

Branch News – October, 2006.

Executive Musings

During October, there will be minor changes regarding ANZSRS secretarial services, as mentioned in September's Executive Musings. Festival City Conventions (FCC) will be performing administrative tasks related to maintaining and updating the ANZSRS membership database. There will be also development of a specific email address for members to contact FCC about ANZSRS membership enquires. Another important task that FCC will be performing is the managing of membership fees and distribution of receipts. This will hopefully provide members with a more efficient service and help assist the Executive in the day-to-day management of the society.

The Governance Committee met recently in Melbourne and has made considerable progress regarding changes to society constitution and formulation of new position descriptions. At present, the Governance Committee is in the progress of submitting a report outlining these amendments to be considered by the Executive and Board. Hopefully there will be information available soon to the general membership about this very important work.

After many months of waiting, the Treasurer has been able to obtain a copy of the Audit report for the 2005 Calendar year. This is available on the ANZSRS website in the Member's Only section for member who are interested.

Graham, Rob and Derek.

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New South Wales

Things are starting to heat up here in NSW with a few record temperatures to welcome the long summer days. The NSW branch meeting was held at Liverpool Hospital and took the form of a group think-tank for research ideas. Thanks to Pharmaxis there was some very tasty brain food to keep the conversations flowing. There was a good turn up of keen members with plenty of discussion in the room as ideas were formed and translated into projects such as the cost effectiveness of the various challenge tests on offer, so keep an eye out for a few surveys coming your way!

The meeting was so successful, with many new projects to follow up on, that we may have another think-tank at the end of October, or first week of November. Trevor Borgas of Newcastle has kindly offered to host this meeting so please let Debbie or myself know what your thoughts are on a meeting of this kind and if you would be available to attend (we realize it is coming up to a busy time of the year) and we can

then organise with Trevor. The call for abstracts for the ANZSRS conference 2007 are only about a month away (I think??) so many of these projects may not make it to presentation stage however, there are many good ideas we can start working on now for 2008!

The December meeting of the NSW branch is looking like happening on either the Friday 8th or the 15th of December at Darling Harbour (please feel free to let us know asap if one of these dates is more suitable than the other). We are at present attempting to organise a guest speaker who knows the most extraordinary measures of pulmonary function in both the human and animal worlds!! It is going to be a great night so start marking off your calendars now.

Well, I think that is about all for now, don't forget to let us know of your availability for a possible second think-tank as we are looking forward to another fruitful meeting.

Alison and Debbie

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New Zealand

October Update

Congratulations to Nicky McNaught from Southland Hospital, Invercargill, for passing her CRFS examination. Well done Nicky, and all the best to everyone else preparing to sit the exam next time.

Registration Update: 'The Clinical Physiologists Registration Board' has submitted its application to the Ministry of Health for cardiac, respiratory and sleep physiology to become regulated professions under the 'Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003'. As a consequence all NZ ANZSRS members will need to consider whether or not they wish to take up voluntary registration under the Registration Board. As part of the process the Ministry of Health will be looking to see the level of support each group is giving to this application. The most significant measure of support is the number of practitioners in each group taking up voluntary registration. The issue of Registration within NZ will be discussed at the Auckland meeting on 13 October with the opportunity for all NZ members to ask questions.

NZ Branch Meeting: To be held at the Fisher and Paykel Education Centre, Auckland Hospital, on Friday the 13th October. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the New Zealand Lung Cancer Group and the TSANZ.

Lauren & David

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Queensland

Nothing received

Leanne & Skye

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South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns

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Victoria

Collaboration

Hi All. The September Branch meeting, held at Monash Medical Centre, was interesting to say the least!

With thanks to the staff from Monash, we were able to watch the Cardiothoracic episode from the recently screened Anatomy for Beginners on SBS. While fascinating, the show was graphic and left a few of us feeling quite queasy. It was a shame that many of us had sampled the lovely supper provided by MedTechnica (thanks to Bala in particular) prior to the meeting commencing. Nevertheless, seeing the structure of the lungs in situ, was helpful and most felt it was useful to watch.

I had the privilege of attending my first international conference in September, the ERS congress in Munich. The location was fantastic as there is much to explore and see in Munich. It was lovely to meet fellow ANZSRS and TSANZ members around the venue (nothing like a friendly face in a foreign setting).

The conference was a tad overwhelming. It was easily ten times bigger than anything I've been to before! So many choices in the program and no way you could see everything. I must say that it was difficult deciding between attending what you knew would be useful to your work and what you'd like to see out of interest, but I feel that I've brought home a few pieces of information that will be helpful in developing our practice in the laboratory.

Two things at the conference stood out. Firstly, seeing and listening to the who's who of respiratory publications present in the flesh was a blast, and secondly, the bravery and courage of healthcare providers clearly presenting in their second language (English). I don't know that I could present my work in another language!

Our next meeting is scheduled for the 22nd November. As usual, this will be held at St Vincents and will consist of a short meeting (focusing on the proposed changes to the Governance structure of the Society – really important that you attend as members may be voting for changes to the constitution in the not to distant future!), followed by dinner at the Pumphouse. Put it in your diaries

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS
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Western Australia

WA-Branch News

Clinical Presentation Meeting

There will be no clinical meeting held for October, as both the Local Combined asm and the ANZSRS Respiratory Symposium are held in that month. Instead, a replacement clinical presentation session will be held on Wednesday 22nd November at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. The invited speaker will be Dr. Jeanie Leong and she shall be presenting on pulmonary hypertension.

CRFS

CONGRATULATIONS to Graham Hall (Princess Margaret Hospital), for successfully passing the CRFS. Well done Graham and a big thanks once again to: Amanda Piper for liaising with Stephen West on behalf of the CRFS Study Group and organising the venue; and, Kevin Gain as exam supervisor.

Future local exam dates have previously been circulated by Amanda along with the CRFS examination application form. Amanda has offered to lodge applications on behalf of study group members. Applications must be submitted one month prior to the exam dates. Information regarding exam dates, start times, and venue has been circulated. For further information contact: Amanda Piper (Study Group Co-coordinator), Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

Best of luck to everyone taking the CRFS exam over the coming months!

TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA Asm

The theme of this year's meeting is: '*Genomics: A Revolution to What Resolution?*' The programme has been finalized and circulated. Selected programme highlights include:

'Genomes R Us' – Dr Kwun Fong (TSANZ-WA Keynote speaker)

'Genomics – Hype or Hope?' - Dr Kwun Fong

'Bedside to Synchrotron' – Dr. Bruce Thompson (ANZSRS-WA Keynote speaker)

'Genetic Revolution in a Developing Country' - Dr Carolyn Williams

and

The ever popular and entertaining Sunday morning debate, with this year's topic being:

'Lung Cancer: are we failing our patients?'

The Call for Registration, Abstracts, and Awards and Grants was circulated to members of both and closed Friday 29th September. Registration confirmations have been issued. If you have overlooked the closing date, or have not received your confirmation of registration, please contact Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

ANZSRS-WA Education Support Grant:

Closing date is 5pm Wednesday 18th October. This grant has been created to support ongoing professional educational activity. It may be used towards: course registration/enrolment, conference attendance (presentation), research project funding contribution, conference attendance (non-presenting). The Grant is open to all members of the WA Branch (senior, junior, ordinary, associate) and will be adjudicated by an independent-of-ANZSRS panel. The Grant is generously sponsored by Mayo Healthcare.

Accommodation Subsidy: Closing date is 5pm Friday 20th October. This subsidy is open to all local ANZSRS members registering for the full weekend meeting, including the Saturday night asm dinner and overnight stay in the Swan Valley. Application forms have previously been circulated. Recipients will be advised of success prior to the asm, however, reimbursements will not be available until accommodation receipts have been received after the meeting.

For information regarding the Combined Meeting or any of the awards on offer, contact Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

Respiratory Symposium

The 2006 Respiratory Symposium follows-on from the local Combined Society asm.

'Peripheral Vision'

Dr. Bruce Thompson – Keynote Speaker

Monday 30th October

2 – 5pm

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Session One: Bruce Thompson and Graham Hall - How is peripheral airway function currently assessed in the clinical setting? What do these measurements mean? Emerging new techniques and potential clinical application.

Session Two: Bruce Thompson and Justin Waring (Royal Perth Hospital) - What Does DLCO Mean to You? Pitfalls and problems in measurement and interpretation.

This promises to be quite an speaker-audience interactive afternoon. A peripheral airway survey has been circulated – we encourage all ANZSRS-WA members, whether attending the Symposium or not, to complete and return the survey the Graham Hall prior to the Symposium. Results will be presented and discussed in Session 1.

A programme and rsvp flyer have been circulated. This is an rsvp meeting, so please forward these to Sally Young asap. For information about the Symposium please contact either Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

Bruce Thompson is the inaugural recipient of the WA Visiting Respiratory Scientist Grant. ANZSRS-WA wishes to thank Pharmaxis for their generous support and sponsorship of both the Grant and the Respiratory Symposium.

Book Group

The monthly order for September has been placed – those who have placed an order will be notified as soon as the books arrive. Closing date for next ordering cycle is Tuesday 31st October. Please forward orders to either Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

Social Activities

Film Night Round-Up: There was a great turnout (22 people) for the film night 'Thankyou for Smoking'. Thanks to Elise and Liz (Royal Perth Hospital) for

organising the pre-movie dinner at 'Retro Betty's' – the best burgers in town were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Christmas/ End-of Year Function: This year a lunchtime picnic will be held at the Perth Zoo on Sunday 10th December. ANZSRS-WA have reserved a picnic area (10.30am – 3.30pm) on the Walkabout lawn for the final Branch meeting and end-of-year 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. Free activities for the kids include: art and crafts, games, singing, and a visit by Santa. We are getting in early so that this can go into the diary well ahead of time and to fully work the kids up into a frenzy of Zoo excitement This will be an rsvp event so please keep an eye out for the rsvp flyer. Full details will be circulated as the date approaches.

So, pack a picnic and the kids and come and join us for ANZSRS-WA at The Zoo! ANZSRS-WA wishes to thank Niche Medical (Mr. Kevin Hick) for generous support and sponsorship of this function.

Diary Reminders

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

October 30th: WA Respiratory Symposium (3 – 5.30pm), Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

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

That's the news from WA.

Chris & Sally

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CRFS

Stephen West
CRFS Coordinator
1/8/2006.