

Regional News – April, 2011.

Annual Scientific Meeting News

You came, We entertained and Perth conquered!

New South Wales / ACT

Nothing received.

Phillip

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(Acting NSW/ACT rep)

New Zealand

Twelve New Zealand branch members took the seven hour flight to attend the recent Perth ASM, with a fantastic fifty percent of NZ attendees having a direct input in the programme by presenting or chairing sessions! Everyone I spoke to was very impressed with the city of Perth, its food, people and the temperature!

Firstly, congratulations to David Robiony-Rogers from Wellington Regional Hospital, who is the new ANZSRS President. As we saw in his section of the laboratory workshop, he has great business, finance and negotiation skills, so it's great to keep him on the board. Thanks to Mike Brown, the outgoing President, for all his hard work, and especially for coming all the way to attend the NZ branch meeting last year.

The keynote speaker, Professor John Moxham from the UK, was a humorous chap – especially during question time for the other presenters! He discussed and compared the development of tests of respiratory muscle tests in his presentations.

Following on from the plenary session, three NZ members presented in the young investigator section. Elisha White presented on the design of a biphasic cycle ergometer exercise protocol which when compared to a standardised exponential exercise protocol, elicited a higher peak V_{O2} in several participants and was preferred by patients over the latter protocol. Andrew O'Reilly-Nugent discussed the value of a TLCO simulator for quality assurance. This detected a difference in the test gas mixture that could not have been determined with traditional quality assurance techniques, and otherwise had good agreement with biological control monitoring. Finally, Shewa Basharati investigated the accuracy of a non-invasive haemoglobin and oxygen saturation devices in comparison to analysis of arterial blood. The non-invasive Hb measurement was accurate within physiologic normal range, but was not accurate out of this range. Unfortunately, the device used in research was recalled several months later by the manufacturer. This does show however that a short period of 'in-house' comparison of new equipment with existing measures could be helpful to ensure accuracy.

Maureen Swanney showed us how it's done in the afternoon, with her award winning presentation regarding the training and monitoring of valid spirometry in the community. This is part of the Canterbury Initiative which aims to move some services from secondary or tertiary providers to primary care, to improve access and provide timely clinical care. It's great that Maureen and her team insisted on high quality testing to maintain the validity of the test, and I think most delegates were very impressed with the number of hours required to achieve this.

Finally, the Laboratory Management workshop covered the areas of money, people and leadership. Or, as Kevin Gain described them: the easy stuff, the hard stuff and the fluffy stuff! This is topical because many lab managers are experienced/old scientists (!) rather than trained managers. While I'm not a lab manager, it's still useful to have a basic understanding of how the place you work in is actually run. I've never been exposed to the content covered, so it was great to actually see a balance sheet and hear how a successful business case is put together.

For those who missed out on the Perth ASM, why not think about attending the NZ Branch ASM? Its held on 25th and 26th of August in beautiful Queenstown, and you can combine it into a long weekend of skiing and jet boating!

Cheers

Hamish

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QUEENSLAND

The Perth ASM 2011 from a Queenslanders perspective (well, only just one)....

First and foremost, I would like to thank Sharon Lagan and her LOC for, what I thought, was a great Annual Scientific Meeting. For those who did not attend, Perth is a beautiful city, the weather was perfect and the scientific content was outstanding.

Friday night's welcome reception at Bells Café was a great start to the weekend. It was good to see some old faces (*not in the physical sense*) and to meet some new ones. A pleasant social drink was had by all.

Now for the scientific stuff!

Saturday morning saw Professor John Moxham and A/Prof Phillipa Lamont present respiratory muscle weakness and their effect on lung function. The two presentations were a great start to a meeting themed "Breathlessness and Respiratory Muscle Function".

The Young Investigators should be credited for taking the nervous step of presenting in front of some daunting senior (and not so senior) members of our friendly society. Although none of the presenters took the award this year, they should be proud of their efforts, come back next year and possibly take out the prize. Following the young investigators was a brief talk by A/Prof Peter Franklin who showed us we all

have the ability to perform research. If you have little more than half a brain, and want to wear shorts to work, then research may be your calling!

The Saturday afternoon poster session showcased research from 14 ANZSRS members. A wide-range of topics was presented. As in the past, the session was fairly informal and from what I heard, plenty of scientific talk was had. Congratulations to all that presented and to those who managed to get their poster to fit in the overhead locker on their flight!

Oral presentations over the weekend covered many different topics including respiratory muscle strength (very appropriate) to EVH to spirometry performed in the community. All sparked great interest with delegates interacting with many questions. One Professor Moxham, obviously a leader in his field, may wish to consider a career in light humour with many of his questions/comments provoking scientific thought as well as many belly laughs! Congratulations to all that presented!

Saturday night's conference dinner was fantastic. For those who have never been to King's Park in Perth, next time you head west, go there! Placed upon a hill, skyline views await along with an abnormal number of stretch limos and hummers! Dinner was beautiful, successful CRFS candidates received their coveted certificates and A/Prof Bruce Thompson became a fellow of the ANZSRS. Congratulations to all! What happened after that is anyone's guess!

The (early) morning after the night before saw a joint TSANZ/ANZSRS session on breathlessness. In depth, comprehensive and very informative would aptly describe the session which covered, among other things, the role of CPET and ageing in breathlessness.

The session on pulmonary function interpretation was very popular, evident by the number of delegates who attended. It had great content and great speakers. What many, I suspect, were looking forward to was the case studies to be interpreted toward the end of the session. Unfortunately, they were missed due to the appearance of a flogged dead horse named 'DLCO' and its foal, 'kCO'. Leaving the case studies out gave me the same unfortunate feeling as when Sally left Home and Away. ☹

'To glow or blow! That is the question!' Three cheers for Dr Leanne Rodwell (Blow) and her beautifully constructed dialogue on whether imaging is an alternative to pulmonary function tests. An honourable mention must go to Dr David Parsons (Glow) for taking the time (*all 2 seconds of it*) to construct his Acme Home Spirometer! A/Prof Greg King (Blow) looked *really* impressed at his efforts. A/Prof Phil Bardin (Glow) was left wishing he was on the opposing team! It was a fantastic debate, with the Glow team facing an Everest of a task preaching to a room full of scientists who would, if the Glow team had their way, lose their jobs to imaging. Want to know who won? Do I need to tell you? A/Prof Bruce Thompson (FANZSRS) was masterful in his moderating. Great session! Long live the debate!

Sunday afternoon drinks overlooking the Swan River were a nice end to a busy few days. Prize winners were able to celebrate their achievements with a drink, and those who didn't win had a drink anyway!

Monday morning saw a symposium on Cystic Fibrosis. Brigitte Borg commenced with a wonderful introduction in disease pathophysiology. Following suit was A/Prof Graham Hall and his physiology talk, where he portrayed the challenges faced when testing the younger CF child. Prof Harm Tiddens was next with some fascinating HRCT/illustrations on the structural changes of the CF lung. Finally, A/Prof Scott Bell discussed the impact of respiratory infections in CF and the microorganisms behind them. His talk also tackled the practical issue of infection control. The presenters succeeded in providing an in depth view into and a respiratory scientist's vital role when testing the CF patient.

Thank you to Sharon, the LOC and Perth for hosting a fantastic meeting. Thank you to the invited speakers, the scientists and the sponsors for what was a memorable Annual Scientific Meeting.

Jarrood

and his off-sider Debbie Z

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South Australia

Nothing received.

Mel

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Victoria / Tasmania

Just days ago marked the conclusion of the ANZSRS 2011 Annual Scientific Meeting in the sunny city of Perth. I have asked a number of my colleagues here in Victoria to give me some honest feedback regarding this ASM in order to gauge the overall sentiment.

In general, members I have spoken to considered the meeting a success, particularly when considering the invited speakers. Professor John Moxham appeared an inspired choice for our keynote speaker, with not only his keynote addresses in the plenary sessions being of huge interest and relevance, but his involvement and interaction during the oral presentations being well received by delegates.

The conjoint ANZSRS/TSANZ plenary sessions on breathlessness and the debate again were well received by those I spoke to. The debate especially was acknowledged for bringing some light heartedness and humour to the program.

The Interpretation and clinical utility of PFTs session was certainly an eye opener for those who attended. The data presented showing the vast discrepancies in reporting of lung function, must be of significant concern to the society. As mentioned by most at the ASM, generating excellent results that truly reflect our patient's lung function mean a lot less if those interpreting them cannot agree on what the numbers suggest. It was a little disappointing that there was not alot of discussion time for this session as this is quite obviously a contentious topic. What was equally

disappointing is that as professionals and experts of this field, even prominent and experienced scientists in the society cannot agree on a general consensus for the reporting of the tests we complete, and the solution seems a long way off.

The CF symposium was extremely insightful, with excellent presenters delivering up-to-date research and technologies in this field. As with many symposiums, where the field discussed is a fairly esoteric one, many found it to be a little irrelevant to their practices and hence did not attend. This is where concurrent symposiums may be of benefit to both appeal to a wider range of delegates and also free up some time on what is becoming a very hectic and time-constrained meeting.

The feedback on the social events was generally excellent. The venues were extremely impressive, especially Frazer's in King's Park with an amazing view of the city. Dance floor numbers were down though.

Arguably, the biggest talking point for the meeting was the decision, again, not to award the Young Investigator's this year. The feedback I received on this was generally a negative one, with concerns on the lack of transparency in the judging criteria and the obvious dissociation between the abstract review committee and those actually judging. One might expect that their abstract has met the eligibility criteria once it has been accepted into the session, yet this is obviously not the case, and this has left these young investigators exposed to feelings of embarrassment and discouragement. Perhaps if clear judging guidelines for acceptance into this award were made available to the presenters, and abstracts more carefully reviewed in light of the criteria, then those deemed not suitable would not be accepted into this particular award category. Those who provided feedback agree that the solution to this is difficult but needs to be addressed as such outcomes may be a strong deterrent for young members.

Some constructive feedback from members I spoke to included:

- too short a turnaround time between sessions, especially when it seems we are regularly tossed out to the far reaching corners of these convention centres and by the time we walk to and from the trade display, there is little time to actually visit the traders. This either meant insufficient time to visit the trade or being late to the following session.
- Difficulty in viewing the presentations in the main room (conference room 4), in which the bottom of projection was impossible to see from the back of the room. Also, the mechanics of breathing workshop presentations were very difficult to read.
- Poster presentation session was probably a little too long for the amount of posters on display
- Booking hotels through the FCC website was difficult and booking not intuitively obvious. A summary of all hotels, their prices and rooms on a single page would have been a great benefit.

In summary though, an excellent meeting with a very high level of scientific information from those invited to speak. Big congratulations must go to the Local Organising Committee on the choice of invited speakers, all excellent presentations pertinent to the theme of the meeting. Also, the LOC must be commended on their wonderful social program.

We are all looking forward to the 2012 ASM in Canberra. A thank you to those who provided my feedback on such short notice. To all VIC/TAS members, there will be

a branch meeting in late June, details to follow in the coming weeks. Big congratulations to Ane-Marie Gibson from RCH in Victoria for winning the best Poster presentation and to VIC members Pam Liakakos and Danny Brazzale on their respective presentations as invited speakers. And finally the Victorian and Tasmanian branch would like to extend warm congratulations to A/Prof Bruce Thompson for being awarded a Fellowship of the ANZSRS, a thoroughly deserved recognition.

Matthew

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Western Australia

We trust that everyone enjoyed their time in the western sunshine, and that you all found the conference useful- if you didn't make it over- you definitely missed out! For this month's edition, we have been asked to provide some of our thoughts on the Perth meeting, so here goes...

The best thing about the ANZSRS conference this year was that there was something of interest for everyone. This was true within the work presented by members (in both the oral presentation and posters), at the TSANZ co-joint session and the Monday sessions.

There were some very practical aspects- John Moxham (a very entertaining and informative fellow) made us think further about the place of SNIPS as well as supine spirometry in the laboratory. The co-joint session with TSANZ, was a great chance to review our knowledge/learn about cardiopulmonary exercise testing. And the interpreting lung function testing was such a challenging session! It is very interesting how often we have such a focus on minimising variability in laboratory measurement (especially with inter laboratory QA), that we forget the bigger picture, and the importance of the reports that go back to the requesting physicians.

Although the official ending for the meeting was on Sunday (ending with the hard-earned Sunday drinks), Monday had some very useful sessions. Of particular note, laboratory management- although a strictly non-scientific session, was valuable for those that attended. The discussion time at the end of this session was interactive and very enjoyable- and we would love to see more of this in the future.

As WA chairs, the conference gave us a chance to meet the other state chairs, and see how other branches operate (we assumed they were all similar, but actually we all have something to learn and to share). Meeting face to face with the board was a great opportunity to discuss issues, and for us to see how the board keeps the society running smoothly.

In local news, we would like to congratulate Maureen Verheggen who completed her Masters thesis "Respiratory outcome in young children born pre-term in the surfactant era" at the University of Western Australia. She passed with a DISTINCTION, a rare honour.

Also, the end of April marks the end of Elise's time as the regional chair of WA, as she takes a break from work and begins her maternity leave (in case you managed to miss her very noticeable baby bump at the conference). WA will be in safe hands with Liz at the helm.

It was great to catch up with those of you who were able to make, both at scientific sessions and at the social events- bring on Canberra 2012!

Elise and Liz

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ANZSRS important dates 2011

February	14	Early Bird Rego for Perth 2011 due
	24	ERS abstracts due
March	2	NSW/ACT branch meeting - Concord Hospital
	9	QLD branch meeting - Brisbane Private Hospital NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!
	23	WA branch meeting - Princess Margaret Hospital
April	25	Application due for CRFS Exam
	1 - 4	ANZSRS National ASM
	2 - 6	TSANZ National ASM
	29	CFRS Exam
May	4	QLD branch meeting
June	9	NSW/ACT branch meeting - Westmead Children's Hospital
	16	WA Branch Meeting
	22	QLD branch meeting
	30	Deadline for membership fee payments
July	31	APSR abstracts due
August	17	WA branch meeting
	23	NSW/ACT branch meeting - St George Hospital
	24	QLD branch meeting
September		
October	19	QLD branch meeting
	20	NSW/ACT branch meeting - Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
	22 - 23	WA joint TSANZ/ANZSRS meeting - Mandurah
	24	WA Respiratory Symposium
	28	Application due for CRFS Exam
November	23	WA branch meeting
	25	CRFS Exam
December	9	NSW/ACT - Christmas Dinner



Register for the
Perth 2011 ANZSRS ASM now at
[http://www.anzsrs.org.au/asm2011
registration.html](http://www.anzsrs.org.au/asm2011registration.html)
Early Bird Rego due 14th Feb 2011

International Meetings in 2011

ATS: Denver: May 13-18
ERS: Amsterdam: Sept 24-28
ASTA: Sydney: Oct 27 -29
APSR: Shanghai: Nov 3-6
AARC: Tampa: Nov 5-8