

Branch News – March, 2006.

Executive Musings

We are three weeks away from the 2006 ASM in Canberra as I write this and it has been a busy month. I would encourage all members to attempt to get to the Canberra meeting. The ASM offers opportunities to meet old friends and colleagues, not often seen in the flesh, as well as seeing the wide range of excellent science being practiced by members. A number of critical issues for the Society will be discussed at the Annual General Meeting, and this is your opportunity to have your say. If you cannot attend the meeting, and wish to vote, you need to arrange a proxy vote. Contact your regional representative on the process required.

This year, as well as our invited speakers, ANZSRS is very happy to announce that Professor Norbert Berend, President Elect of the Asia Pacific Society of Respiriology has accepted our invitation to attend the Canberra meeting. We hope that this will be the start of greater cooperation between the two Societies.

The Exec looks forward to having the opportunity to meet all members at the conference. Please come and introduce yourselves. Let us know your thoughts on how the Society is progressing, and where and how we can do better.

'Til Canberra.

Graham, Rob and Derek.

Graham Hall, President

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Robert Tagliaferri , Secretary

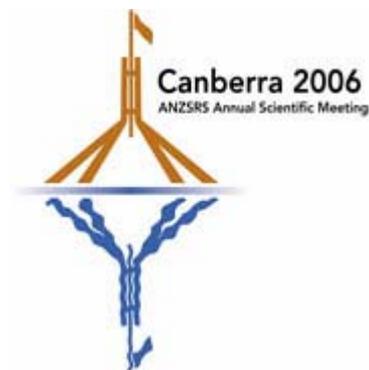
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Derek Figurski, Treasurer

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Canberra Local Organising Committee Update

The conference is so close now that I can smell it - no that's just me sweating nervously as the date approaches rapidly. There are a few last minute things to organise, but I think everything is pretty much in place now. The local organising committee is really excited about this meeting and we hope the meeting lives up to our expectations. If you haven't already registered, its not too late to register for the meeting and there are still a few places left for the CRFS and research workshops on Monday - see the website for details. These will be a great opportunity to expand your knowledge in these areas. The Saturday night dinner at the National Science and Technology Centre (Questacon) is sure to be good fun with some time set aside to play with a few of the exhibits. I look forward to seeing lots of you in Canberra to make this conference a great success.



See you soon

Danny

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

Hi all,

The Annual Scientific Meeting is fast approaching and we are looking forward to meeting up with many of you there. If you have suggestions for topics you'd like to discuss in meetings during the year or the best time and place to hold meetings please come and chat with Alison or I during the ASM so we can try to better meet your needs.

Although the Agenda for the Board meeting on the Friday of the ASM has almost been set please let us know if there are any specific issue that you would like raised at the Board meeting as we will likely be able to add these as new business.

We are delighted to have two new members, Mat Sanger and Lauren Sturgess and hope to be able to introduce them to others at the next NSW regional meeting.

Cheers,

Alison and Debbie

Alison Boynton
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New Zealand

Nothing received.

Lauren & David

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David Robiony-Rogers CRFS
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Queensland

The ANZSRS year was kicked off in fine style with the first branch meeting held at the end of February. In keeping with tradition, several members used this as an opportunity to put the finishing touches on presentations to be made at the ASM in a few short weeks time. Thanks to those who attended this meeting, much discussion and many suggestions were generated from these presentations. We also thank Sean Rafferty and Miranda Angell from GSK who have generously offered to sponsor our meetings again this year and also made the effort to attend and participate.

There have been a few additions to the team of recent time and we welcome Christie Bartholdt, Alison Pagsuyuin & Julie Patterson as members of the ANZSRS. It's with

a wipe of the eyes that we bid a fond farewell to Cecilia Arrigoni from the John Flynn lab on the Gold Coast who has left the land of respiratory science to explore greener pastures. Good luck Cecilia and thanks for your participation & contribution to the society over the years and particularly your sterling work on Mouthpiece.

As for the rest of the year, we have managed to map out guest speakers for the QLD branch meetings and we're working on organising some "extracurricular" activities including workshops and combined ANZSRS/TSQ meetings. We'll keep these under our hats until we can confirm the details and hopefully create an air of expectation and enthusiasm amongst the membership! One of our aims for the year is to incorporate the more remote services into QLD's activities, so we'd love to hear from those further north....Rockhampton, Makay, Cairns.....

Leanne & Skye

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan

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South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

Donna Keatley

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Sharla Anderson

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS

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Victoria

A small, but friendly, group of members gathered at The Alfred on the 28th Feb for our first branch meeting for 2006. We were privy to a preview of presentations for the fast approaching ASM and it was great to get some constructive feedback regarding structure, presentation style and potential questions that may be asked. Special thanks to Cathryn and Niche Medical for providing our snacks for the evening.

We are looking forward to this year's meeting – rediscovering COPD, both clinical and research aspects, the opportunity to network with peers, visiting the trade exhibition for the latest up-to-date gear and finding out a bit about Canberra hopefully.

Our next branch meeting is scheduled for early May – details to follow next month.

See you in Canberra,

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS
Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

WA-Branch News

February has been a busy month on the local scene and preparations for the forthcoming ASM in Canberra are in full swing.

First of All . . .

Bouquets, chocolates, and champagne to:

Elise McKeon (Royal Perth Hospital) for passing the CRFS examination. Excellent work Elise!

Graham Hall (Princess Margaret Hospital for Children) for receiving the 'Early Career Achievement in Science Award' at the 2005 Premier's Science Awards (Nov). Although awarded in November, this was not widely known . . . and now it is! Congrats Graham.

Clinical Presentation Meeting

The first clinical presentation meeting for 2006 was held on Wednesday 15th February and hosted by Respiratory Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. The topic was : 'Reducing Harm from Cigarette Smoke: Fact or Fiction?' Thanks to Sunalene Devadason, who stepped into the presentation breach at the last minute, as Catherine Lane was unwell. This was an excellent presentation with Sunalene demonstrating that she really knows her stuff by being able to give a traditional 'blackboard' talk . . . not a Powerpoint in sight! Sunalene covered previous and current research. Being undertaken in this area by her research team. Of particular interest is the development of a collaboration between the specialities of aerosol research (Sunalene's expertise) and epithelial culture methodologies (Catherine's expertise) in the assessment of the in vivo effects of cigarette smoke. The topic of 'harm minimisation products' generated lively discussion. We hope that Catherine will be able to present her emerging data, to our group, later in the year, as there was interest in a follow-up presentation.

The next clinical presentation meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th April at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. A flyer will be circulated closer to the date.

Clinical Presentation Meeting Sponsorship

We are pleased to announce that Mayo Healthcare have very generously undertaken to sponsor all of the bi-monthly clinical presentation session for 2006. On behalf of the WA-members, we wish to thank Alison Spector for the ongoing commitment and support of Mayo Healthcare for ANZSRS-WA activities.

CRFS Study Group

The study group is in full swing with the meeting schedule and topic timetable having been circulated previously. The focus of the study group sessions are the quizzes, questions and general discussion around the topic of the fortnight, based on self study prior to the session. Topic hosts are asked to circulate material one week prior to the study session. A flyer advertising each session is circulated, also one week prior.

The February session topic was: 'Terminology, Gas Laws & Correction of Gas Volumes', with thanks to Bill Noffsinger as the topic host. The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 2nd March: 'Structure of the Respiratory System' with Sharon Lagan as the topic host. For further information contact: Amanda Piper (Study Group Co-ordinator), Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

Canberra ASM Preparations

Preparations are well underway for ASM presentations. WA is being represented by:

- Maureen Verheggen, PMH – Oral
- Vaska Murdoska, PMH – Oral
- Elise McKeown, RPH – Poster
- Elizabeth Salamon, RPH – Poster
- Christine Nathan, RPH – Poster

- Kevin Gain, RPH – Poster

In addition to the above presentations, the following WA members have been invited as speakers at the asm:

- Graham Hall (PMH), Lung Development Symposium
- Kevin Gain (RPH), CRFS workshop

An additional meeting will be held on Wednesday March 15th, at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, for those members who will be presenting at the Canberra ASM. This session will allow those that are presenting orals/posters to have a run through prep before heading off for the main event. These sessions have in the past proven useful to presenters by way of audience feedback and members are encouraged to come along and support local researcher efforts by way of questions, queries and so on.

Congratulations and good luck to all presenters.

This extra meeting has been generously sponsored by Niche Medical, Mr Kevin Hick.

TSANZ-WA Associates/ANZSRS-WA Local ASM

A positive and productive partnership was formed between ANZSRS-WA and TSANZ-WA Associates during 2006, which resulted in a successful local ASM. ANZSRS-WA again has representation on the Associates Organising Committee (Sally Young) and preparations are well underway for this year's local ASM.

The meeting will be held on the weekend of October 28th/29th and will be held at 'The Vines' in the beautiful Swan Valley. This location should suit the foodies, winos and golfers amongst us! Details of meeting topic theme, invited speaker, accommodation, and registration will be circulated, as the information becomes available.

The 'WA Respiratory Science Research Award' will again be available for local ANZSRS members presenting at the meeting. Details will be circulated.

The WA-Branch warmly invites members from around Australia and New Zealand to attend this meeting. For further information please contact Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

ACOSH

Sunalene Devadason reported that there has been quite a bit of activity at ACOSH over the last couple of months. Issues include:

- Anti-smoking legislation about to appear before the House
- Lobbying by ACOSH for alfresco dining areas to become smoke free
- ACOSH media release for the promotion of outdoor areas such as beaches and childrens playgrounds to become smoke free.

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’

A flyer will be circulated shortly with details.

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 1hour 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).

News From Around Town

Congrats and all the best to Alison Spocter, Mayo Healthcare, for her forthcoming wedding in March. Alison tells us that she will be fitting in a quick honeymoon before attending the ANZSRS ASM. Apparently happy snappies of the big day will be at the Mayo stand in Canberra.

Diary Reminders

March 2nd, 16th, 30th: CRFS study group sessions. Check flyers for details.

March 15th: Pre-asm run thru session (SCGH)

April 10th: Professor Janet Stocks presentation. Flyer to be circulated

April 19th: Clinical Presentation Meeting. Flyer to be circulated

May 5th: Fremantle Prison Torchlight Tour

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

That's the news from WA for this month. See you in Canberra!

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS (RPH)

Sally Young, PhD (SCGH)

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Sally.young@health.wa.gov.au