

Surf Report – August 2003

Dear fellow surfers,

Following the invitation to contribute to this page last month, one proactive member took up the challenge and has given the following link.

The British Thoracic Society guidelines page

http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/public_content.asp?pageid=7

I have come across some data that throws light on the use of Internet Bulletin Boards. The University of Southern Queensland USQ looked at the use of Bulletin Boards by their students. In a typical subject area there were three categories of students. 1. Proactive (**workers**) 2. Peripheral (**lurkers**) and 3. Parsimonious (**shirkers!**). **Workers** made the most hits on a particular Bulletin Board (193) and made the most posts (38). **Lurkers** hit quite often (129) but only made a few posts (13). **Shirkers**... well they had 36 hits and 4 posts. Interestingly these students had graded point averages of 5.43, 5.41 and 4.30 respectively. **Workers** and **Lurkers** are closely matched, but at least they are making the hits. They are motivated. The **Lurkers** are sitting back and absorbing it all in. The **Shirkers** aren't taking much initiative. At least at the USQ, the better students are using Bulletin Boards. If you have read this far then you are motivated! Which are you? A **Worker** or a **Lurker**? I'll be interested in your replies.

As the finances for Universities are reduced on a per student basis, there is a growing dependence on distance or correspondence education. E-learning is now very much a part of education. An increasing part of E-learning, now well recognised by Universities, are Internet Bulletin boards. Knowledge and education are enshrined in our own ANZSRS Constitution. With the spread of our membership around New Zealand Australia and the world, eventually E-learning and it's tools, will be of increased importance to us all.

Whether you are a worker or a **Lurker** at least you are motivated and want to expand your knowledge of our Science. Bulletin Boards however do not and should not replace the normal means of communication. Rather they augment them. So at least keep talking with colleagues!

Of the 44 members of the Yahoo Group Respiratory Science-Australasia, six members made a total of 12 posts last month. There are apparently many lurkers! The discussions have been informative.

Examples include-

“Does anyone use and/or have a set of spirometry reference values for Asian people?”

“I'm wondering if anyone has their results from Vmax software available on their hospital intranet? We are looking at doing this but are having a few difficulties.”

(There have been a few replies to this one. It seems to be a common issue)

“Does anyone know who the Oz agent for Respirace is (if there is still one)?”

If you want to know more then follow the links to the Bulletin Board in the June surf report, and sign up.

OldMedline and PubMed Searches

Have you ever been frustrated by searching for articles that Medline or Pubmed can't find. Is it because the articles are too old? Consider the following citation. This was important for my Masters Thesis, 10 years ago!

COTES, J.E., *Effect of negative intra-alveolar pressure on pulmonary diffusing capacity*. J Appl Physiol, 1960. **15**: p. 372-6.

This citation too old for Pubmed. Pubmed will not search for the years prior to 1966. PubMed is on the web at

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=PubMed>

An electronic index that will provide searches for citations published between the years 1960 through 1965 is OLDMEDLINE Cumulated Index Medicus. The years 1953 through 1959 are covered also with the “Current List of Medical Literature”. OLDMEDLINE covers the fields of medicine, preclinical sciences, and allied health sciences.

OLDMEDLINE is at <http://gateway.nlm.nih.gov/gw/Cmd?GMResults>

Happy surfing!

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