

# Regional News – March, 2010.

## *Annual Scientific Meeting News*

The Australian & New Zealand  
Society of Respiratory Science Inc



**ANZSRS  
Annual Scientific Meeting**

Brisbane Convention  
& Exhibition Centre  
Brisbane, Queensland  
Australia

19 – 22 March 2010

Many thanks to all who contributed to the 2010 ASM, be it through presenting, chairing sessions, judging or participating as a delegate. Your involvement certainly helped make the Brisbane ASM a successful one.

There were many highlights: the quality of all presentations from the ANZSRS membership was exceptional. Our invited speaker, Dr Martin Miller was fantastic, both when presenting and also by his social interaction with the membership. The recognition of Sandy Anderson's lifetime work at the joint plenary, and Danny Brazzale stepping up to the plate in the Masterclass were other highlights. It was great to induct our newest Society Fellow, Graham Hall, plus our newest Life Member, Michael Brown at the Annual Dinner. The Oxygen Symposium was well worth the early Monday morning start. But for me, the biggest buzz from the entire meeting was the standing ovation afforded Allan Crockett – grandfather of this Society.

Many thanks to those who have already completed the ASM Evaluation. Any feedback, good or bad, helps with planning subsequent meetings. Already a couple of hot topics have been identified – Scheduling: namely clashes with TSANZ sessions (particularly the Physiology SIG) and the large gap in the program on Monday (when the TSANZ Wunderly Oration was scheduled), plus the Poster Boards used. Thanks to your feedback we are aware of these and other issues, and have passed this on to both the Board and the 2011 Local Organising Committee.

To the hard-workers on the 2010 LOC: Annette Dent, Margie McElrea, Debbie Zagami, Leanne Rodwell, Mark Davis & Mike Brown – take a bow. I would recommend every member consider jumping on board a LOC when it becomes your regions responsibility. It is a great learning experience on a number of levels, and reminds one of the many wonderful people that make up the ANZSRS.

Sharon – 2011 is all yours!

**Brenton**

Chair (and Eye Candy!), 2010 ASM Local Organising Committee.

Brenton Eckert  
Chair, LOC, Brisbane, 2010  
[brenton\\_eckert@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:brenton_eckert@health.qld.gov.au)

**Perth 2011**

Work is well under way with arrangements for the Perth ASM, April 1-6, 2011. A keynote speaker, John Moxham from the UK, has been locked in, welcome reception and dinner venues have been booked and confirmed and a programme structure developed. Once we have considered the feedback from the Brisbane meeting more details will be able to be finalized in terms of programme arrangements. It is already apparent that we need more time than is available to achieve what we would like to achieve!

*pp* Sharon Lagan  
Chair, LOC, Perth, 2011  
[Sharon.lagan@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:Sharon.lagan@health.wa.gov.au)

**New South Wales / ACT**

Daylight saving is officially over ☺ . Winter is fast approaching, however there is no sign of hibernation from the NSW/ACT Branch of the ANZSRS!!

After a fantastic ASM in Brisbane we are ready for a productive branch meeting to be held Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> of April at Westmead hospital. We will be discussing the model/feasibility of standardising predicted values across NSW/ACT as our friends in SA have successfully achieved. More to come via email to members closer to the day.

Congratulations to Peter Rogers for joining the Board of the ANZSRS, may the great works that come out of Concord Hospital continue!

Case of the month is proudly brought to you by Derek Figurski at the Canberra Hospital, get your thinking caps on guys.....interesting cases to keep the grey matter buzzing.

This month we thought it optimal to share with you a brief history of the lab at RPA here in Sydney. Sandra Anderson's hard work throughout the years has been no less than stellar. There are a lot of people who have passed the doors of our laboratory, to keep it brief I have cut down the comprehensive history to 2 pages, focussing on current staff members.

It is great to have Sandy coming in 1 day per week until the end of 2010, hopefully she'll be around for a lot longer to come!

Until Next time,

Phillip

### **The Respiratory Investigation Unit – Royal Prince Alfred Hospital – A Brief History**

The Respiratory Investigation Unit, previously known as the Respiratory Laboratory on Level 9 Page Chest Pavilion, was started in 1965. It arose from the recognition by Dr Maurice Joseph and other members of the department that a hospital, rather than a university, based laboratory was needed. While Dr Ann Woolcock had created a university outpost by doing lung volumes and spirometry on Page 10 for her research patients, it was not a routine clinical service at that time. The activities at that time were confined to the measurement of spirometry before and after bronchodilator for patients attending the outpatient clinics. About 40 patients per week had their spirometry measured. The laboratory also provided a 9am-5pm arterial blood gas analysis service. About 20 bloods per day were analysed. In June 1966 the laboratory welcomed Sandra Anderson. She had spent 1963-1965 training with Dr Julius Comroe, the author of *The Lung*, and Dr Jay Nadel at the Cardiovascular Research Institute (CVRI) of the University of California, San Francisco.

By October 1966, the laboratory was offering a service for the measurement of transfer factor for Carbon Monoxide and Helium Dilution Lung volumes. Sandra Anderson having observed her first case of exercise-induced asthma in the laboratory left for India at the end of 1968. Sandra Anderson returned in 1973 after obtaining her PhD in exercise in children at the Institute of Diseases of the Chest in London.

Exercise testing for identification of asthma was set up and a treadmill was purchased. This started the research programme instigated by the laboratory staff in earnest.

The presence of a treadmill and a bicycle ergometer in the laboratory afforded the opportunity to expand exercise testing to cardiac patients. In 1975 the unit performed 1100 tests for coronary artery disease. This workload ultimately led to Cardiology setting up its own system in 1976.

In 1976 Lily Daviskas joined the staff as a scientific officer in training and went on to complete her BSc in 1978. She became very active in research activities in the

laboratory, particularly in the area of heat and water loss. Clare Perry, BSc, joined us in 1977.

Challenge tests to identify bronchial hyperresponsiveness were expanded and methacholine inhalation was in use by 1979. The method used was developed by Dr Kwok Yan, one of the registrars of the time.

In 1981 research began on the development of osmotic challenge for assessing bronchial responsiveness. In 1986 bronchial challenge with 4.5% sodium chloride was available in the routine laboratory.

From 1991 Lily Daviskas left the laboratory staff to carry out her PhD part-time. She focussed on developing a technique for measuring mucociliary clearance and was awarded her PhD in 1996. Later she investigated the effect of mannitol in patients with excessive secretions (bronchiectasis) and found it to have a profound effect on clearance, possibly related to alterations in the properties of the mucus.

In 1994 Sandra Anderson focussed her research efforts on dry powders for measuring bronchial hyperresponsiveness and stimulating mucociliary clearance. This work was done in conjunction with the Department of Pharmacy of the University of Sydney, with Dr Hak Kim Chan, who produced the powders.

At the end of 1994 John Brannan joined the group and spent the next few years concentrating his efforts on characterising the mannitol test so that it could be used as a diagnostic test of bronchial hyperresponsiveness. John Brannan was awarded his PhD in 2001. For the efforts of her research team of Drs Brannan and Daviskas, Dr Anderson was awarded the RPA Foundation Research Medal in 2001.

In 1999 Peter Briffa, BAppSc, joined the laboratory. Peter started his professional life as a physiological ecologist, specializing in avian energetics and co-evolution between Australian plants and pollinators. His career in respiratory medicine began in 1986 at Bill Finucane's pulmonary physiology laboratory in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth. In 1988 he moved to Sydney, joining Ludwig Engel's team at Westmead Hospital for an 11 year stint. After moving to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1999, Peter achieved his credential as Certified Respiratory Function Scientist in 2000.

In June 2001 the laboratory relocated to Level 11 in the main building at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and for the first time in many years all sections of the department were gathered together on the same floor. Work on preparing the laboratory for accreditation began in earnest and by March 2004 the Respiratory Function Laboratory had been accredited as a Category 4 Respiratory Function Assessment Service by the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ). On-line ordering of respiratory function tests was introduced for hospital inpatients on 28 June 2004.

Many years of research effort were rewarded on 31 July 2006 when mannitol challenge testing was introduced into the laboratory, replacing the 4.5% hypertonic saline challenge test as the hyperosmotic challenge of choice.

The blood gas service replaced its old analyser, a Radiometer ABL520, with a new Radiometer ABL820 on 4 December 2007.

Peter Briffa completed his Masters in Health Science from Charles Sturt University in January 2008. Clair Lake, BSc, commenced as a Hospital Scientist on 30 June 2008.

Phillip Munoz began work as Senior Hospital Scientist in February 2009, after 4.5 years spent in Barcelona Spain researching gas exchange in COPD/Asthma/PH under the supervision of Professors Roberto Rodriguez-Roisin and Josep Roca. Then, in March 2009, Dr Sandra Anderson retired from her full-time position. A new body plethysmograph was purchased and brought into service in October, replacing the old Morgan helium dilution system for measuring lung volumes.

As of 2010, the laboratory has taken on the challenge of integrating its MedGraphics testing stations with the hospital's electronic medical record system via an HL7 interface.

### **Respiratory Investigation Unit – RPA – 2010**

L-R: John Camps, Peter Briffa, Eric Macedo (Visiting Brazillian Pneumologist), Philip Munoz, John Brannan. Lilly Daviskas, Sandra Anderson, Erica Ferraz (Visiting Post Doc fellow from Brazil), Clare Perry. Absent: Clair Lake.



### ***Catherine***

ably assisted by **Phillip Munoz**

Catherine Walsh  
[catherinew@woolcock.org.au](mailto:catherinew@woolcock.org.au)  
Phillip Munoz  
[Phillip.Munoz@sswahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Phillip.Munoz@sswahs.nsw.gov.au)

### ***New Zealand***

Nothing received

### ***Chris***

Christopher O'Dea  
[christopher.odea@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:christopher.odea@cdhb.govt.nz)

### ***Queensland***

#### *Congratulations*

I trust all members have recovered from a busy and festive ASM in Brisbane. It was a great program and I am sure you all gained a lot out of it. Congratulations to all

Queensland members who presented their research: Jenni Savage (Wesley), Linda Ruedinger (PAH), Annette Dent (TPCH), Debbie Zagami (GCH) and yours truly (PAH). A pat on the back for all! A special mention goes to Annette who won the ANZSRS Research Grant. Well done Annette, great work! We look forward to seeing the fruits of your labour!

Also a big congratulations to Ryan Harle (Logan), Sharna Wilkinson (currently PAH) and Jessica Wilson (TPCH) for gaining their CRFS! Top work guys! A reminder to all yet to gain the credential, the next exam is scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> October. For those sitting the exam on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April, good luck!

More congratulations to my invaluable assistant Debbie Z, who has been appointed to the ANZSRS Board. We have no doubt you'll do a great job!

As you would all know, and hopefully remember (*after a few too many drinks*), Mike Brown (RBWH) was awarded Life Membership to the ANZSRS at the conference dinner on Saturday night. It was great to see your family and attending ANZSRS members so happy for you! Well deserved Mike! It's an honour which you truly deserve for your enormous contribution to the society over many, many, many.....many years!

#### April Regional Meeting

Our upcoming meeting is scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> April at Brisbane Private Hospital. Queensland member Leanne Rodwell (RCH) will be presenting her work on Hypoxia Altitude Simulation Testing. Graham Wallace from Air Liquide will present "Valve Conversion Program implications for Medical Oxygen Users". Finally, I will be presenting a photo wrap-up of the ASM. Many of you may have missed some well known faces who "attended" our annual meeting so be sure to look closely and see who was there!

#### Lab Accreditation

Best wishes go to Mike Brown and his team at the Royal Brisbane. Their lab accreditation is looming, so good luck! Debbie Z and her Gold Coast Hospital lab are expecting a site visit on the day of our April meeting, so we hope to hear all about that on the night!

#### Free ERS Membership

If you are 35 years and under, the European Respiratory Society is offering Silver membership.....free of charge! For more information, head to [www.ersnet.org](http://www.ersnet.org) and

take advantage! Their online membership is currently being updated so you can apply after 15<sup>th</sup> April.

### Lab Profile

No lab profile for this month as many labs are getting back on their feet (or should I say Scientists?) after the ASM. We hope to be on track in May when everything has calmed down a little.

### Future Bi-Monthly Meetings

In regards to further Queensland meetings, we are aiming to implement a presenting roster for our bi-monthly get-togethers. The idea is to assign a meeting to each lab with the hope of continuing to broaden our scope of topics and potential presenters (members/non-members). Two speaking spots will be allocated; 25-30 minutes and 10-15 minutes. It will be the responsibility of the lab scheduled for the pending meeting to organise 2 guest speakers.

A guest speaker may be from your hospital, or lab, or be sourced externally. For the 30 minute presentation, a doctor, registrar, respiratory nurse, PhD student or lab staff can present a topic that may benefit or be of interest our members. The purpose of the 10-15 minute presentation is to allow current members to present any issue, problem, solution or idea they have come across whilst working in their lab. The aim is to allow informal discussion about a particular topic in a relaxed environment and to create further interaction between members at our meetings.

### Best Wishes

Our very best wishes go out to Sharna Wilkinson (Brisbane Locum Respiratory Scientist extraordinaire) and her fiancé Jason for a very happy wedding day on 22<sup>nd</sup> May (Debbie Z is maid of honour). We are all looking forward to the photos! I will try and get my hands on them to post on the next branch news.

### Thank You

Finally, I would like to publicly thank Andrew Coates for his hard work as the Queensland Regional Representative over the past couple of years. All members appreciate the great job you've done. The baton has been firmly placed in my hand and I hope to do as good a job as you!

Hope to see you all soon!

**Jarrold**  
and his off-sider **Debbie Z**

## ***South Australia***

First up this month a BIG thankyou to my predecessor Michelle for all her hard work over the past few years. You always went above and beyond the call of duty, Michelle, and have left very big shoes for me to attempt to fill.

The SA branch did not have a meeting in March, but everyone kept very busy with the usual pre-winter rush on PFT's. A small contingent of members did head north to the ASM to help celebrate 30 years since our very own Alan Crockett dreamed up the society. As always the AGM was a time to catch up with old friends, make new ones and have a play on all the fun new toys the exhibitors brought to show us. Most importantly the ASM was a opportunity to promote the activities of the members over the last year, with our SA members presenting posters, workshops and chairing sessions.

A big congratulations goes to Ann Reynolds from the Hanson Institute who won best Oral at the TSANZ conference for her presentation "Amelioration of mitocrotaline induced pulmonary arterial hypertension by targeted upregulation of bone morphogenic protein receptor type-2 in the pulmonary endothelium", a very imposing title indeed. Congrats Ann.

The next SA branch meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup> April at the Chest Clinic and all are welcome. The meeting will be sponsored by Astra Zeneca and a big thankyou goes out to Brett.

Good luck to all those sitting the CRFS exam this month.

## **Mel**

Melanie Toomey  
[Melanie.toomey@health.sa.gov.au](mailto:Melanie.toomey@health.sa.gov.au)

## ***Victoria / Tasmania***

The 2010 annual scientific meeting has just been completed in sunny Brisbane. A great conference enjoyed by all and a big congratulations should go to Brenton Eckert and the other members of the local organising committee on a job well done.

The quantity and quality of the presentations at this year's meeting was again fantastic. Victorians contributed 6 oral presentations and 3 posters, all of an excellent standard. In particular, we celebrate the achievements of Mahesh Dharmakumara, for winning the Young Investigator's Award (ANZSRS), and Vanessa Kelly for winning both the Excellence in Respiratory Measurement Award (ANZSRS) and the John Read Award for Physiological Research (TSANZ). We now look forward to Perth in 2010.

Next on the agenda for Victoria is our branch meeting which is scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> of June. The speaker and venue for this meeting are still to be finalised so keep an eye out for the invitation in the coming weeks.

Regards

**Matthew**

Matthew Ellis  
[m.ellis@alfred.org.au](mailto:m.ellis@alfred.org.au)

### **Western Australia**

Phew, we made it. Hello again from the Perth brats.

We arrived back to a very quiet Perth following the big hail storm, with our houses flooded, our cars with bad cases of cellulite, and the Royal Perth Respiratory Dept leaking from the seams. We then enjoyed several days off, while the damp and stinky carpet was replaced! Of course we could never expect our patients to suffer through these conditions!

A big thankyou to Brenton and the Brisbane LOC for organising such a fantastic meeting. They have set the bar very high, so we will have to start practicing our jumping now, so that the Perth meeting is even better!

We are looking forward to our next branch meeting (Wed 14<sup>th</sup> April), we are all making the long trek out to Fremantle hospital, for a tour of their hyperbaric chamber, followed by pizza (and detailed society business discussions) at the pub. Thanks to Peter Taylor and the Medgraphics team for their generous sponsorship.

There are a few things on the calendar for the WA branch this year, so stay tuned and stay dry for more updates.

Well, we are off to bask in the lovely autumn sunshine.

See you next time,  
E & E  
[anzsrswa@yahoo.com.au](mailto:anzsrswa@yahoo.com.au)

Elise Chu, BSc, CRFS  
Ably assisted by Elizabeth Salamon, BSc, CRFS  
[anzsrswa@yahoo.com.au](mailto:anzsrswa@yahoo.com.au)

# ANZSRS important dates 2010

<b>April</b>	14	WA branch meeting (Fremantle Hospital)
	20	SA branch meeting (Chest Clinic)
	21	QLD branch meeting
	23	CRFS exam
	29	NSW/ACT branch meeting (Westmead Hosp.)
	30	Applications for UWA Paed resp course due
<b>May</b>	14 - 19	ATS meeting - New Orleans
<b>June</b>	8	VIC/TAS branch meeting
	10	WA branch meeting (Royal Perth Hospital)
	16	QLD branch meeting
	22	SA branch meeting
	30	NSW/ACT branch meeting (Woolcock Institute)
<b>July</b>	21	NSW/ACT branch Pharmaxis education session (Sydney)
<b>August</b>	17	SA branch meeting
	18	QLD branch meeting
	19-20	NZ branch ANZSRS/TSANZ meeting (Queenstown)
<b>August contd.</b>	24	NSW/ACT branch meeting (Sydney Children's Hosp.)
	25	WA branch meeting
<b>September</b>	18 - 22	ERS meeting - Barcelona

Don't forget to  
pay your ANZSRS  
membership fees  
for 2010



	24	Application for CRFS exam due
<b>October</b>	12	SA branch meeting
	14	World Spirometry Day
	16-17	WA branch combined TSANZ meeting (Bunbury)
	18	WA branch Respiratory Symposium (Perth CCRF)
	20	QLD branch meeting
	21-23	ASTA meeting (Christchurch)
	27	NSW/ACT branch meeting (Gosford Hosp.)
	29	CRFS exam
<b>November</b>	22 - 25	APSR meeting - Manila
	30	SA branch meeting
<b>December</b>	10	NSW branch Christmas Dinner

