

Branch News – August, 2008.

Executive Musings.....

The executive team is starting to feel like we belong after a few months of feeling like the ‘new kids on the block’ and as one member said to me today we are 25% through our (*first? ed*) term, so I guess we should be feeling a little more confident in our roles.

We would like to make sure everyone is aware of the benefits to members of joint membership with TSANZ. If you take this option you also automatically become a member of APSR and receive the Respirology Journal quarterly. Given our Society vision includes ‘facilitating dialogue with other professional societies’ this is a great way to put our vision into action. The Structure and Function assembly chaired by Maureen Swanney and the Scientific and Conference Committee chaired by Mike Brown and Jeff Pretto have developed an outstanding series of workshops to be held at the APSR congress in Bangkok this year.

Speaking of which, the APSR abstract closing date has been extended to 31st August and the date for submission of travel grants offered to ANZSRS members by Pharmaxis and Ascencia to APSR has also been extended to account for this so.... it is not too late to get your abstracts and travel grant applications in.

There have been a number of emails from members seeking advice on how more junior members of our Society might be able to access the guidance of those with more experience (and not all of us have grey hair), especially in the area of lab accreditation and equipment issues. This usually happens informally but we’d like to hear from any members who would be keen to implement a more formal ‘mentoring’ process. In the meantime I would encourage all those seeking advice to approach more experienced respiratory scientists at any opportunity and I am sure you will find they are very happy to provide advice. Also, remember that ‘Ask Derek’ and the ‘Letters’ section of the website are available for this purpose. We should all make sure that we keep Derek active!

A couple of other items of interest are the admission of the 500th member to the ANZSRS last month. This is a milestone that the original members will look at with pride. We also wanted to note the retirement of Tom Parks a longstanding member from Launceston who wrote a brief email thanking the Society for the support and interaction over the years.

Remember to contact the executive if you have any issues you would like to raise.

Debbie, Leigh and Danny

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Annual Scientific Meeting News

Darwin 2009
TSANZ & ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meetings



Darwin 3-6 April, 2009

No update received.

Sonya

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New South Wales / ACT

Great news! It is a pleasure to welcome Mrs Carolina Langbroek as a new ANZSRS member. I'm sure that like me, others will be keen to meet Carolina and welcome her to our growing NSW group. At the present time, certainly both membership and meeting attendance numbers are very strong. It is wonderful to have such an active crowd of over 40+ members' helping to support the growth and diversity of our society, as well as showing appreciation for the general wealth of knowledge within the membership. Again, congratulations to all!

For those who could not attend the last bimonthly NSW branch meeting, a great evening unfolded. To kick off, firstly there were three excellent and thought provoking presentations on diverse topics. A special mention and big thanks goes out to Dr Elizabeth Veitch (Thoracic Physician, Staff Specialist Concord), Nathan Brown (Woolcock), Dr Sandy Anderson (Royal Prince Alfred), the Concord Lab team, and Ascencia for their efforts, valuable time, and contributions to the night's events. To wrap up the evening a general membership discussion time/ think-tank occurred. Points raised are detailed as follows:

- Previous communication with the Executive regarding a potential "Lab Accreditation Forum" has resulted in this possibly being implemented into the planned new and improved website. Will keep you posted.
- As Lab experience positively impact new recruits and dedication to study, the terrific idea of junior members 'visiting' other laboratories was again mentioned. Many members showed support for this to happen. Potentially a contact list needs to be established, and I shall be happy to liaise with interested individuals.
- To date Jay Flack has received a few responses from people willing to participate in the inter-lab QC project (it's not too late), and progress with rounding up a few people to visit the different labs shall progress soon.
- Dr Anderson raised awareness regarding a great upcoming Asthma conference to be held in Redfern Sydney on 20-21st October 08. Keep an eye out, and check it out.

- Additionally an idea that seemed to be popular was a tentative plan for an “all day NSW ANZSRS meeting extravaganza” to be held in the middle of next year. Potentially the vision is that this event could be held in a central Sydney city venue on a Friday. Given plenty of notice as to the exact date, it is hoped that this type of meeting may allow many of those individuals who are separated by distance the chance to travel in, attend the meeting, catch up with fellow members and stay the night, not having to hurry back for work commitments the next day. I would greatly appreciate a level of membership feedback, before undertaking the task of getting a programme / venue / sponsorship / advertising etc organised. That is what do people think, would you attend?

The next bimonthly branch meeting is scheduled to be held in October, and again it would be pleasing to see a supportive crowd of NSW/ACT members - make a mark in the diary now!

Please note as a recent membership email highlighted, the abstract closing date for the October APSR Congress in Thailand has been extended to the end of August, and additionally so has the APSR travel grant deadline as well. The closing date was supposed to have been 08/08/08, but has now been extended to Wednesday 03/09/08. All members are encouraged to please consider this, and apply.

Remember that any ideas, suggestions, comments, or news from your Lab to share is always welcome, so please don't ever hesitate to make contact.

Until next time

Dana

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New Zealand

Greetings from the land of the long white (or should that be grey) cloud. Those of us on the eastern side of the ditch have been battling some atrocious weather with more on the way. Hopefully all the members on the North Island do not have to row or swim to work at the moment. Despite my optimism I haven't made it to the slopes yet, however, stay tuned next month for a ski report.

This month we have a full branch news and I would like to thank everyone who has contributed.

Branch meeting update- Date for the diary!!!!

The NZ branch has been extremely active this month with the big news that the date for our branch meeting has been confirmed!!! Our meeting will be **Friday October 24** and it will be held here in **Christchurch**. There will be a combined TSANZ/ANZSRS dinner the Thursday night before following on from the TSANZ meeting. The theme of this years meeting is “Clinical utility of respiratory function testing in adults and children” more information will be sent out and put up on the website as soon as everything is confirmed. This will be an excellent meeting with a varied program and I hope something for everyone. The meeting will also be an

opportunity for our branch to get together which is difficult due to the spread across New Zealand. I hope we can get most if not all our members there, and we would welcome any ANZSRS member to hop across the ditch and join us!

New Arrivals

Dunedin hospital recently welcomed a new member to their ranks as the Charge Respiratory Physiologist. We would like to welcome Helen Dunroy to New Zealand after working in the UK for a number of years. I am sure the Dunedin lab has welcomed her to the happy ANZSRS family, and we look forward to seeing her at our October meeting. Helen kindly offered the following history to her move to NZ.

“I am a physiologist with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Applied Physiology from Sunderland University, UK, and a Ph.D. in the area of respiratory physiology and control of breathing from Imperial College, University of London.

After my first degree, I undertook a position of Community Fitness Officer in the North East of England. This position encompassed rehabilitation of patients suffering cardiac problems, exercise prescription and administration of a GP referral programme, and, management of various district fitness projects.

In 1999 I was awarded a PhD studentship by Charing Cross Hospital Special Trustees and was based at Charing Cross and the Royal Brompton Hospitals in London. I undertook research in respiratory physiology and the control of breathing during wakefulness, sleep and exercise.

While studying for my PhD I had sole responsibility for the management and clinical running of the Sleep Unit at West Middlesex University Hospital, a major acute hospital in West London. This role was part-time which allowed me to complete my PhD thesis. I was a full-time student for 3 years and completed my thesis part-time after our son was born. I passed my PhD in 2007.

After nearly 16 years of education and work experience within the physiology field in the UK, I was looking for the right role to bring me back to NZ. My husband and I wanted the quality of life, professional fulfilment, and, education for our child that New Zealand has to offer.

We are now settled in Dunedin, and are thoroughly enjoying the southern hospitality!

Helen Dunroy”

Congratulations

Congratulations to Sheri Green from Starship Hospital in Auckland who has just returned from her honeymoon. Sheri and her new husband James got married at the end of June and enjoyed a honeymoon down south.

Also congratulations to Solomon Theodore also from Starship Hospital who recently completed his Graduate Certificate in Paediatric Respiratory Science through the University of Western Australia.

EzyQC

Josh Stanton from Christchurch has recently released a new version of his quality control program EzyQC. For more information visit <http://www.ezyqc.co.nz> this software is very useful for helping keep track of your quality control programs.

Lab profile

This month kicks off the new section of the NZ branch news. Each month we will be profiling a different lab within the NZ branch. This will be a great opportunity to get to know what services are being offered around the branch. This month I once again managed to have Helen Dunroy, Sue Filsell and the Dunedin lab “volunteer” for this task.

The respiratory laboratory was established in Dunedin in 1960 and has been in its present location since 1968. As no major alterations to the lab have occurred over the intervening years it is with unmasked glee that we celebrate the refurbishment to be undertaken later this year.

The Respiratory laboratory is a tertiary laboratory servicing Otago and Southland. It was accredited with the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand in 2005. The range of laboratory assessments presently include measurement of spirometry and bronchodilator response, lung subdivisions, airways resistance, diffusion capacity, maximum respiratory pressures, exhaled nitric oxide, oximetry, pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic bronchial provocation tests, 6 minute walk test, atopy testing, oxygen assessment, arterial blood gas sampling and simulated altitude measurements. Other primary tasks include technical assistance in bronchoscopy procedures, BiPAP annual servicing, teaching on the fundamentals of routine lung function testing to students and allied health professionals.

The referral population encompasses children from approx 4 years of age through to adults; patients through to Olympic athletes due to our relationship with the NZ Academy of Sport South Island. The laboratory also has a strong relationship with the Otago University respiratory research laboratory.

Five physiologists jointly work in the respiratory and sleep laboratories along with a secretary/administrator and 2 respiratory physicians. An appointment has been made for a further respiratory physician starting in September 2008.

Helen Dunroy

The Tom McKendrick Sleep Laboratory

In the early days of monitoring sleep disordered breathing at Dunedin Hospital, an in-house assembled Grass Recorder was used & all patients were admitted overnight to the treatment room in the respiratory ward. The Tom McKendrick sleep Laboratory was proudly opened in 1996 & a Compumedics computerised sleep monitoring system was installed. After a period where the sleep laboratory service was privately contracted, the ODHB respiratory laboratory staff took over the running of the sleep laboratory in 2004.

We have now outgrown this space & we respond with similar glee to another revamp, renovations to commence in August. It will remain a 2 bed unit, however the administration area which currently occupies an area big enough for physiologists to swing only a small cat in dim lighting, will expand into the adjacent ward area, creating a larger brighter work space, patient set-up & education area & storage. This

will complement the polysomnography (PSG) sleep system (Embla N7000) which was upgraded in 2007. A full comprehensive sleep service is provided for inpatients & outpatients on a priority basis by rotating staff from the Respiratory Lab (1.0 FTE) & a respiratory/sleep physician. It will become a shared facility for paediatric sleep studies which will be operated by a specialist nurse & paediatric sleep physician.

Tests conducted include full PSG with synchronised video monitoring, generally performed on patients with hypersomnolence of complex aetiology; multiple sleep latency tests; portable home sleep monitoring using the Embletta system (Embla); arterial blood gas collection & serial transcutaneous PCO₂ monitoring; positive pressure therapy including CPAP, NIPPV titration for chronic type II respiratory failure, adaptive servoventilation therapy for central, complex sleep apnoea & Cheyne Stokes respiration. The CPAP therapeutic studies are offered to patients with obstructive sleep apnoea for a one week trial period using auto-set CPAP devices. ODHb is not funded to provide CPAP so patients are then referred to private providers.

As Dunedin is a teaching hospital, tutorials are offered to the 4th year medical students as part of their respiratory run.

We are working towards achieving TSANZ accreditation of the Tom McKendrick Sleep Laboratory.

Sue Filsell

Keep an eye out for more details about the branch meeting, if you have any questions about it please flick me an email. AND DON'T FORGET TO MARK IT IN YOUR DIARY!!!!

Until next month

Chris

Christopher O'Dea

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Queensland

Well we officially in the influenza season in Queensland even before the Ekka kicks off. (Only just though). With this it seems all the Labs and services have been busy.

Christie and her staff at Greenslopes are pleased to be finally in their new improved Lab facility, with some new equipment and more space. Our congratulations go to Christie and her team. I'm sure many are envious!

Debbie Zagami is continuing to collate the database of Queensland Labs and their staff. If you haven't received your questionnaire by email then please contact me. And if you have yet to return yours to Debbie, then please get on to it! The database will include type the type equipment used, software versions and contact details– it's hoped it will improve networking between labs.

A new staff member Lucy Keeling, has joined Jenni and team at the Wesley. We wish you a long and happy respiratory profession Lucy, and I'll always have you back here at the Mater if you tire of the Wesley!

Our CRFS study group has not got off the ground this year. Are there any Queensland members who plan to sit this year? The next application to sit closes on Sept 19th with the exam on October 17th. Let me know if you want to link up with a study group.

Our next branch meeting is on Wednesday 27th August, 5:00 for 5:50pm start, at the usual place The Brisbane Private Hospital, with sponsorship thanks to GSK. We have kind of an exercise theme continuing on from Mike's presentation at the last meeting. Yours truly, your Regional Rep, will present some work on the MVV measure relating to exercise. And my assistant Debbie will present some findings regarding the 6MWD measure. I'll keep you posted about a mystery third speaker closer to the date of the meeting, who has some interesting and novel research work underway, which I promise will be something different!

The final meeting of the year is planned for October 29th. Mike and I will provide feedback to members what happened at the ERS Berlin meeting, and I welcome suggestions for an invited speaker to join us.

Yours in Science

Andrew

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South Australia

At our July branch meeting Associate Professor Marie Williams from the Department of Health Sciences, University of South Australia, introduced us to the language of dyspnoea. Her presentation; "Unpleasantness of breathlessness –it REALLY is ALL in your head!" was relevant and applicable to our clients and helps to put into perspective some of the situations we deal with. For those that are interested, a literature search would be worthwhile into this fascinating area of research.

It was great to see Melanie Toomey and Rebecca Harper at the meeting; both girls have recently been appointed to positions at the Royal Adelaide Hospital Respiratory Lab. Welcome to the Society and good luck with your respiratory careers.

Thanks to everyone attend on a cold Adelaide evening, to Marie for her time and expertise and to Adelaide Respiratory Specialists for supporting the evening.

The next meeting is planned for Monday 22nd September with the topic/speaker TBA. In the interim SA's annual inter-laboratory biological QC testing will be conducted. Labs will be asked to participate and the data will be collated and presented at a future meeting.

Till next time, please stay in touch if there is anything I can help with,

Michelle

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Victoria / Tasmania

Nothing received

Faizel

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Western Australia

Greetings from sunny WA although the last couple of weeks have seen little sunshine but the rain has provided a welcome addition to our dams.

Our July branch meeting at Royal Perth Hospital was well attended with an interesting topic on 64-slice CT.

Dr Conor Murray, a specialist pulmonary radiologist, gave a fascinating presentation on how advances in CT technology have improved the ability for radiologists to help diagnose lung disease. Technology from 2004 allowed CT slices of 4mm to be taken, whereas the 64 Slice CT is now providing resolution of 0.5 to 1mm thickness with clearer and more detailed images. Several different disease states were displayed including nodules within bronchial pneumonia and the improved ability to distinguish between ILD and bronchiectasis. He showed examples of gas trapping in small airways disease and lung tissue damage as seen in COPD. Classic 'honeycomb' changes from UIP were also reviewed. A brief insight was also given into how this technology can be used for other organs such as the heart. He finished his presentation with a demonstration of the 3D technology now routinely being used in the Radiology Department.

Thanks to BirdHealthcare those attending were treated to some delicious pizzas.

A topic of concern that was brought to our attention from Mari who sits on ACOSH was the push for selling duty free cigarettes on QANTAS flights. ASH and ACOSH are pursuing this issue and have also directed individuals and organisations to make input to QANTAS. A feedback page is available at:

<http://qantas.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/qantas.cfg/php/enduser/ask.php>

Dates for the Diary:

September 18th	ANZSRS-WA Clinical Meeting	PMH
October 25/26th	TSANZ/ANZSRS (WA) Combined ASM	Mandurah
October 27th	Respiratory Symposium	ICHR
November 12th	ANZSRS-WA Clinical Meeting	tba

Sina and Sharon

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Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report

Nothing to report as the committee is awaiting instruction from the Board.

Brigitte

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