

Regional News – October, 2010.

Annual Scientific Meeting News

The call for Abstracts has gone out. Note that closing date is 19 November so time to get that scientific research together and get those abstracts in (online submission).

Those wishing to apply for a Travel Grant to assist them in reaching the meeting and sharing their scientific knowledge must do so by November 19th. Registration brochure will also be available online in the near future. For updated info regarding the Perth 2011 ASM please visit the ANZSRS website:

www.anzsrs.org.au

We look forward to welcoming you to Perth in 2011.

Sina Panic (A/LOC Chair)

For Sharon Lagan (LOC Chair)

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New South Wales / ACT

NSW/ACT Branch News – October 2010

A quiet month in NSW/ACT as the weather warms up, and daylight savings begins!

DIARY NOTES:

- ♦ **TSANZ / RNIG / ANZSRS Combined Societies Science Meeting**
Friday 15th October, 2010
Venue: Sydney Olympic Park

- ♦ **October Branch Meeting: 5.30pm Wednesday 27th October, 2010**

Venue: [Gosford Hospital](#)

This meeting will be kindly sponsored by Tim Boulton from *Bird Healthcare*.

Our series of laboratory histories from NSW/ACT continues this month:

Respiratory Function Unit at Concord Repatriation General Hospital

The laboratory first opened in August 1965. The Scientific Officer was Allan Crockett and the Physician responsible was the Dr Brian Hartnett. As the facility was within the then Repatriation Department, Alister Campbell from Melbourne who was the Chief Respiratory Consultant visited each 6 months. Some of the initial equipment included two Half Haldanes which measured re-breathing PeCO_2 , Goddard Stead Wells Spirometers, a helium Katharometer and, soon after, a Micro Astrup Blood Gas Apparatus which was the second in the country.

Many of the then Advanced Trainees trained or spent time in the laboratory. They include senior clinicians such as Paul Despas, David Lindsay and the late Professor Ann J Woolcock. In this exciting time of new equipment and greatly advancing understanding of Respiratory Physiology, there was an active collaboration with the late Professor John Read's Department at the University of Sydney. The next addition to the lab was a Tissot Spirometer (240 litre) and a Warren E Collins Single breath DLCO (bag in box system) for He lung volumes and measurement of diffusing capacity. Throughout that time the laboratory provided round the clock blood gas cover for the whole hospital. Allan Crockett moved to Adelaide at the beginning of 1974 and shortly after Tony Breslin started a 25+ year term as Head of the Unit.

In the 1970's key equipment included the Collins, a volume based box and single breath N_2 elimination was provided. With Professor Breslin's interest in allergy, the laboratory started to measure immediate skin prick responses, allergic precipitins and a little later serum theophylline levels. The latter were provided until the mid-1990's when improvements in Pathology were such that they were more efficiently provided in the general pathology area. The first plethysmography body box was purchased in 1978 and was run off a HP desktop computer until 1986 when the first PC was introduced to the laboratory. At this time the Respiratory Function Unit moved into a new purpose built facility adjacent to the respiratory ward 8. The laboratory featured a fully isolated, conditioned and regulated voltage power supply to allow for the rapidly increasing levels of electronic computational equipment. The whole unit was built on a vibration free floor. These features were specifically designed to improve measurement conditions for the new generation of 'pressure box' style plethysmographs. By way of historical interest and comparison, the IBM PC running at 8MHz and having a 40MB hard disc, a monochrome CRT screen and an operating system called DOS cost \$14,000. The HP desktop was pensioned off and the body box became the workhorse of the laboratory.

In 1988, a Jaeger gas dilution system replaced the Collins and was the first integrated windows-based system. Technology did eliminate some of the steps but did not always replicate the reliability of the previous systems. By this time the Scientific Workforce had increased to 3 FTE and the amount of ambulatory clinic activity was increasing markedly. Throughout the mid 1980's and until 1993, Professor Norbert Berend was the key to early research projects and post graduate training emanating from the unit.

In 1983 Dr Jonathan Rutland received a substantial grant to establish a facility to diagnose ciliary function disorders. This grant enabled the Cilia Function Laboratory to be set up with the initial purchase of a light microscope and a photometer. The hospital biomedical engineer Stan Scahill designed and built a Cilia Beat Frequency measuring system. The unit was the first in the southern hemisphere and remains one of the major sites worldwide for the diagnosis of Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia(PCD).

The Exercise Laboratory has undergone three generations of equipment. There was firstly, a facility developed system and then a MedGraphics CPX which was purchased from an industry grant to the Institute of Sports Medicine (ISM) in the mid 1990's. The ISM was the site of exercising testing for many years until the RFU laboratory purchased the current SensorMedics Vmax 229 combination with the new V6200 Autobox in 2002.

With the new millennium came planning to move to a new facility as part of the State government Resource Transition Project (RTP) with a Concord RGH budget of \$93million. The RFU then relocated to the current Level 7 West of the Multi Building (main block). This included an increased outpatient (Ambulatory Care) facility.

The unit has a history of retaining staff, and collective service of the current 4.6FTE scientific staff in the RFU is over 40 years. Two of the Scientific Officers have successfully completed MSc. The present Laboratory manager, Peter Rogers, took over from Stephen Lambert in 1997 and the Head of Department, Dr Matthew Peters, from A/Prof ABX Breslin in 2003.



The current hospital staff are Peter Rogers, Gavina Cossa, Leigh Seccombe, Barbara Lee, Lachlan Buddle and Barbara Karet (unfortunately not all were available for the photo).

Until next time,

Catherine

Catherine (Walsh) Farrow
ably assisted by Phillip Munoz

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New Zealand

As mentioned in last branch news from New Zealand, Chris has moved back to Australia and left me to carry on his good work. Big thanks to Chris for his several years of hard work and trademark enthusiasm. His last big hit out for the New Zealand branch was the very successful Queenstown meeting, which had a great line up of speakers and dinners, with associated glassware disasters and late night hiking.

The shaky isles saw Chris off with a massive 7.1 Richter scale earthquake to carry him back across to Perth. As you may have seen in the letters page, Maureen from the Christchurch lab reports all the staff there are well and their properties have not had any serious damage. Thankfully no spirometers were hurt in the fracas! From what I have heard from friends living there, most of the city is back to normal although many buildings have had to be pulled down, and some areas of land suffered liquefaction which affected roading, sewerage and water supplies. Thousands of aftershocks have been felt in the weeks following the big one on the fourth of September, eleven of those have been greater than 5.0 on the Richter scale.

In Wellington we have been enjoying a week of great spring weather – many may have been using the extra hours of sunlight to top up emergency supplies!

Cheers
Hamish

Hamish Collie
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QUEENSLAND

Halloween – oooooooh!

October Meeting

A reminder that our next meeting is Wednesday 20th October 2010, same time and place. RBWH are providing our main speaker, Lucy Keeling (TSGQ) and Kaylee Lamb (Greenslopes) are presenting their research and Ryan Harle (Logan) is presenting a very interesting case. I would like to thank Pharmaxis and GSK for their sponsorship of this meeting. See you all there!

End Of Year Do!

As mentioned at the last meeting and in the September regional news, we are planning a trivia night for our end of year send off! Thank you to the members who have already let me know their preferences. If ALL members could get back to me (via email) prior to/or at our October meeting with the answers to the following questions, that would make the organisational process that much easier –

Will you be attending?

- Yes or No

If Yes, which hospital suits you better?

- PAH or Brisbane Private

Which date?

- Wed 17/11/2010, Fri 19/11/2010
- Wed 24/11/2010, Fri 26/11/2010
- Wed 01/12/2010, Fri 03/12/2010
- Wed 08/12/2010, Fri 10/12/2010
- Wed 15/12/2010, Fri 17/12/2010

If you intend being at our end of year hoedown, the last day to register your interest will be 29th October 2010.

CRFS Exam

Good luck to those members sitting the CRFS Exam on Friday 29th October. I am sure all your hard work will pay-off come exam time!

TSQ Physiology Day and Annual Scientific Meeting 2010

Remember to keep an eye on The Thoracic Society of Queensland (TSQ) website regarding their Physiology Day and ASM. I have just checked the website and it has yet to be updated with topics and guest speakers. If anyone notices it is updated before I do, let me know so I can send out a member email. The dates are Friday 12th November (Physiology Day) and Saturday 13th November, 2010.

(www.tsq.asn.au/annual-scientific-meeting and www.tsq.asn.au/physiology-day)

Queensland Health Pay Dispute

On Wednesday 29th September, Queensland Health HPs (Health Practitioners) protested outside Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) and Logan Hospital over an ongoing pay dispute. If you would like more information, visit www.hpstrongertogether.com.au. Print and television media covered the Black Wednesday rally (*everyone was encouraged to wear black*) and as a result, it made the evening news and also made the second page of the Courier Mail the following day. Below is the article from the Courier Mail. I draw your attention to the passionate PAH respiratory scientists fighting for the cause. If you can't make them out, the one holding "Use Your Brain – Support Neuroscientists" is Brenton Eckert (PAH). The one holding "Don't Blow It – Support Respiratory Scientists" is Linda Ruedinger (PAH). A stop work meeting is scheduled for Thursday 7th October with HPs rallying on the steps of Parliament House.

Hospital patients feel brunt of pay dispute

John McCarthy

PUBLIC hospital patients could have their appointments cancelled from tomorrow as health professionals walk off the job at sites around the state over a pay dispute.

Rockhampton patients will be the first to be affected with a one-hour stoppage scheduled for tomorrow while Cairns and far north hospitals will stop for an hour on Tuesday unless talks today avert the action.

Brisbane workers voted yesterday on elevating industrial action and a result will be known tomorrow, but it was expected stoppages would take place next week after rallies at the Princess Alexandra and Logan hospitals.

The Queensland Public Sector Union said the Government was unfairly targeting its own workers to cut costs to make up for the nurses' payroll debacle.

About 6000 health professionals – including radiologists and physiotherapists – are campaigning for an improved pay offer from the State Government, which has so far refused to budge from its offer.



POINT TO PROVE: Health professionals protest yesterday over a dispute with the State Government over wages.

Scientist Profile

Stay-tuned for the first instalment of “Scientist Profile” which is scheduled for the November newsletter. In light of the drawn AFL Grand Final, I have given everyone a little more time before we begin. Giving Collingwood a second chance when clearly extra-time would have seen St Kilda come out victorious has shaken us up. Having to put up with Collingwood supporters for the next year celebrating their GF win (*excuse me, I think I just threw up in my mouth – Collingwood and GF win in the same sentence makes me ill!*) will take its toll on everyone, therefore giving ourselves an extra month until Scientist Profile gets up and running is warranted.

Footy Tipping

Brenton Eckert (PAH) has forced me to mention his victory in the inaugural Ascencia AFL Footy Tipping Competition. He won, he's received his prize, Collingwood won the Grand Final...all things no-one really cares about. Bring on next year!

Until next month! Don't forget World Spirometry Day on the 14th October! Also, don't forget Apple Day on the 21st October. No, you don't have to buy your iPhone a present, just eat an apple!

Jarrood

and his off-sider Debbie Z

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South Australia

SA ANZSRS branch report October 2010.

The SA branch has this month been actively involved in organising a series of physiology lectures presented by Dr Hugh Greville. These lectures were aimed at early career respiratory scientists in SA, however the response has been outstanding with a total of 22 people attending the first lecture. A huge thanks to Tim from BirdHealthcare for Sponsoring the meeting and bringing along desert.

ANZSRS South Australian Branch



**PHYSIOLOGY OF
RESPIRATION
LECTURE SERIES**

Dr Hugh Greville on the Physiology of the
respiratory system, lung function and everything in-between.

Where: Chest Clinic Conference Room 275 NorthTee ADELAIDE
Access and parking via Vaughan Place off Frome Road

When: 6pm

Date: LECTURE 2—19th October 2010 (RSVP: 14th October)

RSVP for catering to Mel @ Melanie.Toomey@health.sa.gov.au or 0401538592

In addition to the attendance by junior and senior respiratory scientists, a strong attendance was seen from TSANZ members including research and sleep scientists, thoracic nurses at all levels from on the ward up to CPC's, Advanced trainees from all of the major SA hospitals and even a Respiratory consultant.

While we all claim to understand respiratory physiology in our daily work, no-one who has read West cover to cover or sat the CRFS will claim that respiratory physiology is a simple topic, and the depth in which the topic was covered in this first lecture has sent many attendees back to the textbooks to revise before the next lecture in the series in two weeks.

Dr Greville's lecture was informative and entertaining using birthday balloons, slinkies and the adrenalin rush associated with opening a good bottle of red to explain the complex topics of Compliance, elastance, starling forces, gravity's effect on lung physiology, VQ and the dynamic RV seen in severely obstructed patients to whom exhaling to true RV is impossible.

The next lecture in the series will be on Tuesday 19th October 2010 in the Chest Clinic at the RAH at 6pm. Hope to see you all there.

Mel

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Victoria / Tasmania

Matthew

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Western Australia

Hello everyone,

We are enjoying the most beautiful weather here in sunny WA. Spring has certainly sprung and we're gearing up for the yearly WA ANZSRS/TSANZ meeting. The countdown is on, to what looks to be a fun and informative weekend being held at the Bunbury Sanctuary Golf Resort the 16th and 17th October. This will be followed by the ever popular Annual Respiratory Symposium on the 18th October. For those of you who wish to dash across the Nullarbor for these events you would be a most welcome addition to the WA respiratory family.

Now a special mention to two new WA members: Jeannette Langley, and all the way from NZ, Chris O'Dea. They are both working in the Respiratory Laboratory at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. Welcome to the branch guys!

This year's Festive Dining extravaganza (ie Christmas dinner) will be held on Friday the 10th December at The Cinnamon Club in Leederville at 7pm.

E & E

Elise Chu and Elizabeth Salamon
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ANZSRS important dates 2010

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

October	12	SA branch meeting
	14	World Spirometry Day - Test Your Lungs 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
	29	TSANZ Abstracts due for Perth ASM 2011
	November	3
12		TSQ Physiology Day (Prince Charles Hospital, Chermside)
19		TSQ ASM (Prince Charles Hospital, Chermside QLD)
17		World COPD Day
19		ANZSRS Abstracts due for Perth ASM 2011
22 - 25		APSR meeting - Manila
	30	SA branch meeting
December	6 - 9	AARC meeting - Las Vegas
	10	NSW branch Christmas dinner
January	1	New Year's Day
February	18	Early Bird Rego for Perth 2011 due

Meetings on in 2011

ANZSRS: Perth: April 1 -6
 ATS: Denver: May 13-18
 ERS: Amsterdam: Sept 24-28
 APSR: Shanghai: Nov 3-6
 AARC: Tampa: Nov 5-8

