

Branch News – September 2005.

Executive Musings

Well, Spring is finally here in the West, and hopefully the winter 'flu season is behind us and we'll now have a bit more time to devote to more important things (golf, sunny walks to the cafe, bottle of red while watching the sun set...). With both Graham and Derek away for most of August, there isn't much to report from the Executive this month. The various sub-Committee's (registration, governance, SCC & CRFS) and organisation for the next ASM (Canberra, 24-29 March 2006) are tracking along with no major news to report. The Executive are very happy with how these sub-Committees are performing and it's a credit to the members involved. The Executive are receiving regular updates from the sub-Committees which are been passing on to the regional representatives. Hopefully these are being tabled and discussed at the local branch meetings!

Following a recent review of the RACP ethical guidelines by Sally Young, it has become obvious that the Society needs to have a Conflict Of Interest (COI) policy. This is currently being looked at by Sally and Rob Tagliaferri, however we would like a third person to help. So, if you are interested, please contact Rob (robert.tagliaferri@health.wa.gov.au). The Executive and Board are also looking at ways of streamlining the payment of fees as a lot of time is spent by both Rob & Derek chasing up late payers - there are still a handful of people that have not paid their 2005 fees! If you are not sure if you've paid your fees for 2005 or wish to arrange payment, please contact Rob.

Remember if you have any questions, issues, ideas, then please bring it up at a branch meeting, talk to your regional rep or even drop Rob an email. After all, this is your society and we would like to hear from you. Finally, the various forms on the web site will be updated shortly with Derek's new contact details. He will be back in another week or so to resume full duties.

Graham, Rob and Derek.

Graham Hall, President

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Robert Tagliaferri, Secretary

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Derek Figurski, Treasurer

New South Wales

Welcome to the September instalment of news from NSW. We can't believe that it is getting so close to Christmas and we need to start considering a Christmas meeting activity and venue. Has anyone got any suggestions?

Respiratory Scientist laboratory relocations!

We told you last month that Jacqui Furler was retiring from her role in the laboratory at the Canberra Hospital. This month she is going fishing up north and I know many

people that will be envious of that trip. Derek Figurski will replace Jacqui at the Canberra Hospital and we'd like to give Derek a hearty welcome to the NSW/ACT region.

Alison Boynton has moved from the Respiratory laboratory at Randwick Hospital to Liverpool Hospital and I wish her all the best there.

The registration sub-committee met in Sydney last Friday to discuss the process and best options to lead the Society forward in this area and there should be news from the Board about this in the next few weeks. The CRFS sub-committee have also been actively discussing the CRFS exam and inviting comment from the regional representatives. SO, If you would like to provide any comments or feedback to any of the ANZSRS sub-committees to help them guide the Society in the way YOU'D like to see it develop them please contact Alison or I so we can pass the information on or contact sub-committee members directly (Committee members names are listed on the ANZSRS website and you can access them by clicking on the hypertext link 'About the Society' then 'Committees').

We are also looking for volunteers to provide a "case of the month" presuming case of the month is useful and appreciated. If each region presents 1 case a month with a discussion the following month we will need 1-2 cases per year! Let Alison know what you think and if you have any cases available for discussion.

That's all for now,

Alison and Debbie

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New Zealand

NZ BRANCH ASM

The 2005 ANZSRS / TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation of New Zealand (ARFNZ). The meeting is going to be in Wellington at the James Cook Hotel Grand Chancellor, on Friday, the 11th of November. The themes this year will be public health orientated and include smoking effects on the lung, smoking cessation, obesity and the lung, metabolic syndrome and treatment. The local organising committee are currently in communication with 2 overseas speakers to present keynote addresses. Conference registration for ANZSRS and TSANZ members is only NZ\$100pp and the conference dinner, which will be held on the Thursday night, is NZ\$50pp.

The ANZSRS NZ Branch AGM is going to be held at 8am, before the ASM commences. There will be a number of important issues to address at this meeting and it is hoped that all ANZSRS members attending the ASM will attend the AGM (note: tea and coffee will be provided and we will make sure that there are also some yummy muffins and bickies – even if we have to cook them ourselves!).

ACCREDITATION PROGRESS

Accreditation progress is going well in NZ with a couple of site visits planned and one already completed. Well done guys!

VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION

A great deal of work has been going on behind the scenes recently in regards to voluntary registration for Respiratory Scientists in New Zealand. As we mentioned in the last update, a proposal has been forwarded to the Society of Cardiopulmonary Technologists Registration Board (SCTRB) for consideration and presentation at the next SCTRB meeting which is to be held on the 9th September. Our ANZSRS representatives on the SCTRB are Maureen Swanney and David Robiony-Rogers. 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. A meeting is being held on the 2nd of September to discuss these issues further before Maureen and David meet with the SCTRB.

Lauren & David

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Queensland

Many thanks to Dr Rick Abraham from the Brisbane Private Hospital, who having recently returned from holidays agreed at short notice to speak at this month's branch meeting. Dr Abraham is a medical oncologist and bone marrow transplant physician with a special interest in mesothelioma and his presentation gave us a great insight into current and future trends in disease presentation as well as advances in treatment options.

Several items of business were also discussed at the meeting including an update from Jenni Savage and Linda Ruedinger who continue to work toward establishing an inter-laboratory quality assurance program among the many interested labs in the area.

Congratulations to Margaret McElrea from the Royal Brisbane Children's Hospital who recently attained her CRFS qualification.

A successful teaching afternoon was held recently at The Prince Charles Hospital addressing "Clinical assessment in the real world". We were fortunate enough to have Professor Elborn of Queens University in Belfast available to Chair this meeting and share a wealth of knowledge with the Registrars and Scientists present.

Leanne & Skye

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan
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South Australia

SA Branch Meeting, Tuesday 9th August 2005

August's meeting saw Paul Rogers present on "Clockwise Air Entry", an interesting and informative account of his experience working as a Respiratory Technician in the United Kingdom. Paul's presentation included lots of great photographs of all the fantastic places he got to visit during his working holiday.

Derek informed the meeting about the current issues being discussed by the executive, which included:

- Registration
- Change in ANZSRS governance
- Unfinancial members

The meeting farewelled Derek Figurski and thanked him for his contributions to the Society. Derek is moving interstate, to Canberra, to manage a laboratory.

Danny Talbot from Mayo Healthcare attended and talked about their new E-service manual. For anyone who is interested, Danny is able to provide a paper copy of the manual at this stage.

Thank you to our sponsors Mayo HealthCare for providing gourmet pizzas and AirLiquide for providing refreshments.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th October 2005.

Donna and Sharla

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

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Victoria

Well it has been blustery weather in Melbourne over the last couple of days, and I was thinking about the effect of windy weather on patients with lung disease. At a pulmonary rehabilitation session last week, one participant stated that she couldn't breathe in windy weather, while another said she loved windy weather because her breathing improved. It turned out that the lady who loved the windy weather was also on CPAP. Any links, I wonder?

Many of us, I'm sure, will be reviewing the ATS/ERS Standardisation of Lung Function Testing documents as they are published each month in ERJ. We are aiming to present the first two documents at our next branch meeting on 7th September. I was surprised by the contraindications to testing. The document lists only one contraindication to testing (within 1 month of myocardial infarction) and four

potential reasons for suboptimal results. It does not discuss other potential contraindications for example; recent ocular surgery, post transbronchial biopsy (important for the lung transplant population), contagious diseases (pertussis, chicken pox), post cardiac surgery, intercostal catheters in situ, post pneumothorax. Does any one have any thoughts on this?

On the news front: congratulations to Danny (Austin) and his wife, Kath, on the birth of their second son, Isaac, in August.

Until next month,

Bruce and Brigitte

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Western Australia

WA Branch News

Welcome to the following new member: Amanda Piper (Head Technologist) from St John of God Respiratory and Sleep Centre, St John of God Hospital. We have been very pleased to have seen more of Amanda this year.

The clinical presentation meeting was held on Wednesday 17th August at Department of Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH. The topic was 'Lung Mechanics in Clinical Practice: physiology, measurement & interpretation', presented by Dr. Bhajan Singh, Consultant Respiratory Physician, SCGH. This was an excellent presentation on what can be a conceptually challenging subject. Bhajan presented the subject matter in a clear and interesting format and also discussed research opportunities, for respiratory scientists, on the use of measurements of lung mechanics in the clinical setting, both diagnostically and in the planning and assessment of ongoing treatment decisions. The meeting was generously sponsored by Kevin Hick of Niche Medical; very scrumptious nibblies indeed. Prior to the clinical presentation session, Kevin Hick gave a short presentation the Easy-One Spirometer. Our thanks to Kevin. The next clinical meeting will be Wednesday 5th October at Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital.

Given the interest generated from Bhajan Singh's presentation at the clinical meeting, there will be several 'come and see' sessions for those members who expressed an interest in taking a look at the equipment used for making measurements and how to perform the tests (chest wall mechanics, lung mechanics, phrenic nerve stimulation). These particular sessions are part of a research study being conducted in The Dept. Pulmonary Physiology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and the 'sitting-in' opportunities have kindly been made available courtesy of Dr. Susie Chong and Robert Tagliaferri. For more information about these sessions and to book your spot (1 – 2 people/session), please contact Sally Young, Dept Pulmonary Physiology.

ANZSRS-WA is represented at ACOSH (Australian Council on Smoking & Health) by Sunalene Devadason and Mari Noffsinger. At our recent clinical meeting, Sunalene updated the members on the current local focus of activity of ACOSH: campaigning for the 'High Rollers Room' at the Burswood Casino to become smoke free.

CRFS/Ongoing Education workshop #3 was held on August 25th at the Dept Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital. Another interesting presentation was given by Bill. Well done to the attendees who braved the many roadwork detours happening in and around the CBD at the moment. 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 September 22nd, details to be forwarded shortly.

The preliminary programme for the October TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA local ASM is available and has been circulated. Just a reminder that if you are planning to attend the meeting, please complete and return the registration form (details on rego form) by September 16th. This assists greatly with meeting room set-up and catering for the morning/afternoon teas, Saturday lunch and Saturday dinner.

The call for abstracts for the local ASM was also made recently and the closing date for submission is Friday 16th September. The 'WA Respiratory Science Research Award', sponsored by Mayo Healthcare, 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.

In previous years, attendance at the local ASM was free only to members of TSANZ. We are very pleased to be able to announce that for the first time, local ANZSRS financial members, who do not have joint membership with TSANZ, will also be able to attend the meeting at no cost.

As a continuation of the recent membership drive, an invitation to attend the August clinical presentation meeting was forwarded to all metropolitan respiratory scientists who are currently non-members of ANZSRS. It was a pleasure to meet Meredith (Respiratory Function Unit, Hollywood Private Hospital) and Elizabeth (Dept Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth), who have recently joined their respective departments. We hope to see them at other meetings and social activities.

The 'Moroccan Passion', Wednesday Sept 28th is now full. So now we just wait and salivate in anticipation! Payment details have been forwarded. For more info, please contact Sally.

Our condolences to Bill Smith, Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Fremantle Hospital, on the recent passing away of his father.

Diary Reminders - ANZSRS

TSANZ-WA Associates/ANZSRS-WA ASM:

- Abstract Closing Date: Friday 16th September
- Registration Closing Date: Friday 16th September

CRFS/Ongoing Ed Workshop: Thursday 22nd September, Details to be confirmed shortly.

Social Evening: 'Moroccan Passion', Wednesday 28th September 7-9pm

Clinical Presentation Meeting: Wednesday 5th October, 5-6pm, RPH

TSANZ-WA Associates/ANZSRS-WA ASM: October 22nd/23rd, Mandurah

Diary Reminders - Others

Airway Challenge Workshop: 'Which Challenge to Use?' Monday 24th October
2-5pm, SCGH

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

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS (RPH)

Sally Young, PhD (SCGH)

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CRFS news

Congratulations to Margaret McElrea from the Royal Children's Hospital (Brisbane) who passed the CRFS exam in July. Margaret is the second Queensland member in the last two months to be successful.

Many members will be aware that the CRFS process is currently undergoing review. A 'working party' is administering the review and a number of members have been emailed requesting input. If you have not been contacted directly please accept my apologies as the views of all ANZSRS members are valued. If you can contribute please do so (stephen_west@wsahs.nsw.gov.au). At this time I'm particularly keen to receive comments from members regarding the content on which the CRFS is based. This content is listed on the ANZSRS website. Is the content still current in 2005? What needs to be added or removed?

No CRFS questions this month. They will return in October

Stephen

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

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