

Branch News – April, 2009.

Executive Musings.....

Only days to go before heading North to Darwin for the ASM. Google weather says it will be hot and humid, so there's no need bringing any items from your new fall collection! We will shortly post the agenda for the AGM, the President's and Treasurer's reports on the website for your review. Jenny Robertson from Board Matters will make a presentation at the AGM regarding the recommended changes to Governance Structure and Function so I hope as many members can be there as possible to give feedback on these very important changes to our Society. Jenny will also attend the Welcome Reception so as to be able to answer any queries in a more casual environment. An educational package regarding these recommended changes will also be posted by the Board to get you up to date.

Another new posting on the website, is a call for expression of interest in being a presenter for our newly established Physiology Roadshow. We have mentioned our progress with this in previous Executive Musings and now have our first official booking! The Hong Kong Thoracic Society wish to run the two-day course in late November this year and we will require 4 presenters. We will give you a more thorough update on this during the President's Report at the AGM and will direct all those interested in participating to complete this form.

As previously mentioned, we have a record number of abstracts this year and as a first will run concurrent sessions for the oral abstracts. Well done to Sonya and the LOC in organising what already appears to be a terrific meeting.

Looking forward to catching up with many of you soon.

Danny, Leigh, and Debbie

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Annual Scientific Meeting News

Darwin 2009
TSANZ & ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meetings



3-6 April

The Darwin meeting is only a week away and the program has had some last minute changes. Unfortunately A/Prof Alan Crockett will not be presenting in the Primary Care session on Saturday morning due to illness, however Dr Julia Walters, a Research Fellow from Menzies Research Institute at the University of Tasmania has kindly agreed to present in this session. On behalf of the LOC, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Alan a very speedy recovery and thank Julia for stepping in on such short notice.

For the first time ever we are running concurrent oral and poster sessions due to the overwhelming number of abstracts submitted to the meeting. This will give delegates plenty of choice and I hope everyone finds something of interest.

Due to the condensed program, the meeting is running a little longer on Sunday afternoon. Therefore, to keep everyone's energy levels up, light refreshments will be served towards the close of the meeting following the Comparative Physiology session.

It looks like the wet season is almost over so hopefully you won't need your umbrellas, but I do suggest you all bring one just in case. The UV rating is extreme at this time of year so please make sure you protect yourselves from the sun during your stay.

On the subject of weather, the dinner venue will be an outdoor affair (with a marquee to protect us all from the elements) so tropical dress is a must. As the venue is some way from downtown Darwin and the meeting is running to a very tight schedule, there will be coaches taking delegates from the conference centre to their hotels immediately following the AGM to maximise time to get ready for the dinner. The coaches will then collect delegates *one hour* later from the hotels and take them to the dinner. At the end of the evening, the coaches will make return trips to the hotels. It should be a great night and, fingers crossed, a great meeting. We look forward to seeing you all in Darwin.

Sonya

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New South Wales / ACT

Hi All,

Before most of you race off on an enjoyable and educational tropical getaway to Darwin, with not much happening since last time my fingers were typing away at the keyboard, I just wanted to pass on an invitation that has been extended our way.

The next NSW TSANZ branch meeting is being planned for Tuesday the 23rd June 2009, with the focus specifically on "Respiratory Science". It would be great to have lots of Scientists in attendance, so mark your diaries now. At this stage tentative plans are to most likely meet up at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, venue will be at the Woolcock Institute, with a talk given by Professor Judy Black. This should be a very interesting evening. Once plans are confirmed, further details and reminders will be distributed.

May you all enjoy a happy and safe Easter with family and good friends!

Best regards,

Dana

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New Zealand

Well, a much shortened branch news this month with the ASM drawing us to Darwin. We have members from across the country heading to Darwin so it will be nice to see some familiar NZ faces amongst the crowd.

New Arrivals

In the Deep South the staff in the Invercargill lab are getting ready to welcome a new addition to the lab as they take delivery of a new Vmax Encore system. The lab down there are excited to be getting a modern system to replace the “ancient” system they are currently using.

Sporting achievements

The NZ branch has maintained our active sporting achievements with 2 of our Christchurch members taking part in the Christchurch City2suf. Josh Stanton and Chris O’Dea lined up on a typically wonderful Christchurch morning without a breath of wind or cloud in the sky to complete the 12km course along the Avon River. Both were very pleased with their run in the warm Christchurch conditions, with Chris taking out the ANZSRS line honours in a time of 54mins 7secs just edging out Josh with a time of 57 minutes.

Congratulations to them both and hope to hear of more sporting achievements from the ever active NZ branch.

Renovations

The Dunedin Hospital Respiratory Laboratory is currently undergoing a make over. The room configuration of the old lab was a simple 3 roomed area; patient waiting area, utility room and open plan lab area with 2 physiologists and 2 patients at the same time. The newly refurbished configuration of the area will have a patient waiting area, a reception area, a utility/store room, a spirometry/challenge room, a body plethysmograph room and an arterial blood gas room. Chris McLachlan would have been very pleased to see the new lab as it was an issue she felt very strongly about and fought hard to get into motion.

Lab Profile

This month’s exciting lab profile is coming from our major city with the Greelane/Auckland city laboratory. Thanks to Kevin Ellyett who provided us with the following insight:

The laboratory is split into 2 facilities with an outpatient facility located at the Greenlane Clinical Centre and an inpatient facility located in the Auckland City Hospital. Currently we have 1 Charge Physiologist, 3 Respiratory Physiologists and 2 trainee Respiratory Physiologists.

We operate Sensormedics V6200 Autobox and a Sensormedics VMax Encore Exercise system with cycle ergometer and treadmill at the

Greenlane site. We have a Sensormedics 6200 Autobox on our Auckland City Hospital site.

For our inpatient testing we offer Spirometry, Plethysmography, Single-Breath Diffusing Capacity, Bronchodilator Response, Maximum Expiratory and Inspiratory Pressures.

At the Greenlane Clinic we offer Spirometry, Plethysmography, Single-Breath Diffusing Capacity, Bronchodilator Response, Bronchoprovocation Testing (using Histamine, Saline, Exercise and Cold-Air), Progressive Exercise Test, Forced Oscillometry, Lung Volumes by Nitrogen Washout, Expired Nitric Oxide Analysis, Closing Volumes (Single Breath Oxygen Test), Arterial Blood Gas Analysis, Pulmonary Compliance Measurement, Maximum Expiratory and Inspiratory Pressure, Shunt Determination, Hypoxic Challenge (Fitness to Fly) and Autonomic Response (ANS) Evaluation.

Thanks to Kevin for giving us an insight into the Auckland City/Greenlane lab.

Just a reminder to the NZ branch members to ensure they have packed the tropical gear for our Darwin getaway, and I hope to share a few drinks with you all, maybe even a cocktail out of a coconut with the little umbrella.

‘til next month,

Chris

Christopher O’Dea

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Queensland

Our first meeting of the year was a fantastic turn out with over 20 scientists in attendance and was capably organised by Debbie Zagami, whilst Andrew was swanning-off on long service leave. Thanks to GSK for sponsorship of the venue and catering. Every scientist was asked a probing question (as a bit of an ice breaker). Examples of questions: "Do you tilt your head at an angle when reviewing the panting (VTG) slopes on Plethysmography tests?" "What is the oldest piece of equipment in the lab? (Don't include people)", "Who taught you your craft?", "If you don't win Lotto, do you think you'll still be a respiratory scientist in 10 years time?"

The meeting covered:-

- Case Study: Spirometry-induced bronchoconstriction.
- Discussion: Why Low DLCO's in CF?
- Articles Hot off the Press: NZ Medical Journal 13 Feb 2009, Vol 122, No 1289.
Feature Article: A survey of Respiratory and Sleep Services in NZ undertaken by the TSANZ by Jeff Garrett, Bob Chen and Robin Taylor.

There has been a suggestion from a regional member to video meetings which will be trialed at the next bi-monthly meeting so everyone in QLD can access the meetings. We will keep you posted.

We have our next meeting on Wednesday 29th April at the usual venue The Brisbane Private Hospital. We plan to have Prof Lidia Morowska come as guest speaker from QUT School of Physics and Chemical Sciences who is a recognised expert in air particulate physics and human exposure. Will keep all posted. Also Bird HealthCare joins GSK in sponsoring this

meeting and providing the car parking fees. Nick Bird will also join with us at our meetings this year.

News from around is that Debbie's partner Jason has gained his PhD, and they are now the proud owners of 1 acre of land on Mt Tamborine.

I have something to report that was also delightful! Our very own ANZSRS Qld fun runners the Spirojets won the inaugural Corporate Team prize at last year's ALF Fun Run. Sadly I didn't get news of this until I got my mail from work in March, and the FitnessFirst membership offers had expired! Sorry Sky, Andrew, and Ryan. Also they can't be reissued as the ownership and management of FitnessFirst has totally changed!

And news from Jenni at the Wesley is that they have new Sensormedics exercise gear. Sheree from Toowoomba has moved from T'mba. to Brisbane (her husband has been transferred-in the air force) and also Sheree had a baby boy in January. Congrats to you Sheree from us all. Dr.Zappala has joined the Wesley QRL Company.

And lastly as you read this hopefully we are live with HL7 transfer of our lung function results to our Hospital Network using our new Medisoft gear. I'll happily discuss this project with anyone interested.

Cheers

Andrew and Debbie

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South Australia

Nothing received

Michelle

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Victoria / Tasmania

The ANZSRS ASM for 2009 is almost upon us. Those presenting work at the upcoming meeting having been working furiously, making the final adjustments necessary for the conference.

We had our first branch meeting for the year on the 17th of March, where those scientists with abstracts accepted for the conference, were given the opportunity to fine tune their presentations, get some constructive feedback and field some questions as well.

Our thanks to Niche Medical for providing us with some drinks and nibbles so see us through the evening. We now look forward catching up with members from around the country as we head to the top end.

Regards
Faizel

Western Australia

April... where did March go? It has been a busy month as we firm up plans for the rest of this years ANZSRS-WA events.

Branch Meeting

This month's Branch meeting held at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, was dedicated to a practice session for those presenting in Darwin. These included:-

Reduced respiratory reactance in children born pre-term is not related to lung volumes	Maureen Verheggen
Lung function in children with bronchopulmonary dysplasia following pre term birth: A pilot study (Poster)	Karla Logie
Assessing the Accuracy of the Hypoxia Challenge Test to Predict In Flight Hypoxia in Infants. (Poster)	Claire Shackleton

There was some lively debate and plenty of suggestions for all the presenters.

Many thanks to Niche Medical, represented by Kevin Hicks, for generously sponsoring the meeting.

Good luck to all those presenting in Darwin.

WA Combined TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM & Respiratory Symposium

The TSANZ WA Associates committee is in full swing planning for the WA TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM in October. The theme this year, now ratified by the TSANZ-WA Executive Committee will be 'Clinical Trials'.

We have had some very positive feedback for sponsorship of the major ANZSRS WA 2009 educational activities and so far look forward to working with Bird Healthcare and Pharmaxis again this year.

Australian Council On Smoking & Health

Mari Noffsinger reported back from the last ACOSH meeting that Prof Bill Musk has been awarded the Elphick Medal for his work towards tobacco control. Also, ACOSH's funding from Healthways has been renewed.

Constitution

Christine Nathan stated that work on the ANZSRS constitution continues and Bill Noffsinger reported that there will be a representative from Board Matters at the Darwin ASM to address questions concerning the latest version of this document.

CRFS

Two members have indicated their intention to sit for the CRFS exam later this year and we wish them well for their studies.

Lung Function in Growth and Aging

Graham Hall gave a little more information on the Lung Function in Growth and Aging website, encouraging everyone who is interested to either apply to receive updates on how the project is progressing, or register their lab if they think they may be able to contribute normal data.

ASM Perth 2011

A core LOC, comprising Sharon Lagan (Chair), Sina Panic, Claire Shackleton and Kevin Gain, has been put together for the 2011 ASM in Perth. We are also collecting a talented group of other local members willing to be co-opted at a later date as things start to heat up. We still have a wealth of experience to draw upon from the 2004 LOC when the ASM was last in Perth.

News around Town

Ray Davey is moving on from Pulmonary Physiology at SCGH to greener pastures in diabetes research. He will be sorely missed but we wish him well.

Karla Logie (PMH) and Elizabeth Salamon (RPH) are back in the West after their well earned holidays trekking through several countries on the other side of the world.

Diary reminders

3 – 6 th April	ANZSRS ASM	Darwin
5 th -8 th April	TSANZ ASM	Darwin
12 th - 16 th September	ERS	Vienna, Austria
17 th – 18 th October	WA TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM	Mandurah
19 th October	Respiratory Symposium	Perth
1 st – 6 th April 2011	ANSRS/TSANZ ASM	Perth

Darwin here we come. Everyone here is looking forward to catching up with the rest of the Oz respiratory world.

Cheers

Sharon and Sina

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Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report

'The second draft of the constitution has been received from Board Matters and has undergone review by the governance committee. The committee will meet next Friday in Darwin to discuss a number of issues with Jenny Robertson, Board Matters before the draft is finalised for membership viewing.

Jenny has agreed to speak at the AGM, particularly on the topic of moving the ANZSRS from an incorporated association to a company limited by guarantee, but also general governance issues. Those wishing to have a bit of background information on the more recent happenings in Governance can read the latest update on Governance in the Members Only area of the Website.

I urge all members going to the ASM this year to attend the AGM to hear Jenny speak.

Brigitte

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