

# **Branch News – March, 2009.**

## ***Executive Musings.....***

The year is certainly well under way and things are in full swing for the Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Darwin in early April. The LOC headed by Sonya Jonshton has been kept very busy, with a record number of abstracts for this year's meeting. The very interesting meeting content as well as the great location ensure that this should be a great meeting. We hope to see lots of ANZSRS members in Darwin supporting the meeting and we hope to have a chance to catch up with many of you.

The executive have been very busy over the last few months, with lots of things on the go. There has been significant contact with the Governance committee and Board regarding the proposed changes to the society structure. There has also been lots of contact with the SCC about the Physiology Roadshow that we hope to take into Asia. Membership fee payments continue to fly in at a rate of knots. These things along with the usual rush to get things ready for the ASM has meant that time has flown by very rapidly indeed.

As most of you will have seen or heard the TSANZ and ANZSRS has been hit by the tragic news of the loss of Prof Robert Pierce (Director of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at the Austin Hospital) in the recent Victorian bushfires. Prof Pierce was well known to many ANZSRS members through his significant work in respiratory physiology and his loss has had a huge impact on many members of our society. He was well-loved and respected by all who knew him as a great teacher and very approachable gentleman. On behalf of the staff at the Austin Hospital, I would like to thank everybody for their kind thoughts over this difficult period.

## ***Danny, Leigh, and Debbie***

Debbie Burton, President

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## ***Annual Scientific Meeting News***

**Darwin 2009**  
TSANZ & ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meetings



**3-6 April**

**Sonya**

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## ***New South Wales / ACT***

Hi All,

Well it's only a brief branch news this month! I'm not sure if I'm the one that's out of the loop, or no news is about as we've all been just so hectic with 2009 flying right past?

Surely the 'busy NSW/ACT bees' should nearly be finished working on their masterpieces for the Darwin ASM. Sincerely, all the very best of luck! The commitment these individuals have, being active society members, willing to participate and furthering our communal knowledge is great to see. Thanks from all of us for doing us proud!

The ASM organising committee have done a fantastic job in bringing together another exiting program, and I encourage everyone to attend this year's meeting if possible. I'm a little sad to be missing the great annual adventure, this time to the top end of Oz, but as some of you may be aware, excitingly I'll be walking down the aisle that weekend! (Suppose that's a good enough reason not to be attending hey?) {*Expect some photos next month! Ed*}.

Through the members' email I sent out, you may be aware that it's NSW/ACT turn for the website's 'Case of the Month'. The biggest thanks go to the Concord team for their efforts in arranging an interesting case. I urge all members to view this {*and come up with the answers! Ed*} to support the work of all involved!

Regret again for the cancelled branch meeting that was being planned for Thursday March 5th. Unfortunately scheduling clashed, and it's now tentatively planned for the same venue in late April/ early May. I'm hoping we'll be able to get a few options together, and like always, if you've any specific topics/suggestions please let me know and I will see what can be done.

I look forward to seeing you all a little later in the year.

Cheers,

*Dana*

Dana Anquetil  
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## ***New Zealand***

Well the count down is well and truly on for the ASM in Darwin, I hope everyone presenting is well and truly on the home straight with completing the presentations.

### **Members Details- Keep it up to date**

Just a reminder to all NZ members to keep their membership details up to date on the ANZSRS website. It is specifically important with the new postcodes being introduced, and we now MUST use the correct postcode. A lot of members frequently

use the web directory to keep in touch with others around the place, so please take a few moments to just check your personal details.

### **We've moved!**

The Wellington lab is in the process of unpacking all the boxes after the move to the brand new lab. David Robiony-Rogers has been promising photos; however, he has only managed to be enjoying his new red sports car. I am looking forward to seeing the new lab.

### **CRFS**

There has been some interest in starting a CRFS study group in different centres of the membership. If you are interesting in this please flick me an email and we will see what we can do.

### **Lab Profile**

This month's sees the return of the ever popular lab profile. This month we take a short drive south of Christchurch to the bustling port town of Timaru. Jane Sides was happy to be our "volunteer" this month:

*I am the sole Technologist at the Medical Investigation Unit Timaru Hospital.*

*I am responsible for undertaking all the Cardiac, Respiratory and Vascular tests at the hospital.*

*Respiratory tests performed are spirometry, spirometry pre and post bronchodilator, lung volumes and diffusion.*

*Cardiac tests performed are Exercise ECG's, resting ECG's, fitting and analysis of holter and event monitors and Pacemaker and ICD follow-ups.*

*Vascular tests performed are resting and exercise dopplers. Sometimes I even get a lunch break!*

Thanks to Jane for taking the time to put this together. It is great to hear from the smaller centers in the lab profile, so if anyone is passing through Timaru (home of Phar Lap) stop on in and say hi to Jane ☺

Finally, I look forward to seeing a number of the NZ members in Darwin; don't forget to pack your jandals and Hawaiian shirts for our tropical getaway. Hopefully we can all get together at some stage during the meeting. This is a good opportunity for us to be in one place with the spread of our members it is not something we often get to do.

Until next month (unless in Darwin) I smile at a crocodile☺

**Chris**

Christopher O'Dea

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**Queensland**

Nothing received

**Andrew and Debbie**

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## **South Australia**

We had our first meeting and the first rain of 2009 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Glenn Thomas, Ana Herero, Rebecca Harper and Melanie Toomey took the opportunity to test run their 2009 ASM presentations. Glenn, Ana, Rebecca and Melanie did really well with interesting well researched and presented work. Thank you all for making the effort to be so well prepared so far ahead of the ASM and to give us the opportunity to hear your presentations. Also, any thanks to Mandy Kittel from Pharmaxis for generously sponsoring the evening. We look forward to hearing and seeing the finished presentations at the ASM.

Congratulations to Toby Hunt, Clinical Trials Coordinator Southern Respiratory Services and one of our South Australian members. Toby is the recipient of a 2009 Foundation Daw Park Grant. Toby worked in the respiratory laboratory at RGH Daw Park prior to moving across to Clinical trials. He is currently completing Honours in Human Life Sciences looking at Heliox, Dyspnoea and exercise endurance in patients suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

Next meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, if any would like to do a short case presentation please let me know.

## **Michelle**

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## **Victoria / Tasmania**

Nothing received

## **Faizel**

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## **Western Australia**

WA held its first Clinical Branch meeting for 2009 in February at Royal Perth Hospital.

We would like to say thank you to Dr. Jeanie Leong for an interesting presentation on Allergic Bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis (ABPA).

### ABPA Summary

- ABPA can complicate Asthma and Cystic Fibrosis (CF).
- Starts with inhalation of Aspergillus spores.
- Tends to colonise abnormal airways. Complex hypersensitivity reaction can occur when airways are colonised.
- Symptoms: fever, brown sputum, eosinophilia, radiological changes (pulmonary infiltrates, central bronchiectasis, pseudo tumours), collapse of lobe, spontaneous pneumothorax
- Treatment: Prednisolone is most useful either on its own or in conjunction with the antifungal itraconazole
- Progression between stages, remission and reoccurrences are not well understood.

### **Interlaboratory Quality Assurance Programme (QAP)**

Elise Chu from RPH presented the results for January after breathing new life into our External QAP. She has arranged for three testing sessions per year one in January, May, and September. Ten teaching and private labs have agreed to participate in the programme, meaning there will be a gruelling 10 tests over a two week period for the QA subjects. Something to look forward to. Overall there was amazingly good agreement between labs but a couple of problems were identified underlining the importance of doing this work.

Our thanks go to AstraZeneca, represented by Les Sharp, for generously sponsoring the meeting.

### **WA Combined TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM**

Planning for this year's meeting has started so please add to your diaries the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October. Note that we are moving the meeting forward a week this year. It would be great to see some of our Eastern States {*make that Regions rather than States as NZers are very welcome. Ed*} colleagues attend this meeting and given the regular specials on flights these days, maybe we can welcome others to what is always an educational event and to where the sun sets on the beach. The ASM will once again be held in the sunny beach side city of Mandurah.

A fair contingent of WA folk is heading north for the ASM, and we look forward to catching up with many of our more Eastern colleagues in Darwin.

### **Diary reminders**

March 25 <sup>th</sup>	Practice ASM session	PMH, Perth
3 – 6 <sup>th</sup> April	ANZSRS ASM	Darwin
5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> April	TSANZ ASM	Darwin
12 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> September	ERS	Vienna, Austria
17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> October	WA TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM	Mandurah
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Respiratory Symposium	Perth

*Sina and Sharon*

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### ***Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report***

The Governance Committee has been reviewing the first draft of the new constitution over the last month. I am currently collating comments and hope to have them back to Board Matters as soon as possible so the second draft can be developed.

As mentioned in the last issue, Jenny Robertson, Board Matters, has agreed to present at the AGM on governance and changes to the structure and type of organisation we are. Anyone going to Darwin is urged to attend the AGM to hear her speak.

**Brigitte**

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Chair, Governance and Vision Subcommittee  
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