at 12.15pm. Vic members should have

received an e-invitation to join us by now. This is a great opportunity to create some important links between the Societies and should be strongly encouraged and supported.

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS, and Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

Busy, busy, busy month for the local branch!

The clinical presentation meeting was held on Wednesday 5th October, Dept Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital. The invited speaker was Dr. Elizabeth Geelhoed, Senior Lecturer, Health Economics & Policy, School of Population Health, University of Western Australia. Liz spoke on 'The application of economics in healthcare programs: using the example of COPD.' This was a thought provoking and enlightening presentation and Liz certainly challenged our preconceptions about the how's and why's of the development of healthcare policy. Particular discussion focused on community healthcare expectations and their role and influence on defining policy and service delivery. Real life 'curly' scenarios were discussed to highlight that healthcare decisions are not always clearcut: e.g should someone over 90-years-of-age be considered as a candidate for CABG?; how much resource is it reasonable to allocate to a very preterm infant (22/23 weeks gestational age)? Mayo Healthcare generously sponsored the meeting with delicious food and drink treats.

The next clinical presentation session will be Wednesday 16th November and will be held in the CCRF seminar room, PMH campus. The invited speaker is Liz Balding and the topic is 'Cystic Fibrosis: The challenges of the transition from the world of paedts to adults.' This will be the last clinical presentation session for the year, with the scheduled December slot being for our end-of-year function.

A CRFS/ongoing ed workshop was held on Thurs 27th October, Dept Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH at which Bill Noffsinger presented. The final CRFS/ongoing education workshop for the year will be held on Thursday, November 24th, at SCGH. CRFS/Ongoing ed sessions will be continued next year and we shall keep you posted on format, schedule, venues.

The TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA local asm was held 22nd/23rd October and from the feedback, the meeting was very successful. The theme of the meeting was 'Breathing Under Extreme Conditions'. Combined local TSANZ/ANZSRS attendance was in excess of 80 registrants with 100 attending the dinner. Although ANZSRS-WA is a small branch, 70% of our members attended – a terrific turnout – and well done to all those that tripped-the-light-fantastic on the dance floor, and beyond, to 2am. Dr Sandra Anderson was the keynote speaker and through her two comprehensive and informative presentations and additional contributions to the meeting, has left the resp scientists highly enthused. The task is to now translate this enthusiasm and energy into productive clinical and research endeavours. The Hon, Treasurer, ANZSRS, Derek Figurski, was in attendance, so we naturally put him to work as one of the inaugural ANZSRS-WA poster award judges, along with Sandra Anderson. Thanks to both for their contribution. This is hopefully just the beginning of a positive and productive liaison between the local branches of TSANZ & ANZSRS. We also look forward to interstate ANZSRS members attending future meetings.

A highlight of the weekend for the local members was the inaugural poster session and 'WA Respiratory Science Research Award'. The award was sponsored by Mayo Healthcare and accompanied by a \$500.00 prize, for use towards attendance at a national or international respiratory meeting. Five presentations were submitted for The Award. The 2005 winner of the award is Maureen Verheggen, Dept Respiratory Medicine, PMH for her poster 'Fitness to Fly in Healthy Infants and Young Children'. Congratulations to Maureen and well done to all poster presenters.

On the 24th October, the airway challenge workshop entitled 'Which Challenge to Use?', was hosted by the Dept of Pulmonary Physiology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Dr Sandra Anderson was the invited speaker 'Exercise Challenge Testing – Pitfalls and Solutions'. Local respiratory scientists and researchers also made presentations. Again, based on the feedback and the fact that size of the audience that made it through to 5.30pm – the afternoon session was successful. The interest in the topic of the use of airway challenges in clinical practice was demonstrated by an audience size of 87 attendees and the diversity of audience composition (resp scientists, resp physicians, advanced trainees, clinical nurse specialists, PhD students, professional researchers) As special mention, the meeting was honoured to have Dr Ken Fitch and Dr Alan Morton in the audience. The meeting was generously sponsored by Niche Medical, with a sensational afternoon tea spread. Many thanks to everyone that presented and assisted in 'putting-on' this event: - and, yes, after the weekend local asm and the workshop, Sally & Chris' recovery program is coming along nicely!

The WA-Branch was recently successful in their application for use of Regional funds. To encourage and support presentation and attendance at the local asm, several accommodation subsidies were available. The local asm is held in a regional centre approximately one hour from Perth City. In awarding these subsidies, priority was given to: a) those members who were presenting a poster at the ANZSRS-WA poster session; b) younger/new members of the Society; c) local members who have significantly contributed to and/or supported the activities of the local branch. Congratulations to the successful recipients: Maureen Verheggen, Kevin Gain, Sina Panic, Sharon Lagan, Robert Tagliaferri.

The time has come for rsvps for the December 14th, Christmas function. The evening consists of a brief invited speaker presentation and then party, party! The venue is 'Sassy's-on-the-Swan' which, as the name suggests, is on the foreshore of the Swan River. If there are any interstate ANZSRS members who will be in Perth at the time, you are more than welcome to attend – please contact Christine Nathan or Sally Young. RSVPs by Wed 16th November please.

News from around town:

- Amanda Rowe is back at work at The Mount Hospital after a short maternity leave break - welcome back!
- Congratulations and Best wishes from all the WA members to Vaska Murdzoska from PMH who is to be married on November 13. Fingers crossed for a beautiful sunny day.

Diary Reminders - ANZSRS

16th November: Clinical presentation meeting, PMH

16th November: rsvps for December dinner

24th November: final CRFS/Ongoing Ed workshop, SCGH

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

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

Chris & Sally

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