

Regional News – November, 2009.

Executive Musings.....

Hi all,

It is amazing to think that Christmas is just around the corner. We hope that some of you have put in abstracts for TSANZ and are now working on abstracts for ANZSRS which will be due 20th November (see call for abstracts <http://www.anzsrs.org.au/asm2010call.pdf>). Remember we are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of ANZSRS meetings and the theme of the meeting will be the past, present and future of respiratory science, so we need to see as many members presenting and attending the Brisbane conference to make this celebration a big one!

The new Constitution is nearly complete after much collaborative work between the very active Governance sub-committee and the Board in consultation with Board Matters who have extensive expertise in this area. Once the Constitution is complete it will be posted on the website and there will be advice on what the changes mean to you as a member, so that you can participate in voting to accept or reject the new Constitution with full information. The voting will be conducted using an electronic survey of voting members of the Society and we hope to have this complete before the end of 2009 so we can move forward with certainty in our Governance and administrative structure in 2010.

The first Respiratory Physiology Roadshow was held in Hong Kong on 30th and 31st October with Bruce Thompson, Paul Guy and Kevin Gain presenting sessions on spirometry, lung volume, DLCO and exercise testing. Practical measurement workshops were also run in spirometry, lung volumes and DLCO using equipment supplied by local distributors as coordinated by Matt Sanger from Carefusion. Included in the program were presentations on appropriate respiratory predicted values by Hong Kong based presenters which provided a local context. There were 140 attendees with 60 places in the practical ‘hands-on’ measurement sessions, which was a fantastic start to this ongoing program. The efforts of all involved have helped to increase awareness of the professionalism of ANZSRS to a wide range of people involved in respiratory science in Asia. The level of organisation by the Hong Kong Thoracic Society has been outstanding and the liaison between this team and Leigh Seccombe and Jeff Pretto, who have been the main ANZSRS drivers, has been very smooth. Thanks also to all those members who worked on developing a set of presentation slides for each of the available topics in this educational lecture series. A measure of the success of the Roadshow is in the desire by the Hong Kong team to make this an annual event and to also include a site in China. You can access more information about the program and see some video clips from the Roadshow at the following site: <http://www.hkresp.com/index.php/faq/95-special-events/93-2009-anzsrs-lung-function-test-road-show-program> . It is well worth taking the time to have a look!

We are all looking forward to catching up with you all in Brisbane in the New Year. Please feel free to make contact with any of the Executive team if you have suggestions and/or issues of relevance to ANZSRS.

Cheers,

Debbie, Leigh, and Danny

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Board Happenings

ANZSRS Board Report for Website November 2009

The Board and Executive meeting in Sydney was bulging at the seams with an agenda covering (among many things) the review of Society committees and committee structure, discussions on ANZSRS & TSANZ working relationship with regard to annual scientific meetings, and the review from the Governance Subcommittee (taking up the majority of the meeting).

The process of review of the draft constitution, and drafting of new by-laws, is finally nearing the end. Emails have been flying thick and fast between the Governance Subcommittee and the Board since the Sydney Board meeting, and finishing touches are currently being put to the documentation to go back to Board Matters for final legal checks and final drafting. We had planned to have the final draft posted by end of October, and are all keenly aware of the need to be getting this to membership for consideration as soon as possible. This has been a huge undertaking, and the Governance Subcommittee has put in a tremendous effort in bringing it to fruition. I take this opportunity to formally thank and commend the Governance Subcommittee (superbly led by Brigitte Borg and ably supported by Chris Nathan, David Schembri, and Kevin Gain) on behalf of the Society – fantastic job!

Congratulations are also due to all those involved in putting on the first ANZSRS Roadshow in Hong Kong last weekend, in particular Jeff Pretto, Paul Guy, Kevin Gain and Bruce Thompson. Reports are that it was most successful, and extremely well received by the participants. As well as meeting one of the core aims of the Society, i.e. education and the promotion of excellence in lung function testing, this initiative is vital in promoting ANZSRS throughout the region as a leader in the field of respiratory science, and we look forward to further events in the near future.

Mike

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Annual Scientific Meeting News


Brisbane2010

ANZSRS
Annual Scientific Meeting



Brisbane Convention &
Exhibition Centre
19-22 March 2010




The Australian and New Zealand
Society of Respiratory Intensive Care

Call for Abstracts

The call for abstracts has been made and the closing date for submission is 20th November 2009. Time to get going on them!

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New South Wales / ACT

Nothing received

Dana

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New Zealand

Just as we start to crack out the BBQ and the frocks for NZ cup and Canterbury Show Week and wait for the smoke from Guy Fawkes Night and Halloween cobwebs to clear it is time for another branch news. I am not sure about the rest of the Society but walking into the local Westfield and discovering Christmas decorations already up, I begin to realise how quickly this year has flown by.

Branch Meeting

October 30TH saw 18 of the NZ branch faithful attend the *super meeting in the super city*. After having a taxi driver getting lost this Branch rep managed to find his way to The Villa Maria Estate Winery. For a meeting held in Auckland, as many of the South Island members commented, it didn't feel like Auckland at all (it was cold!).

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for the exchange of ideas and much discussion and there was great feedback with numerous members mentioning the 'informal discussion' nature of the meeting as being very useful.

Some local research on physiology based topics was presented including FENO as a tool to assess the response to corticosteroids in COPD, Anti CCP antibodies correlating with CT, and lung function abnormalities in newly diagnosed Rheumatoid Arthritis. An interesting presentation suggesting there was no significant difference in spirometry at discharge from hospital and 30 days following an acute COPD exacerbation led to some interesting discussion.

The ANZSRS meeting session included a review of accreditation procedures in the laboratory. Kevin Ellyett from Greenlane Clinic gave an insight into the functioning of the body plethymograph and quality measurements required, with some very colourful slides and useful diagrams. Helen Dunroy from Dunedin Hospital gave an overview on DLCO measurement from an accreditation point of view and led discussions on current practices in laboratories around NZ. Maureen Swanney gave somewhat a "call to arms" to the NZ members to encourage research in a clinical respiratory laboratory and presentations at the ANZSRS ASM giving tips and suggestions, including some candid conference photos.

One of our newest members Priya Pattni from Waikato hospital was thrown into the deep end on her first ANZSRS meeting and provided a useful new member perspective on joining the fold and the support she has received from other ANZSRS members. The presentation highlighted the strength of our society in the support networks available to us. Josh Stanton gave an overview on the Cabin altitude simulation test a test of many different acronyms as he showed (CAST, HAST, HIT, NHIT, HCT). Chris O'Dea from Christchurch gave a "challenging" presentation on Methacholine and the quality requirements for the nebulisers.

The AGM outlined the latest activity in the branch including the ever popular lab profile (which I am glad to see other branches taking on). Members were reminded that Fees are due January 1st 2010 and they are to be paid through FCC (not a cheque to Maureen Swanney). The membership were also reminded of the variety of ANZSRS travel grants available and the closing date of **Friday November 20**.

A discussion revolving around the possible development of a core laboratory manual for NZ was met with positive feedback and discussion along with the development of a training manual for new scientists. More on these initiatives will follow as they continue to develop.

The meeting ended with a sampling of some of the wonderful Villa Maria wines and a social dinner combined with the TSANZ meeting, as usual the NZ ANZSRS members ensured the social networking time was not to be wasted and of course were the last to leave!

I would like to personally thank all of those who presented, if it wasn't for these people putting the effort into the presentations then meetings like this would not be a success.

New Members

There has been a flurry of new members this month and we would like to welcome Gavin Starling and Jacqueline Ross from Palmerston North and Brooke Cantley from Greenlane

Departures

It is with great sadness that the Christchurch Laboratory announces the defection of Paul Kelly to the dark side. Paul has taken on an exciting and challenging role as the team leader for the new sleep unit at Christchurch Hospital. We all wish him well, however, it is well known that Josh has been eyeing Paul's desk up for years and is looking forward to having the view of the world famous, in New Zealand, Avon River.

That is all from the NZ branch, who after having a super meeting in the super city, managed to support the All Blacks in the 4-0 defeat of the All Blacks.

'til next month,

Chris

Christopher O'Dea

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Queensland

Our last meeting for the year was well attended, and was very interesting. Firstly, sorry to Bob for the lighting problems. No we were not trying to get you off stage, even though it seemed that way! We await the new nose pegs eagerly Bob and thanks for your sponsorship this year! Finally, we got our branch member David Johns to present his work on the flow dependency of the physiological deadspace. David presented how this research developed from the early beginnings of inert gas wash-in, to the technology of 'nidd' today and the use of CO₂ analysis. It is a fascinating path and a good example to all of searching for the scientific truth. Those of you who have requested a dvd recording of David's talk, should receive it soon.

We have our end-of-year bash, on Saturday 21st November, 7pm, at Ben's Restaurant, South Brisbane. Thanks to **Bird HealthCare** for offering sponsorship, and we look forward to a great night.

News from around the traps is Joe Pritchard finally married Tiarny in early October. Joe is at the John Flynn Hospital. Congratulations to you both. Also Andrew Southwell's family are expecting their second baby this month. All the best to you Andrew, and family. I guess you won't be wanting to run in the ALF Corporate Team fun run! And yours truly is facing an accreditation site visit for paediatric accreditation later this month. So you know I'll be busy...

And late cut news is that the TSQ is having a scientific meeting on Nov 28th, at the Princess Alexander Hospital. Diaphragmatic function is the topic area. More information will come soon!

And thanks to Janet for providing the Lab Profile for the month...

Respiratory Investigation Unit – Department of Thoracic Medicine, The Prince Charles Hospital, Chermside, Brisbane.

The Respiratory Investigation Unit has a long history, being established in 1962 when the unit was run by nursing staff and technical assistants. Routine lung function testing was the order of the day with arterial blood gas measurements and skin prick testing also undertaken. In 1967 the first exercise tests were performed on a home grown system. Many of the measurements were recorded manually during the test and calculations were a long and tedious task. This continued until our first computerised exercise testing equipment which was purchased in 1988. Flow volume loops, a routine test today, were first introduced in 1978 and were performed only when specifically requested. Our first computerised lung function system was purchased in 1986, which generated reports and this meant there were no more routine manual calculations!

We also performed sleep studies, beginning in 1982 (the first to do so in Queensland). However as sleep medicine began to expand and the requests for sleep studies dramatically increased, the Sleep Investigation Unit was formed as a separate unit. Blood gas measurements were taken over by our Pathology Department and skin prick testing is now performed by out-patient nursing staff.

In 2005 the unit was the first respiratory function laboratory to achieve TSANZ accreditation in Queensland. We are now gearing up to go through the process again in the near future.

Today we perform a wide variety of tests including:

- Spirometry (flow volume loops)
- CO Diffusing Capacity
- Lung Volumes (body plethysmography and He washout)
- Respiratory Muscle Strength
- Bronchoprovocation Challenge Test (mannitol and hypertonic saline)
- Exercise induced asthma test

- 6 minute walk test
- Cardio-pulmonary exercise test
- HAST studies
- Pulmonary shunt studies

The main lung function and exercise testing equipment used in our laboratory is Jaeger. We service public, private and in-patients with referrals coming from our 68 bed specialist Respiratory Wards, General Thoracic Medicine, Pulmonary Malignancy and Oncology Service, Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre, Queensland Centre for Pulmonary Transplantation and Vascular Disease, Sleep Disorder Centre, and other pre-surgical consultations. Our Unit performs 10,281 tests per year. While we have a busy schedule, we also train and present talks to junior doctors, physiotherapists, nurses, medical students, Masters students, General Practitioners and interested community groups. We also support research carried out by the Thoracic Medicine Department and at present there are 10 studies in progress requiring lung function tests.

Our dedicated staff consists of three full-time scientists and three part-time scientists making up a total of 4.0 full-time equivalent scientific staff members employed in the unit and we are ably assisted by one full-time administration officer. Annette Dent our leader (Director of Respiratory Sciences) has been with the unit since 1981 and has embarked on her quest to attain her Master of Philosophy (Science) by research. Pauline Lynn joined our unit in 1992 and has been working in the field for more years than she likes to remember. Darren Smith first worked with our unit in 1995, while waiting for a permanent position to become available, he did a stint with sleep medicine, eventually returning permanently to the unit. He also attained his Masters by course work in 1999. Jessica Wilson the newest scientist came to the unit in 2006, finishing her Masters by course work that year. Janet Shaw started with the unit in 1982 and has worked off and on over the years. She is also doing her Master of Philosophy (Science) by research and hopes to finish very soon. Jennifer De Luca has just left our unit to go OS and work in a French chalet in the Alps for 4 months, lucky duck! Earlier this year, Dr Leanne Rodwell also left us after many years of part-time work to take a position at the Royal Childrens Hospital, Brisbane. Our wonderful locums include Irene Schneider, Hadla Obeid and Linda Ruedinger and we are so lucky to have these scientists on-call. Our Administration Officer Michelle Ansell is off with her new baby boy until next year and in her place we have Joseph Kennedy working on the front line sorting patients and paper work.

We have an open door policy, so please come and visit us when next you are in Brisbane or you could just go to the beach!

Yours in respiratory science,

Andrew Coates
ably assisted by **Debbie Zagami**

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South Australia

Tis only early November, but the big C is already looming! I have never understood why every 'thing', including PFT's, needs to be done before Christmas?? Statistically November is one of the busiest months for our lab as we try and accommodate the pre-Christmas rush. So for now, the pressure is on, Christmas waits for no one.

Generally favourable feedback was received from Laboratory Directors re the standardisation of predicted value sets and the change over date is set for 1/1/2010. Further discussion will take place at the November meeting on Monday the 23rd, when Elida Stankovic will present results from the 2009 Inter-laboratory QC trial. We will also take the opportunity to reflect on this year's activities and make forward plan for next year. Stuart Jack from CareFusion will kindly sponsor the meeting.

Remember, any questions, ideas, criticisms, please contact me,

Michelle

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Victoria / Tasmania

Christmas is fast approaching and the rush is on to get abstracts submitted for next year's ASM in Brisbane. Only a few more weeks to the abstract deadline, so good luck to all those who are submitting work.

Congratulations to Mahesh Dharmakumara and Vanessa Kelly for claiming second and third prize in their section at the joint TSANZ/ANZSRS meeting which was held on the 24th October. This is a fantastic effort and a great representation for the ANZSRS.

The next Victorian branch meeting is scheduled to be held on the 27th November at St Vincent's. This will be our final meeting for the year so I look forward to a really big turnout for the meeting.

Faizel

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Western Australia

The year is quickly coming to an end, too fast for many of us. We had no clinical presentation meeting this month as we were busily planning final details for the combined Society ASM and the Respiratory Symposium.

TSANZ/ANZSRS (WA) ASM

The ASM was held on the weekend of the 17th/18th of October at the Performing Arts Centre in Mandurah. This was an ideal location with great presentation facilities.

The theme this year was 'Clinical Trials'. The Saturday morning session started with a presentation of the varied research being carried out by WA's Young Investigators and concluded with the Clinical updates from the various hospitals.

The ANZSRS Invited Speaker, A/Prof Peter Catcheside from the Adelaide Institute of Sleep Health at the Repatriation Hospital gave an insight into the many statistical items to consider before starting a trial to ensure that meaningful results are obtained. The TSANZ-WA keynote speaker was Prof Craig Mellis from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney, who presented an interesting talk on '*Clinical Trials in Respiratory Diseases: Some Things Old and Some Things New*'. Saturday concluded with a poster session and the variety and standard of posters highlighted that WA has many talented researchers.

Other programme highlights included the ever popular Sunday debate. The topic this year being: "*The practice of Medicine is still more influenced by Trends and Fashion than Evidence.*" Dr Richard Tarala (RPH) for the affirmative, and Dr. James Williamson (SCGH), for the negative both presented valid points to the extent that an overall winner could not be decided.

It was great also to welcome back a familiar face in the 'Rising Stars of WA Respiratory Science' session. Dr. Kylie Hill (Curtin University, School of Physiotherapy) gave an insight into her postgraduate studies conducted in Canada.

The Saturday dinner speaker, Sue Morey presented a sojourn through 30 years of respiratory nursing with some interesting photographic displays of our consultants in the prime of their careers. The night was a great success with a showcase of dance moves by some talented respiratory professionals.

We extend our thanks to the ANZSRS sponsors Bird Healthcare and Medgraphics and particularly Tim Boulton who flew in from the Eastern States to attend our meeting and Peter Taylor who flew in from Hong Kong, arriving in Mandurah at 2am on Saturday morning but still managing to attend the ASM on the Saturday and actually keep his eyes open all day and even chat with our members.

We would also like to thank Michelle Peters and Karla Logie for their hard work and dedication as ANZSRS-WA representatives on the TSANZ/ANZSRS Associates Organising Committee for the ASM. Also our thanks go to Chris Nathan for her work on the TSANZ Executive.

ANZSRS-WA Respiratory Science Travel Award

Congratulations go to Karla Logie (Princess Margaret Hospital) for being the successful recipient of this year's ANZSRS-WA Respiratory Science Travel Award. Karla was presented with a certificate and trophy from Bird Healthcare, represented by Tim Boulton and will receive a \$750.00 prize which she plans to use towards travel to the 2010 ERS in Barcelona.



Michelle Peters, Sharon Lagan, Peter Catcheside, Sina Panic



Karla Logie

Janine Panizza Award (presented by Dr. Alan James)

Congratulations go to Sue Jenkins and Nola Cecins who were chosen as the recipients of the Janine Panizza Award in 2009. Both are well known in respiratory circles especially by the COPD patients who have benefited from their physiotherapy clinics. They have made many significant contributions to both the research and clinical sectors of respiratory science, particularly in COPD rehabilitation.

Congratulations to:

Dr. Jonathan Williamson (SCGH) on being awarded the GSK Young Investigator Award, Kelly Shepherd (SCGH) for the Poster prize and Clara Foo for the TSANZ – WA Travel Award.

ANZSRS-WA Respiratory Symposium: The Unconscious Lung

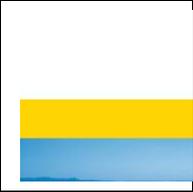
This meeting followed on from the weekend ASM and was held at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. The symposium brought together an excellent array of well known and qualified speakers covering effects of hypoxia on respiratory load sensations and implications for those with respiratory disease, effects of smoking and other environmental factors such as household chemicals on prenatal lung development; concluding with the effects of anaesthesia and sleep on the upper airway.

We wish to thank Stuart Jack and Matthew Sanger from Carefusion, who sponsored the delicious afternoon tea.

A/Prof Peter Catcheside was the 2009 recipient of the ANZSRS-WA Visiting Respiratory Scientist Grant which was generously sponsored by Pharmaxis,. This grant allowed him to present at both the Combined Society ASM and the Respiratory Symposium.

News around Town

Rob Tagliaferri is continuing his involvement with Harbour Theatre. His wife Jo will be playing the role of Mrs Biggles in Oliver Twist. Apparently this is the non-singing version... or so he says, but we reckon he'll be humming up in the lighting box. More!



Diary reminders

12 th November 2009	ANZSRS-WA Branch meeting	SCGH, WA
13 th November 2009	ANZSRS-WA Nominations due	WA
14 – 18 November 2009	APSR 14 th Congress	Seoul, Korea
20 th November 2009	Deadline ANZSRS Abstracts	Brisbane ASM
20 th November 2009	Deadline ANZSRS Travel Grant Appl	Brisbane ASM
26 th November 2009 7pm	End of year function ANZSRS-WA	North Perth, WA
19 – 24 March 2010	TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM	Brisbane, QLD
1 st – 6 th April 2011	ANZSRS/TSANZ ASM	Perth, WA

Sina and Sharon

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Governance Sub-committee Report

The Board and Governance committee have been in discussion regarding a number of proposals within the draft constitution and by-laws that the Board has rejected. This is okay - we didn't expect that there was going to be agreement on everything! Most issues have now been resolved and those couple that are still contentious will be referred to Board Matters for opinion and advice as part of the writing up of the final draft of the constitution.

Once complete, the final draft will be put on the Web-site for review by the membership prior to a vote to accept the proposed constitution. It is anticipated that there will be some explanatory notes to assist the membership in appreciating the changes that have been proposed.

Until next month,

Brigitte

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