

Branch News – December, 2006.

Executive Musings

As 2006 draws to an end it is worth looking back to see what we as a Society have achieved over the year.

A number of major issues are drawing to their conclusion and the Society is growing rapidly. We are beginning to broaden our influence in our region as evidenced by a number of new members in the Asia Pacific region, Maureen Swanney being elected Chair of the APSR Respiratory Structure and Function assembly and Jeff Pretto being awarded the inaugural APSR-Pharmaxis travel grant to attend the 2006 APSR meeting in Kyoto and present his research.

The Society now has 254 members with 20-30 new members in 2006. Internally an increasing number of members have passed the CRFS exam with 17 members obtaining their CRFS credential this year, compared with 9 in 2005. Our congratulations go to the latest group including Lisa Wilson, Nicola McNaught, Michelle Peters, Sina Panic, Barbara O'Donovan, Amanda Piper and Richard Chock. Deserving of additional recognition is that Richard became the first overseas member to pass the exam!

Paul Guy and the governance committee have finalised their recommended model of governance for the Society. A summary of this model and a presentation package will be sent to all State representatives before the Christmas break. In addition a questions and answers section will be placed in the members only section of the Web-site to allow issues raised to be communicated to the broader membership. Once these have been discussed the Board will vote on the changes with the final package being presented to the whole membership at the AGM. Please make the effort to contact your State Rep about these issues. The Executive would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul, Brigitte Borg, Lauren Wallace, Leanne Rodwell, Jacquelyn Furler, David Schembri and David Robiony-Rogers for all of their efforts over the past year.

Registration in New Zealand is close to a reality and David Robiony-Rogers and others are to be commended for the work they have achieved in bringing this complex issue to fruition. The process of broadening this to the Australian Scientists now begins and a model will hopefully be finalised in time for the 2007 ASM in Auckland. Details regarding registration can already be found in the Members section of the website.

Information regarding the 2007 meeting in Auckland is on the web-site, including details relating to the AGM.

There are in excess of 20 members who are yet to finalise their 2006 fees and we request these individuals do so immediately.

Finally Rob, Derek and I would like to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and an enjoyable break.

Graham, Rob and Derek.

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Robert Tagliaferri, Secretary

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Derek Figurski, Treasurer

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New South Wales

Nothing received

Alison and Debbie

Alison Boynton

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New Zealand

Nothing received

Lauren & David

Lauren Wallace CRFS

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David Robiony-Rogers CRFS

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Queensland

Christmas is nearly upon us as we wrap up yet another year for the QLD branch. Our bi-monthly branch meetings have been well attended and we've had some interesting speakers present this year.

New Board Member

Firstly I'd like to congratulate Pauline Lynn who will replace Skye McLennan as a QLD State and Board Representative in 2007. Skye retired from this position in early November to take maternity leave. Both Pauline and I are looking forward to 2007 as we put together an interesting program. If any QLD members have areas of interest they would like covered next year then please contact us. We are very keen to hear from you!!

Recap of the year's speakers

This year we had several speakers present at our bi-monthly meetings. Dr David Fielding, Staff Thoracic Physician at the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital, spoke about his experience using new bronchoscopic techniques while Dr Fiona Kermeen, Transplant & Thoracic Physician at The Prince Charles Hospital, presented her work on Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. Annette Dent, Scientist in charge at The Prince Charles Hospital, give an overview of the Physiology & Mathematics of Shunt Studies. A big thank you to our speakers.

Thoracic Society of Queensland (TSQ)-Annual Scientific meeting

Several members attended the recent TSQ ASM on November 18 at The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston. Professor Alan Mackay-Sim from the School of Biomedical Science at Griffith University presented his work in developing the use of adult stem cells derived from adult olfactory mucosa. His presentation was very interesting with his research having potential use in bronchial & respiratory cells.

Thank you

A big thank you to Sean Rafferty from GlaxoSmithKline who has generously supported our 2006 bimonthly meetings at the Brisbane Private Hospital. Sean has mentioned that GlaxoSmithKline would continue their support of our bi-monthly meetings for 2007. We are still finalising with Sean the venue and dates for next year's meetings, however it is still likely to be the 3rd Wednesday of every second month. So pencil in your diary the first 2007 meeting for Wednesday February 21st 2007. At this meeting, those members presenting at the 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting are invited to present to the group for comment. We will let you know as soon as we have finalised meeting dates for the rest of 2007.

Christmas Dinner 1st December 7.00pm

The end of year Christmas function was held at Deck's Restaurant at Southbank. It was great to see so many members and see everyone enjoying the good food and good company.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

We have just heard that Skye gave birth to Lillian Eve on Monday 27th November and both Mum and bub are doing well. Congratulations to Skye and Brock on the birth of Lillian.

Cheers

Leanne & Pauline

Leanne Rodwell and Pauline Lynn

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South Australia

Hi there from SA ,

CRFS

December time and its as busy as it always seems to get! We are now due for our 4th CRFS lecture of the series (on December 11th), and the last 3 lectures have been well attended by nurses, doctors, technician, lab assistants and others interested in the topics. Thank you to those who have attended and a special thanks to Sonya Johnston, David Schembri, Peter Catcheside and Sean Homan for preparing and presenting the lectures this year. Next year we have 6 lectures, the first one for 2007 due on Jan 15th and following lectures are 2 weeks apart.

After the lecture series has finished, we intend on running 4 tutorial sessions – case based – where attendees are required to participate in the problem solving using their knowledge (hopefully) gained from the lecture series. More details to come on this in 2007.

ANZSRS Meetings

One more meeting for the year. To make it easier for people, the last meeting is immediately after the CRFS lecture, on Monday December 11th, Adelaide Chest Clinic, at 6-6:15pm start. Thankyou to all of you who have attended and supported me in running these meeting this year. Your support has been GREATLY appreciated! The Interlab biocontrols will be presented, and a few final things discussed... hoping to keep the meeting short and sharp so we can enjoy a drink together (or two!!)

Dates for 2007 will be posted out (by email) by end of this week – for discussion / review at the last meeting.

And Finally....

Merry Christmas!! We hope to see you all at the last ANZSRS meeting but if not, have a wonderful Christmas and new year. See you in 2007!!

Cheers!!

Donna and Sharla

Donna Keatley

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns

David Johns, CRFS
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Victoria

Well.... this is the final branch news that I am going to need to write for a little while! How exciting!!! I am pleased to say that I do not think that in my four years as a Vic representative, Victoria missed getting one in (is that a record Mr Editor?). Congratulations to Faizel Hartley and Paul Guy who have been successful in their nominations to be elected a regional representatives to the board. I trust that my successors will stick with tradition and uphold Victoria's great reputation for monthly contributions! I look forward to handing over to them in the coming months.

Our final meeting for the year was held at St Vincent's, followed by dinner at The Pumphouse. Our thanks to the St Vincent's team for hosting the meeting and, to Bird Healthcare for sponsoring the event.

The topic for the evening was the proposed changes to the governance structure of the ANZSRS. The response overall was positive, and I am thankful to those who gave great feedback and questioned the structure as it is important to get all points of view and ensure the governance subcommittee has covered as many bases as possible.

To those of you unable to attend I have forwarded a summary of the structure changes to all Victorian members as well as answers from the governance subcommittee to the main questions asked by the membership at the meeting. If any Victorian members have not received a copy, please contact me to have one sent. In addition, if any members have questions regarding proposed changes to the structure, please feel free to contact myself or any other member of the Governance Subcommittee.

At the close of the year, Bruce and I must thank:

- Members who have attended and supported the Victorian Branch meetings this year.
- The companies who sponsored our meetings this year: Niche Medical, Pharmaxis, Mayo Healthcare, Medtechnica and Bird Healthcare; the Victorian membership appreciate your generosity and we look forward to your support in years to come.
- Kevin Gain and the publication team for keeping us up to date with information on the Web and sending us the monthly reminders for news (they really help!)

Faizel tells me the first meeting for next year is planned for late February/early March. Invitations will be sent late January.

To you and your families, lots of festive cheer and blessings,

Brigitte

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS
Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

Clinical Presentation Meeting

A clinical presentation session was held on Wednesday 22nd November, Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH. The invited speaker was Dr. Jeanie Leong, Advanced Respiratory Trainee, SCGH. Jeanie gave an excellent presentation on Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. The presentation covered: the definition of pulmonary hypertension and the differentiation into pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), physiology and pathogenesis of PAH, aetiology and epidemiology of PAH, symptoms, investigations, treatment and management. Jeanie has kindly made her presentation available. If you would like an electronic copy, contact Chris or Sally. This meeting was sponsored by Mayo Healthcare, with thanks to Jane Wedge.

The final meeting for the year will be held on Sunday 10th December, 12noon, during the Perth Zoo picnic. Graham Hall, Exec President is the invited speaker.

CRFS

Congratulations go out to Amanda Piper, St John of God Hospital. Well done Amanda!

Special congratulations to our colleague and remote WA-Branch member in the Philippines, Richard Chock, (Respiratory Care Unit, St Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart) who had CRFS success this month. This is an outstanding effort given that Richard was studying independently, without study group support other than via email to the WA Branch and to the CRFS Co-ordinator, Steve West. In addition, Richard travelled to Sydney to take the exam. Therefore, a few more effort, expense, and immigration visa hurdles for this candidate in attaining the CRFS than most encounter - well done Richard and congratulations on your dedication!

Big thanks to Amanda Piper and Sharon Lagan for their key contributions in co-ordinating the CRFS study group and exam timetable throughout 2006. Additional thankyou to: all those members who volunteered their time and contributed to the study group sessions and/or acted as exam supervisors; and to Stephen West, who in liaison with local co-ordinator, Amanda Piper, accommodated the West Australian CRFS study group timetable. The study group sessions and exam timetable schedule have proven very successful during 2006. Of note was the exam date scheduling which enabled several exams to be held over a relatively short period, thereby allowing candidates to maintain enthusiasm, effort, energy and momentum for both the study and exam process. Thank you Stephen.

ANZSRS Regional Representation (WA)

Christine Nathan and Sally Young have been returned for a second term. Chris and Sally wish to thank those members who made the approaches to them for renomination. We are honoured to be returned for a second term and look forward to: representing the interests of local members; consolidating initiatives that have proven successful over the last two years; and, developing some new ideas during 2007. This term may be shortened (1 year duration) if the changes to Societal Governance are passed by the national membership at the 2007 AGM.

TSANZ-WA Executive Committee Representation

In recognition of the increasing ties with ANZSRS at both the local and national level, the TSANZ-WA Executive Committee has created a new position for 2007 specifically for ANZSRS representation. On discussion with the ANZSRS Executive Committee, the

invitation was seen as an excellent opportunity and was therefore, accepted. Sally Young shall be taking-on this new role. This position will represent not only ANZSRS-WA but the interests of those respiratory scientists who have joint Society membership. The newly created position was announced at the TSANZ-WA AGM held during the Combined Society ASM in October 2006.

TSANZ-WA Associates Committee Representation

As Sally is moving to the TSANZ-WA Executive Committee, her position on the Associates Committee will fall vacant for 2007. The position on this committee involves organisation of the annual Combined Society ASM and representation of both ANZSRS-WA and those respiratory scientists who are Associate Members of TSANZ. Nominations for this position will be called for shortly and this will be a mentored position. This represents an excellent opportunity for an interested member to be involved in a key ANZSRS-WA activity.

Governance

At the recent branch meeting, members were advised that a key Society focus for 2007 is Governance. Local members have been strongly advised to take the time to read and consider the proposal, when it becomes available, as, if accepted, the proposal will represent significant changes to the way in which ANZSRS operates, at both the national and local level. The local Branch has been advised that as soon as the final Governance proposal is received by the Repts, this will be circulated. A branch meeting will be called, several weeks prior to the AGM, to discuss the proposed changes, so that all interested members can be fully informed prior to voting at the AGM in March 2007.

ANZSRS 2007 ASM

Flights and accommodation are booked, Abstracts submitted, and WA will be there!

Book Group

The monthly order for November has been placed – those who ordered will be notified as soon as the books arrive. Closing date for next ordering cycle is Wednesday 20th December. Please forward orders to either Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

Social Activities

Christmas/ End-of Year Function: A lunchtime picnic will be held at the Perth Zoo on Sunday 10th December. ANZSRS-WA have a reserved picnic/bbq area (10.30am – 3.30pm). The final Branch meeting for 2006 will be held at 12noon for an expected 10 minutes and the rest of the time is end-of-year social get-together. There will be plenty for the kids to get involved with, as the Zoo will be running 'Kids Christmas Capers' on this day – activity programmes will be available at the Zoo entrance.

Ticket orders closed on November 22nd. Tickets have been printed and are available from Chris and Sally. Information on ticket collection and payment has been circulated, as have final details about the function and other activities taking place at the Zoo on the day.

If you wish to attend this function but have not placed a ticket order, you are still able to attend by purchasing a regular Zoo entry ticket on the day. Ticket purchases on the day are independent of ANZSRS-WA and are not subject to the function discount.

Thanks to Niche Medical (Mr. Kevin Hick) for generous support and sponsorship of this function.

Diary Reminders

December 10th: Final Branch meeting and Social Activity: Perth Zoo picnic (10.30 – 3.30pm)

That's the news from WA for 2006.

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS (RPH)

Sally Young, PhD (SCGH)

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CRFS

A number of members have achieved CRFS in the last few months. Congratulations to:

Sharon LAGAN

Nicola McNAUGHT

Barbara O'DONOVAN

Sally YOUNG

Sina PANIC

Richard CHOCK

Rob TAGLIAFERRI

Michelle PETERS

Amanda PIPER

Graham HALL

Lisa WILSON

Any members preparing for the exam is encouraged to attend the CRFS workshop planned as part of the 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting. The organising committee intends to present an educational and very relevant session!

Stephen West

CRFS Coordinator

4/12/2006.