

Branch News – April, 2006.

Executive Musings

Nothing received

Graham, Rob and Derek.

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Canberra Local Organising Committee Update

Hi all,

Well it has been and gone. I hope everybody who attended enjoyed the Canberra 2006 ASM. My blood pressure has only just returned to normal. Lots of people put work into making the conference a success so there are a few people to thank. I would like to thank the conference secretariat (Elisabeth Eaton from Festival City Conventions) for her help in organising the event. I would like to thank the rest of the Melbourne-based LOC and Jacqui Furler in Canberra for their help support and ideas. Thank-you to all of the invited speakers, including ANZSRS members and TSANZ members. Also a big thank-you to our international guest speaker, Prof Paul Enright for his great input to the meeting. It was great to have him so involved in the meeting and by all accounts he had a good time.

Paul Kelly and the LOC for the 2007 Auckland meeting sound like they are already well on the way to organising a very exciting meeting for next year.

For those of you who haven't already done so, we would appreciate your feedback via the conference evaluation form on the website.

Cheers,

Danny

No longer the chair of the ASM LOC.

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

Nothing received

Alison and Debbie

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Debbie Burton, CRFS
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New Zealand

Not too much to report from the NZ region again. No one tells me anything!!

Here's what I have to say:

Firstly, I would like to say a big congratulations to Christene McLachlan from Dunedin for completing her MSc. Fantastic work Chris, well done!

I'm pleased to say that we had 12 New Zealand ANZSRS members attend the ASM in Canberra this year. 5 of those members gave excellent presentations:

Josh Stanton (nursing a broken rib, I might add) presented 'A snapshot of CPET practices in ANZSRS laboratories' and showed us all how difficult it is to keep up with the Jones';

Paul Kelly presented his work on how 'Laboratory cabin simulation testing accurately replicates in-flight oxygenation in normals' followed by a beautiful photo of his wife, Jo, and little baby Jessica;

Maureen Swanney introduced 'A new spirometry value, isovolumeFEF25-75%6;

Dr Lutz Beckert presented a poster during the TSANZ Tuesday session on 'CTPAS in patients admitted to general hospital: closing the audit loop', for which he received the best poster prize, and then he presented his work on 'Latex IL D-Dimer outperforms pre-test probability scoring systems in assessment of possible community pulmonary embolism' for which he received the best overall oral in the clinical SIG session.

Excellent work Lutz.

Finally, I had the opportunity to present my masters research on 'The effect of reducing the time between DL,CO tests' for which I was honored to receive the Young Investigator Award. Many thanks again to Bird Healthcare for generously continuing to sponsor this award. This award will allow me to attend an international meeting, hopefully this year.

Many thanks also, from the NZ branch, to the local organising committee for organising such a fantastic scientific meeting and choosing brilliant guest speakers.

The focus this past month has mostly been around the Canberra meeting so there is not too much more news from the NZ branch.

Until next time...

Lauren & David

Lauren Wallace

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David Robiony-Rogers CRFS

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Queensland

The theme for this month's branch news will see a swing from "see you in Canberra" to "wasn't Canberra fantastic?!" This year's ASM was a raging success and we extend a huge thanks to the LOC and everyone else involved for the extraordinary amount of work they put into the meeting. Congratulations to everyone who presented posters

and oral presentations, once again the standard of work was first class. The highlight of the event however, had to be the freefall at Questacon!

Speaking of highlights, the next on the list here in QLD is our April branch meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th April. We're fortunate enough to have Dr David Fielding of the Royal Brisbane Hospital coming along to speak to the group on the topic "Adding value to bronchoscopy".

For those who were able to attend the ASM and felt a little snap happy over the weekend, if you have any incriminating, ambiguous or otherwise bribe-worthy photos, please be sure to pass them on to Skye. We are hunting for a subject for this year's caption competition as well as others to share on the website and would appreciate as many photos we can lay our hands on!

Leanne & Skye

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan
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South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS
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Victoria

It goes without saying that the LOC (of which we are both members) did a splendid job putting together the program for this year's ASM! I have received many compliments regarding the scope – enough clinical and practical material to suit those who work primarily in clinical laboratories, with an adequate research bent for those following research paths. Congratulations in particular to Danny, as chair of the LOC, for bringing it all together so slickly.

The highlight of the conference for me was meeting and spending some time with our international guest speaker, Prof Paul Enright. Having read many of his papers on spirometry, COPD and quality assurance in spirometry, it was a fantastic opportunity to discuss aspects of my interest in quality assurance with him. I would like to thank him publicly for the manner in which he immersed himself in our ASM and Society with such enthusiasm and genuine interest. For me, he certainly inspired me to persist and further develop the path on which I'm travelling.

As those of you who attended the AGM will know, next year's ASM will be in Auckland, NZ and the 2008 ASM is set for Melbourne. This means that we will need to form a LOC for 2008 very quickly and we would like to hear from Victorian and Tasmanian members interested in participating in the next two weeks. We are also collecting ideas for the theme of the 2008 ASM, so here is your chance to throw your ideas into the ring for consideration.

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

The second Victorian Branch Meeting for 2006 will be held on 3rd May 2006 at Box Hill Hospital. The theme for the evening is bronchial provocation testing. Pam Liakakos, from The Alfred, will provide us with a presentation on Challenge Testing (both direct and indirect methods), and Pharmaxis, who are kindly sponsoring the evening, will show us Mannitol – soon to be released as a challenge agent on the Australian market. More details to follow shortly via e-invitations.

Until next month.....

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS
Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

Yet another busy month culminating in the Canberra ASM. There was a very good attendance by WA members and it was pleasing to have representation from both the public and private respiratory labs. Great to catch-up with our interstate and Trans-Tasman colleagues in Canberra and we look forward to Auckland.

Canberra ASM

Many thanks to the LOC for an excellent meeting and for the inspired choice of Paul Enright as the keynote speaker. Terrific to have a senior member of the international respiratory community publicly encouraging and supporting us all to 'Question authority'. Questacon was an ideal place for enquiring minds and those who are still children at heart: Brenton Eckert's masterful interpretative playing of the xylophone was something to behold, or be-hear, as the case may be!

Congratulations to Elizabeth Salamon (RPH) for winning the 'Best Poster Prize' for her presentation 'M_VV = FEV₁ x ?'.

Clinical Presentation Meeting

An additional meeting was held on Wednesday March 15th, at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, for those members who were presenting at the Canberra

ASM. This session allowed those presenting orals/posters to have a run through prep before heading-off for the main event. This session proved useful to the presenters by way of audience feedback. We were fortunate to have Prof. Janet Stocks at the meeting and she was able to provide valuable feedback and encouragement to the presenters.

Also, Bill Smith (Fremantle Hospital) gave a brief but information packed presentation on tips to presenting and chairing. There has already been significant interest in an encore and we are pleased to advise that Bill has kindly agreed to present at the August clinical presentation meeting. Bill also provided the meeting with an extract on 'Harnessing Nerves', from his publication:

'The Conference Chairperson and Conference Speaker . . . A Winning Team: A detailed guide to the duties and disciplines of conference chairpersons and speakers that will ensure the success of any conference'.

If you would like a copy of the handout, please contact Chris Nathan or Sally Young. More importantly, we wish to remind all ANZSRS members about Bill's excellent book on this topic. If you would like more information please contact Bill Smith directly and/or refer to the ANZSRS website for a review of the book.

This session was generously sponsored by Niche Medical, Mr Kevin Hick.

The next clinical presentation meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th April at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. The guest presenter is Dr. Peter Franklin who shall be speaking on 'Indoor Air Pollution: does it impact on respiratory health?'

CRFS Study Group

The March sessions were hosted by Sharon Lagan and Jan Oostryck. April sessions are scheduled for Thursday 13th and Thursday 27th. Please refer to the previously circulated topic schedule for details. For further information contact: Amanda Piper (Study Group Co-ordinator), Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

Special ANZSRS-WA Meeting

Professor Janet Stocks is in town and we are very pleased to be able to announce that she has kindly agreed to present to ANZSRS-WA on Monday 10th April, 5pm. Janet Stocks is the Professor of Respiratory Physiology at the University College London, Institute of Child Health and Great Ormond St Hospital for Children in London. Her laboratory has one of the widest ranges of infant and pre-school lung function tests available worldwide. She has published widely on the development and validation of tests for assessing lung function in this age group, including international (ATS/ERS) initiatives. Professor Stocks is currently developing international growth charts for lung

function with which to distinguish the effects of disease from those of growth and development in preschool children.

Professor Stocks will be presenting on: 'Does normal spirometry reflect normal lung function?
New insights into small airway disease.'

Aridol Challenge Information Session

This will be a combined information and hands-on promotional session, sponsored by Pharmaxis, for those interested in a new product for the assessment of airway responsiveness. This session will also include a brief presentation by ANZSRS-WA on the role of challenge testing in asthma, focusing on advantages and disadvantages of each type of test. In addition, in preparation for this session ANZSRS-WA wish to suggest that some background reading on the Aridol challenge would be useful prior to attending the session. A list of references on publications from 1997 – 2005 can be found at:

www.pharmaxis.com.au/scientific-publications/respiratory-diseases/respiratory-diseases.cfm

Publications cover mannitol as a bronchial provocation test and mannitol as a mucocilliary clearance agent. Most of the publications are accessible via PubMed.

Session Facilitator: Jo Prior: Pharmaxis Marketing Manager, Australia
This promotional familiarisation session is sponsored by Pharmaxis.

RSVPs required by Friday 19th May to either Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

Disclaimer: ANZSRS-WA is acting solely as a host organisation only. Hosting does not imply company or product endorsement.

Social Event

ANZSRS-WA has a group booking for Friday 5th May at 7pm for a Torchlight Tour of Fremantle Prison.

'Fremantle Prison is the largest convict built structure in WA and is the most intact convict establishment in Australia. Decommissioned as a maximum-security prison in 1991, Fremantle Prison was used continuously as a place of incarceration and punishment for almost 140 years.'

The tour takes 1 hour 30 mins and includes the: main cell block, the whippings post, solitary confinement, and the gallows. Torches provided. To confirm your place please contact Sally Young (SCGH). RSVP's by Friday 28th April.

Diary Reminders

April 13th, 27th: CRFS study group sessions. Check flyers for details.

April 10th: Professor Janet Stocks' presentation

April 19th: Clinical Presentation Meeting: SCGH

May 5th: Fremantle Prison Torchlight Tour (RSVP by 28th April)

May 24th: Aridol Challenge Testing Session (RSVP by 19th May)

October 28th/29th: TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA Local ASM, The Vines, Swan Valley

That's the April news from WA.

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS (RPH)

Sally Young, PhD (SCGH)

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