

Branch News – June, 2009.

Executive Musings.....

Hello everybody,

After a bit of a lull in activity after the Darwin ASM, things have certainly fired up again from the executive's point of view. The organisation for the first Physiology Roadshow (which will be held in Hong Kong in late October) is progressing at a good pace. The Executive has been lending some assistance to Jeff Pretto and the SCC to try to help this very important initiative come to fruition. We think it is a good showcase of how much the Society has to offer and how willing we are to help out people around us. Thank-you to all the members who submitted expressions of interest to develop and present at these Roadshows.

There has also been significant interaction between the executive, the SCC and the Brisbane LOC about the structure of the 2010 ASM. The amount of overlap between our ASM and the TSANZ meeting in Darwin was not ideal and we are trying to formulate a plan so that future ANZSRS meetings can be as successful as possible. This has presented some challenges, but we are confident that we can come up with a good outcome.

It also sounds like the State Reps are getting things fired up again with local meetings. Please make an effort to attend these local meetings. They are very interesting and provide a good opportunity to mix with your colleagues. They are also a significant amount of work to organise, so be sure to thank the State Reps and sponsors. Also just a gentle reminder to all members who have yet to pay their 2009 membership fees. Reminder letters will be sent in the next week or so.

Bye for now,

Danny, Leigh, and Debbie

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Board Happenings

As most members will be aware, one of the most important issues confronting the Society at present is that of governance. The Governance & Vision Subcommittee has invested a phenomenal amount of time & effort over the last 5 years in reviewing the structure of the society & formulating a plan to move us to a more relevant & sustainable governance model. This initially culminated in the proposal of a new, interim, constitution that was adopted at the 2008 AGM. One of the major changes in society governance under the interim constitution

was the separation of the Executive Committee & Board, with the former to act as the administrative body of the Society, & the latter to concentrate on strategic direction.

Prior to the 2008 AGM the Board also engaged the services of Board Matters, a specialist governance consulting company, to assist in the drafting of a final constitution & advise on further activity necessary to bring the project to fruition. Their initial review of the interim constitution highlighted some issues that have the potential to cause problems for the Society, including incorporation under a State act not being appropriate for a group with national and international focus, an overlap between powers and duties of the Executive Committee & Board raising the prospect of unforeseen legal liabilities, and problems with the way regions are defined.

Following the advice from Board Matters, & discussion between the Board, Executive, & Governance & Vision Subcommittee, a new constitution is being drafted, & will very shortly be published on the web-site for comment from the membership. Features of this will include:

- Changing the Society from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee;
- Bringing the Executive back onto the Board as a subgroup of the Board;
- A relatively “stripped down” format, with many items from the current & previous constitutions being covered by by-laws;
- Regional representation will be via a regional subcommittee reporting to the Board.

The reasons behind the changes have been dealt with in more detail in documents already in the members area of the website, & were also discussed by Jenny Robertson from Board Matters at the AGM in Darwin.

The spirit of the proposed changes is already being adopted, with the current Executive Committee & Board agreeing to act as a single entity with regard to any issues that require Board consideration. The Executive Committee will continue to play its traditional leadership & administrative role until the new constitution is adopted. Currently the Board is engaged in reviewing the Terms of Reference of the Governance & Vision Subcommittee to take the process into its final stages, & finalising the new draft constitution for posting on the website. In conjunction with this, further educational material more fully exploring the concepts incorporated in the new draft constitution is being developed to inform the anticipated debate!

Mike

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Annual Scientific Meeting News

Nothing Received

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New South Wales / ACT

Nothing received

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New Zealand

Another month gone down and we are half way through the year; it is certainly flying us by. The challenge of this month's news is not to mention the weather... oh wait I just did ☺.

Hawkes Bay Visit

It was with great delight that I had the opportunity to visit Hawkes Bay last month during one of my random trips. Driving in through the twist and turns and ups and downs of the Gisborne to Napier road and coming along to the beach it was a pleasure to be able to head out to dinner with Colleen and Deb from the Hastings lab. Anthony, being too busy with his little one, was unable to join us for a very festive evening at Napier Lone Star. I also had the pleasure of visiting the Hastings Lab which was spacious and set out in wonderful grounds.

I would like to thank Deb and the crew at Hawkes Bay for making me welcome.

New Member

I am pleased to welcome a new member to the NZ branch. Priya Pattni has begun working at the Waikato Hospital in Hamilton. Priya is new to the field and is looking forward to the exciting prospect of developing the service in the Waikato.

Lab Profile

This month we are heading back to the City of Sails and thanks to Shelley from the New Zealand Respiratory and Sleep Institute for volunteering this month.

After more than 10 years at the Mercy Hospital site in Epsom, on 6 April 2009 Auckland Physiology moved to a new purpose built Sleep and Respiratory Laboratory at Ascot Office Park in Greenlane East. The company name has changed to the New Zealand Respiratory and Sleep Institute.

The new facility incorporates a six bed sleep unit in the centre of the building. Each bedroom has an ensuite, with a patient kitchen/lounge area in the central area. This sleep complex is designed to be sound, light and vibration isolated with the possibility for future controlled environment research.

Around the perimeter of the sleep area are located the Respiratory Laboratory, meeting room, offices and all important staff room with view of One Tree Hill.

Currently there are two fulltime physiologists and one trainee who rotate between the Respiratory Laboratory and Sleep Service. We have two other fulltime sleep physiologists and several part time staff who help with night shifts'.

The Respiratory Laboratory uses a Sensormedics Encore VMax Autobox and Exercise system with a treadmill and cycle ergometer.

The laboratory is open daily for all testing that includes spirometry, plethysmography, diffusing capacity, maximum inspiratory and expiratory pressure, bronchodilator responsiveness, bronchoprovocation testing (including hypertonic saline, histamine, methacholine, aridol and

exercise), cardiopulmonary exercise testing, hypoxic challenge , sputum induction and arterial blood gas analysis.

Referrals to the laboratory come mainly from Respiratory Physicians. GP referrals are often requests for challenges for diving or armed services. We also assist some of the public hospitals with contract work for staff shortages and leave cover.

The new facility also has a new research facility employing at this stage one fulltime project manager. The Respiratory Laboratory will be involved in future projects.

After nearly two months we have finally unpacked the last box (moving is a great way to clear out all that old equipment in the storeroom!) and I think everybody is really enjoying the space and the lovely new facility.

Thanks Shelley and the view from the tea room sounds wonderful we might all have to pop in for a cuppa!

NZ Competition

This month the NZ branch is offering a “code word competition”. This is to see how many people take the time to read the branch news. 2 prizes are on offer 1 for a NZ member and 1 for an Australian member. The first member from both sides of the ditch to email me with the code word “weather” will be earn themselves the NZ delicacy of a Chocolate fish. So get your emails through.

Course Endorsement

The Christchurch Lab is proud to announce that the “Christchurch Spirometry Course” has been re-endorsed again. It is a credit to those who have put the effort into developing the course.

Well that is it for a branch news that did not involve a weather report.

Until next month

Chris

Christopher O’Dea

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Queensland

When we are not sun-drenched throughout the year, we seem to be flooded! This was the case in SE Queensland last month, and reports are that all Labs are still intact, albeit a little soggy, especially the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Following on from the rain demographic, and on the suggestion of a member (thanks David), it would be good to show where Queensland Labs and staff are located. The map here showing the approximate location of Labs and the number of staff is taken from Debbie's survey of last year. It shows the wide-spread membership, great distances and the density in and around Brisbane. And if members want to visit us especially at the time of our 2010 ASM, this might help you to plan a tour!

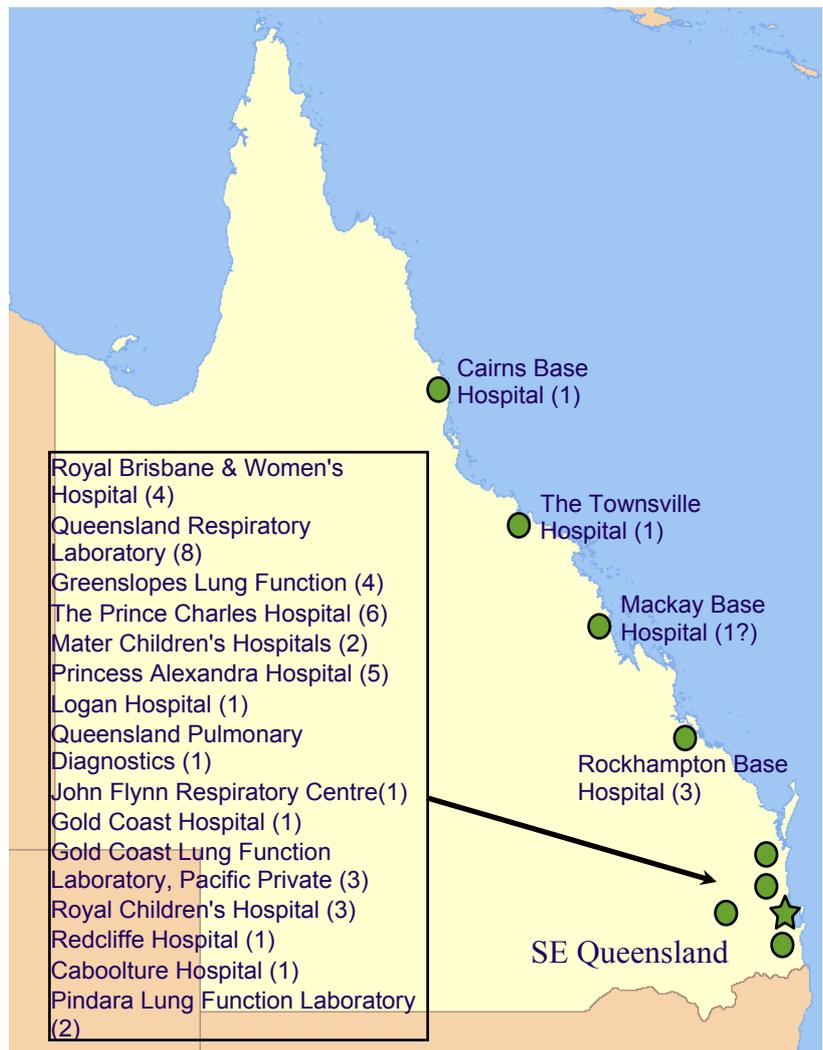
What we plan to do, from our next monthly report, is, like our colleagues in New Zealand, is provide Lab profiles. In this way we will get to know more about

each other and what our workplaces are like. It will help networking with each other. So we are looking for a volunteer for July's edition to profile your Lab.

Talking of connecting, if anyone in Qld wants a copy of the DVD from Prof Lidia Morawska's presentation last month then get in touch with Andrew. Lidia gave us permission to record her talk. For those of you who have received a copy already I hope that the quality was OK and I welcome any suggestions.

Our next meeting this month, is on Wednesday 24th June, and apologies to State of Origin fans. This is a clash! It is the only game out of three happening in Brisbane. This has happened before I am sure, so we must get it right next year. At least the game starts at 20:00 and we finish at about 19:00. Regrettably, our meeting date has been locked in with the venue as has the catering.

But you wouldn't want to miss our great company, and the riveting presentations by Brenton Eckert on the long-term survival post RFTs, nor the legality of medicating our patients in our Labs presented by Helen Smart a Nurse Manager for Policy Procedure from the old Brisbane Northside District together with Annette Dent, TPC. The meeting is from 17:15 at the Brisbane Private Hospital. A notice will be sent out shortly, and thanks again to our great



sponsors GSK and BirdHealthCare. We will send a DVD video to those same people that asked for it last time, but do ask if you would like one also.

A reminder to all that the **TSANZ-Q / TSQ / ANZSRS-Q Winter meeting** is on at O'Reilly's Green Mountain next month, July 18-19th. Closing Date for Registration: Thursday July 9th. See last months report for further details.

NOTE WELL (NB to the old folk)

I'd like you all to be aware that under legislation in Queensland, that if you work with children and since we are not registered health workers, you need to hold a Queensland Blue Card. The Blue Card is a certified criminal check clearance. The onus seems to be on us to get this and provide the cost of it, although your employer may not be aware of the legislation and it's relevance to you. The employer is not obliged to pay the cost. It's handy if you already are a volunteer for children, you will already have a Blue Card, and it would not have cost anything. So If anyone has had to get one for their work and pay for it, I'd like to hear from you. And if those of you in other states and NZ have similar legislation please let me know. When we do have a registered profession the need for us to apply and reapply for the Blue Card will hopefully be removed. But it does probably mean that we as a registering authority will need to do the criminal checks ourselves!

\$\$\$ Those working for Queensland Health should now also be aware that there is Clinical improvement planning incentive monies available for complex RFT and 6MWD testing of COPD patients. \$1m has been allocated to be distributed until April 2010 with \$120 per test for RFTs, via the Statewide Respiratory Network team. But the \$1m is also spread to pulmonary rehabilitation. To find out more on this please contact Mike Brown or Annette Dent.

So until next time... Stay on high ground, and flu-free!

Andrew and Debbie

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South Australia

We had a great attendance at our meeting on the 4th May. Toby Hunt was our speaker and he discussed *Heliox, Dyspnoea and Exercise in COPD*, the main focus of his Hons project. Richard Parson also gave a short case presentation that challenged us to look 'Outside the numbers' and take the opportunity to think a little more about what we actually report. We also discussed the standardisation of predicted values for all labs in SA, with the intention that we move ahead with this initiative. Laboratories should receive further information soon. The meeting was gratefully sponsored by Bird Healthcare.

The next meeting is scheduled for 29th June. Associate Professor Tjard Schermer, who is working in Australia for a short time with the Primary Care Respiratory Research Unit, The University of Adelaide, has kindly offered to be our guest speaker. He will present results from recently completed primary care spirometry trial in the Netherlands titled, '*Effect of e-learning and periodic feedback on spirometry test quality in general practice*'.

Keep warm everyone and stay well,

Michelle

Michelle Rozzee
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Victoria / Tasmania

The year is travelling by at great speed. It is hard to believe we are already at the half way mark. As the cold weather settles in we prepare for our next branch meeting which will be held at the Austin Hospital on the 16th of June.

Gary Nolan will be presenting on Impulse Oscillometry, which will be very informative for those of us who have not used the technology. Vanessa Kelly will also be giving us a report on her trip to the ATS meeting in San Diego.

I look forward to seeing as lots of members at the meeting.

Regards

Faizel

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Western Australia

May has been a quiet month on the meeting front but lots of activity happening behind the scenes with the organizing of the local TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM and the Respiratory Symposium. The local ASM will once again be held in the sunny beach city of Mandurah. The theme for the ASM this year is "Clinical Trials". We will have more information on both these events over the next few months.

The June Meeting of ANZSRS-WA will be held on the 4th at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital with an interesting presentation by Dr. Martin Phillips looking at the use of bronchial thermoplasty, endobronchial valves and pneumonostomies in the treatment of asthma and emphysema. We would like to thank Bird Healthcare for sponsoring this meeting.

Our interlab QA is up and running and Claire Shackelton has laid her lungs on the line for this round of testing. Thanks Claire.

Local Organising Committee

The Local Organising Committee for the 2011 ASM in Perth has been busy discussing themes, speakers and dinner venues! Looks like there might be some changes afoot when it comes to the TSANZ and programming, so we are keeping a close eye on how things are shaping up for Brisbane 2010.

News Around Town

Mari Noffsinger held the 'Big Morning Tea' fundraiser on the 27th and 28th of May in the Department of Pulmonary Physiology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. She raised over \$700.00 for cancer research. Great effort Mari! Thanks to all those that participated and helped make it a success.

Elizabeth Salamon organised a 'Big Morning Tea' at Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth, on the 28th May and raised nearly \$400 for cancer research. Thanks to all who baked for the occasion – there were many hidden talents on display! – and donated to the cause.

Diary reminders

4 June 2009	ANZSRS-WA Branch Meeting	SCGH
22 July 2009	ANZSRS-WA Branch Meeting	TBA
12 th - 16 th September 2009	ERS	Vienna, Austria
17 th – 18 th October 2009	WA TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM	Mandurah
19 th October 2009	Respiratory Symposium	Perth
19 – 24 March 2010	TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM	Brisbane
1 st – 6 th April 2011	ANSRS/TSANZ ASM	Perth

Sina and Sharon

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Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report

The Board is currently in the process of formulating a new terms of reference for this committee. Once these have been agreed and accepted, the Governance committee will reconvene to address the terms of reference.

Brigitte

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