

Branch News – June, 2006.

Executive Musings

Jetlag and chronic fatigue were the order of the month following the very successful meeting in Canberra. Once again congratulations to the organising committee for an exceptional job.

Having the President-Elect of APSR, Professor Berend, as our guest was an excellent opportunity for ANZSRS members to gain a better appreciation of our broader region. As a result of having Professor Berend attend our meeting the Pharmaxis-APSR travel grant to attend the APSR annual scientific conference was established. This grant will enable ANZSRS members, submitting research to the APSR, the opportunity to have their travel costs covered. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pharmaxis for their generous sponsorship of this award. The Executive is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the travel award is Jeff Pretto.

Last year Kevin Gain and David Johns, on behalf of ANZSRS, made a submission to the Federal Senate committee enquiry on workplace exposure to toxic dust. The final report of the committee has now been tabled in Parliament and is available on the internet (http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca - click on completed inquiries link). The Executive would like to take this opportunity to thank Kevin and David for their continued efforts on behalf of ANZSRS.

Cheers ciao and til next time.

Graham, Rob and Derek.

Graham Hall, President

Graham.hall@health.wa.gov.au

Robert Tagliaferri, Secretary

Robert.tagliaferri@health.wa.gov.au

Derek Figurski, Treasurer

Derek.Figurski@act.gov.au

New South Wales

Hi all,

Things have been fairly quiet this month.

There was an introductory training workshop for Aridol (Mannitol) bronchochallenge testing at Royal North Shore Hospital on Wednesday 31st May with full demonstration of the challenge protocol. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend so I can't provide any feedback but do know that information kits with CD and protocols are available from Pharmaxis. If you were unable to attend the workshop but would like a copy of the training materials please contact Ryan Witnish (ryan.witnish@pharmaxis.com.au).

We haven't had any interaction on the research discussion forum so I would encourage all NSW members who would like some help in getting started on a small research project to use the discussion forum by replying to the NSW member distribution list or directly to me (dburton@csu.edu.au) or Alison (Alison.Boynton@swsahs.nsw.gov.au).

Congratulations to Peter Briffa for being awarded a Deans award for outstanding grades in his Graduate Certificate in Respiratory Science at Charles Sturt University. Peter is continuing

his studies and we wish him all the best and know he will complete an excellent Masters project.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5th July at 5:30pm at Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick and will involve a presentation from Dr Paul Thomas from Prince of Wales Hospital on NO (Nitric oxide) measurements. Light refreshments will be provided followed by the presentation. We will have a research update session so members can report back on where they are up to on their research projects at the same meeting.

Cheers,

Alison and Debbie

Alison Boynton
BoyntonA@sesahs.nsw.gov.au

Debbie Burton, CRFS
dburton@csu.edu.au

New Zealand

Nothing received.

Lauren & David

Lauren Wallace
lauren.wallace@cdhb.govt.nz
David Robiony-Rogers CRFS
David.Robiony-Rogers@ccdhb.org.nz

Queensland

This month begins with several of the Queensland members preparing to go to the Thoracic Society of Queensland's winter meeting (June 10-11, 2006) at the Nara Resort Sea World on the Gold Coast. The focus of the meeting is Mycobacterial Disease and the practical issues for the First and Third worlds. For members of the ANZSRS, registration is free. For further details please contact Dr Michelle Murphy on: Michelle_A_Murphy@health.qld.gov.au.

We are also looking forward to the Aridol training session on Wednesday 7th June sponsored by Pharmaxis. It will be held at Freestyle Tout at Emporium (Anne St, Fortitude Valley) with a 5:30pm start. This will be a practical, hands-on session for all those interested in performing Mannitol challenges in their labs. Don't forget to contact either Skye or Leanne if you're interested in attending so we can finalise numbers and the booking.

Our next QLD branch meeting is on 28th June at The Brisbane Private Hospital, Wickham Terrace. Dr Sam Kim, from the Prince Charles Hospital, will speak on the Physiological and Molecular aspects of Suppurative Lung Disease. Dr Kim will present data from his research in this area. We will meet at 5.30pm for drinks and nibbles, with the presentation starting at 6.00pm. Our bimonthly meetings are kindly sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline.

And that's it for another month!

Leanne & Skye

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan
Leanne_rodwell@health.qld.gov.au
Skye_McLennan@health.qld.gov.au

South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

Donna Keatley
donna.keatley@nwahs.sa.gov.au

Sharla Anderson
lfunit@burnsidehospital.asn.au

Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS
david.johns@utas.edu.au

Victoria

The turn around time for writing these branch reports is quicker every time we do one. The year, as usual, has been frantic. With grants, conference presentations, lectures, initiating new research projects whilst trying to maintain a state of the art clinical service is at times a difficult juggling act.

One thing that we are all guilty of to a degree is assuming our research projects are finished once the conference presentation at the ANZSRS ASM is over. The crucial step, and also the hardest, is writing the project up for publication. I know this has been mentioned previously by other senior members of the society, who have demonstrated only a fraction of the presentations at the ANZSRS ASM are indeed published. We are not alone as a society on this. Of the 5000+ abstracts presented at the ATS this year, I am sure only 50%, at most, will be published. I read in an ATS newsletter some time that the ATS were trying to address this problem. There are many reasons of course for not going the extra step, some of which are valid. For example some data presented at a meeting is not necessarily suitable for publication, eg: laboratory experience in a very specific clinical scenario etc. However, there are many instances where there is great data presented at our meeting, that does not make it to the journals. I can fully understand the problems, I have four 1st authors papers that are all 75% complete (not to mention a number of senior author papers), and it is extremely difficult to find the time to get them finalised. Motivation is at times hard to find knowing that there is more than an even chance of the paper being rejected, which is sometimes a setback that is hard to recover from.

Again we are not alone, I have just returned from the ATS and hearing the big gun scientists all saying similar things is heartening in a way. When one of my colleagues from San Diego who presented a magnificent poster on aerosol deposition in various clinical scenarios said the paper was knocked back by JAP, despite some of the experts in the area saying what a magnificent and important study it was. This scenario is not uncommon and can be extremely frustrating. I personally had a situation where we sent a study to the blue journal where it was rejected and the editor stated the study was more suitable for a physiological journal. We then sent the paper to JAP where it was rejected again and the editor of JAP suggesting the study is more suitable for a clinical journal! A comment made to me by Kim Prisk, known to many in the society, was that one of the reasons to present your data at a scientific meeting is to obtain feedback for when you write the paper up. Hopefully, (in the case of an international meeting) the potential reviewers of the paper will hear the presentation and provide useful feedback, and importantly remember the work. The feedback good or bad will be invaluable when it comes to writing up the paper.

In light of this, it was fantastic to see “how to do research” style sessions appearing in the program of the ANZSRS ASM. A strength of the society will be placing our data specific to our profession on the international stage. So let’s get to it, and start writing.

The next branch meeting is at the Austin Hospital is on the 5th of July. Details for the meeting will follow shortly along with an invitation.

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS
Brigitte Borg, CRFS

b.thompson@alfred.org.au
b.borg@alfred.org.au

Western Australia

May has been quietish on the general meeting front but the planning and organisational side of things has been very busy. Two of the main planning outcomes are:

- (1) The WA Branch is very pleased to announce the formation of the ‘WA Visiting Respiratory Scientist Grant. The aim of this grant is to enable the WA-Branch to invite a nationally recognised senior respiratory scientist to be the keynote speaker at the annual Respiratory Science Symposium and also attend and present at the combined TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA annual scientific meeting. The inaugural recipient of this grant is Dr. Bruce Thompson. This initiative has been made possible by generous sponsorship from Pharmaxis.
- (2) As for 2005, the WA Respiratory Symposium will follow on from the weekend asm and be held on Monday 30th October. The intended format will be keynote speaker, followed by presentations by local respiratory scientists, physicians, and researchers. The Symposium theme and program will be announced and circulated shortly.

Clinical Presentation Meeting

No clinical presentation meeting held for May. The next clinical presentation meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st June at Royal Perth Hospital. The guest presenter is Dr. Justin Waring who shall be presenting ‘Flying High: using the simulated altitude test.’

CRFS Study Group

The May sessions were hosted by Bill Noffsinger. June sessions are scheduled for Thursday’s 8th and 22nd. Please refer to the recently circulated revised topic schedule for details. For further information contact: Amanda Piper (Study Group Co-ordinator), Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

Aridol Challenge Information Sessions

Pharmaxis Sessions x 2: These were well attended with 42 pax over the two sessions. Many thanks to Jo Prior and Ruth Martens for the presentations. Thanks also to Kevin Gain who presented at session 1 on:

(Bronchial) Challenge
“Idle Thoughts of a Respiratory Physiologist”

This promotional familiarisation session was sponsored by Pharmaxis. Special acknowledgment and thanks to Sally for her fantastic organisational skills. There were some tricky moments with access to the seminar room being via swipe card and the

doors not co-operating as they should, but a crisis was averted and every-one that arrived was admitted.

TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA Asm

The organisation continues for this meeting. The theme of the meeting is: 'Benefits of the Genomic Revolution', with the keynote speaker being Dr. Kwun Fong. Full details for accommodation options have been circulated. As for previous years, we strongly recommend booking your accommodation early due to the high demand for that weekend.

Registration, abstract submission information, and program details will be circulated shortly. We wish to extend an invitation to all ANZSRS members for this meeting. For information, contact Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

Co-Op Bookshop Offer

This initiative has received good support and feedback, with a monthly order being placed on member's behalf. For more information about the offer, or if you wish to lodge an order, please contact Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

Social Activities

Fremantle Prison Torchlight Tour

This was a terrific night with the rain and clouds miraculously clearing to give perfect night weather and a certain additional eeriness to the tour. The tour was sobering, historically fascinating, and at appropriate times, highly entertaining – as evidenced by the following:

- Uncontrolled screaming and unexpected expletives from everyone – it was really spooky!
- Every member of the group left there skins at least once during the evening
- Sally rendered speechless for a full 3minutes, along with an invitation she is unlikely to forget! – so a moment to remember
- Maureen's husband, Peter, volunteering way too readily for the demo body cavity search
- Jo (Rob T's wife) finally got to expose her true dominatrix self
- Young Jack's (Chris N's son) heart beating thru his chest - but at least he wasn't throwing-up in the Sulo bin like another youngster in another tour group.

After such an evening the group had to recover with hazelnut, chocolate, and vanilla canoli and cappuccinos all round.

News From Around Town

Mari Noffsinger's 'Big Morning Tea' held in Dept. Pulmonary Physiology SCGH, raised \$660.00 for Cancer Research. Excellent work Mari and good eating by everyone else!

Diary Reminders

- June 21st: Clinical Presentation Session (Royal Perth Hospital)
- October 28th/29th: TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA Local ASM, The Vines, Swan Valley
- October 30th: WA Respiratory Symposium (3 – 5.30pm)

That's the news from WA.

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS (RPH)
Sally Young, PhD (SCGH)
Christine.nathan@health.wa.gov.au
Sally.young@health.wa.gov.au

CRFS

The CRFS study guide has been posted. The new file can be found at :
<http://www.anzsrs.org.au/crfsstudyguide.pdf>