

Branch News – April 2004.

Executive Musings.

Now that the ASM hype is slowly resolving we wish to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the many people involved in this years ASM. The list is extensive and our apologies if we have missed anyone.

The LOC with Gary Gazibarich as chairperson, the abstract review committee, Award judges, Festival City Conventions and the NSW members are all to be thanked and congratulated for making us feel Welcome and facilitating an excellent meeting.

Doctors Wilson and Morton and Professors Glanville and Williams as well as Professor Hughes deserve special thanks for their excellent presentations and their willingness to participate in and contribute to the Society. The effort and time that the invited speakers provide is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks, to all the ANZSRS members for their excellent scientific presentations. The caliber of presentations is a source of pride for us all and a reflection on the significant commitment our members have to Respiratory Science. We must also sincerely congratulate the presentation award winners and thank the sponsors of the awards:

Young Investigator: Phillip Munoz, sponsored by RJ & VK Bird.

Best Presentation: Patricia Lyell, sponsored by Technipro.

Best Poster: Paul Kelly, sponsored by Medipac Scientific.

Congratulations to the well deserved Society award recipients. It was a pleasure to announce and see Maureen Swanney receive the Society's Life Member Award and to announce that Alan Crockett has been awarded an ANZSRS Fellowship. These awards recognize the outstanding contributions made by esteemed members to the Society and the field of respiratory Science.

We would also like to acknowledge the Exhibitors and the excellent displays they provided at the meeting. The continued support of the trade ensures the meetings are financially viable. It is also through the generosity of Mayo Healthcare and Glaxo Smith Kline that the Annual Dinner and Welcome reception are such memorable events.

Finally we must thank all members for their continued support of the ASM by way of attendance and participation in discussion. At this year's AGM several important issues were debated and voted on. Recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 from the ANZSRS publications review were accepted and the constitution will accordingly be changed. The first ever ballot for the ANZSRS Executive positions was also held with teams from the ACT/NSW and WA/SA both nominating for the positions. Both teams were highly commendable in their effort to represent members and serve on the Executive. Congratulations to the WA/SA team of Graham Hall, Robert Tagliaferri and Derek Figurski who were elected as the next ANZSRS Executive and will take office during the 2005 meeting in Perth. Thanks also to the ACT/NSW team of

Jacqui Furler, Gary Gazibarich and Trevor Borgas for offering their services to the Society.

We can also congratulate the Spirometry training Subcommittee for bringing to fruition its endeavours over the last few years. The TSANZ has endorsed and published a position paper on Spirometry Training Courses and the process of applying for endorsement of spirometry training courses is now established. Details will be available on the web site in the near future.

The TSANZ Executive is in the process of discussing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Asia Pacific Society of Respiriology. TSANZ has already nominated Respiriology as the Society's preferred journal. It is felt that APSR will become one of the four major bodies for respiratory medicine and science in the world. Some of our members have been looking in the same direction and it appears the time to investigate the potential for similar links may be here.

Of concern to the Executive are situations where members purport to be representing the Society when they have not been charged with official responsibilities by the Board and or Executive. It is your responsibility to ensure that any views you may express are only your views and not that of the Society. Should you find yourself in a position where someone or another body is seeking an ANZSRS position please refer the enquiry to the Executive and the Executive will either deal with the request or refer to the appropriate person.

The 2005 ASM was certainly exciting and extremely busy. Many discussions took place amongst board members, committee members and society members. For further information please contact your regional representatives and remember to regularly visit www.anzsrs.org for further updates.

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New South Wales

The big news this month was the ASM in Sydney. It was very good to catch up with colleagues from all over Australia, and seeing how they are and what they're up to. For me, that's the best part of the ASM. Of course, the presentations and seminar were very good as well. Congratulations to all involved.

Other news this month falls into the "watch this space" mode. We're planning to hold a CRFS workshop in May. So for those who are intending to sit (and also for those who aren't sure and would like to know more about it), "watch this space" for more information.

In July, a couple of our young rising stars will present some of their original work. Phillip Munoz leaves shortly afterwards for Spain where he will spend some time in Roca's laboratory.

In September, we will again hold a mini seminar at CSU in Wagga Wagga, hopefully backing onto the residential school which is also held then. "Watch this space" for more details.

Gary Nolan & Jacqui Furler

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New Zealand

Well, Sydney is behind us now and we can look forward to a busy branch meeting in Christchurch in August.

A large contingent of Kiwis crossed the ditch for the ASM representing most of the larger centres in NZ. Thanks to those members who supported the Society by attending the meeting and especially to those who participated in the meeting by giving oral or poster presentations. Well done!

NZ tried to dominate the meeting with four New Zealander's presenting 3 orals and one poster presentation. Maureen presented more on FEV₆ with "Algorithms on predicting restriction using FVC and FEV₁". Lauren presented data on "the learning effect of serial measurements in MIPs and MEPs". Josh presented "EZY QC", a database program to maintain the labs quality control. A big congrats to Paul Kelly (must be a kiwi by now!) for winning best poster presentation with his "Accuracy of pulse oximetry during acute hypoxia".

The biggest congratulation goes to Maureen Swanney for her "ANZSRS Life Membership Award". Truly well deserved and we're all extremely proud of her.

The Christchurch local organising committee is now busy working out details for the upcoming ASM in August to make it more exciting for the scientific audience. The call for abstracts brochure will soon be posted on the website along with the program and registration brochure, so stay tuned!

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Queensland

March is always a great month for the Society, and this year hasn't disappointed. The ASM has come and gone in a flurry of fun and frivolity with reports from the large QLD contingent indicating that a fantastic (and educational!) time was had by all. Many thanks must go to the local organising committee who prepared a wonderful programme and fantastic venue in beautiful Darling Harbour. Much official business was completed over the weekend with our first board meeting as QLD representatives

being a record breaking event. It wasn't all business and learning however with the welcome reception a great start to the weekend and Saturday's dinner an affair to remember. I (DM) really enjoyed the first morning on lung transplantation as I work at a hospital that performs transplants. And what ANZSRS meeting would be complete without the social events where I attempted to work the floor/ship-deck/bathroom, so thank you to all who took the time to talk to me.

We are looking forward to a great branch meeting at the end of April. Dr Ian Stewart from the Queensland University of Technology will be presenting his research on free divers and their cardiorespiratory response to repetitive free dives. We will also be giving the low-down on the entire goings on at the ASM, both educationally and socially, to those members who were unable to attend. Regretfully, long standing sponsor of the QLD branch meetings, Allan Lawson of Allen + Hanburys has recently resigned from his position with GSK. We thank Allan for the support he has provided to the ANZSRS and its QLD members over the years, and wish him all the best with his future endeavours.

Winding the clock forward to June, the TSANZ will be conducting their winter meeting in Noosa on the Queen's birthday long weekend (12-13th June) with an advanced trainee's workshop to be held at The Prince Charles Hospital on Friday 11th. The topic of discussion for this meeting will be restrictive lung disorders and orphan lung disease. Be sure to book your spot early as this promises to be an excellent meeting in a divine location.

It was encouraging to see that several members from the small/remote centres were able to attend the ASM in Sydney. We managed to pin down and meet these new faces, so if there are any other members out there who aren't known to us – please step forward!!

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Victoria

Well – didn't Sydney put on a show for us for the ASM! The weather was fine, but the humidity was stifling (The dry Melbourne heat wins hands down any day!!!). The venue was fantastic with tourist attractions close at hand and lots of culture at our fingertips. To the Sydney LOC - a job well done. As usual there was some great work presented, as well as some worthy recipients of Society and ASM presentation awards. BIG congratulations go to

Trish Lyell (Western) for winning the Young Investigator Award for her presentation on Risk Factors for Near-Fatal Asthma in Children. There was plenty of social fun had by most Victorian members, a great opportunity to network and 'bond' - we look forward to seeing the photos. Now its back to the grindstone and some are already considering and planning studies to present at next year's ASM in Perth.

A few members have become enthused to sit the CRFS exam mid-year – is anyone interested in attending a weekend 'tute fest'? Are there any members willing to tutor out there?

The next Victorian Branch meeting will be held at Monash Medical Centre on Tuesday May 4th. As usual all are welcome to attend. Invitations, with topic details, will be forwarded to Victorian members in the next couple of weeks. Anybody that has any interesting lung function results to discuss is welcome to bring them along.

Cheers

Brigitte Borg and Danny Brazzale

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Western Australia

The March WA Branch meeting was postponed/cancelled due to everyone being busy preparing for the Sydney ASM, while the meeting in April will be a wrap up of the meeting for those that didn't attend - though because there'll be a few people away for the next meeting it will probably be a low key affair.

As we don't have anything more for the WA Branch report this month, I'll give a short report on my trip to Sydney. This was my first visit so I was looking forward to it. It started off with a ride on the monorail (can't believe it costs \$4!) then a visit to the Powerhouse museum for a few hours until jet lag finally took the better of us. After a power nap, Jo and I set off for some food and found a rather great Japanese restaurant down the corner - must keep that in mind. Wednesday we ventured onto the public transport system. Went the wrong way to circular quay, but finally got there - buses much more regular than in Perth. Walked around the Rocks then went on a ferry to Manly for lunch. On the way back we positioned ourselves at the front (or so we thought) of the ferry. They should put up signs letting us poor souls know that the ferries are double bowled and travel in both directions! I bet all the Sydneysiders laugh when they see the tourists running off to the wrong end of the ferry. Still, got some great photo's of the yachts on the harbour and of the coathanger and shells... Next was a trip to the Opera House where we secured a couple of seats to see "Blithe Spirit" that night.

While Thursday was devoted to shopping, the highlight of the trip was that night when we went to the Capitol Theatre to watch "The Lion King". What an absolutely magnificent show. As the blurb on the flyer says: "The most captivating theatre you will ever see". It truly was and I highly recommend everyone to see it. It was absolutely superb.

Friday morning and it was time to do some work attending meetings, more meetings and even more meetings. The welcome reception was a great chance to catch up and socialise without talking 'shop'. Saturday and Sunday, of course, were more meetings in-between sessions. Then came Sunday with the rain clouds hovering - and not just outside. Unfortunately I was so nervous for my talk that I couldn't eat lunch (ok, I had the salad - but that's all). And when it was over I was so drained that I didn't have the energy to go around the trade display - oh well, maybe I'll get to the trade next year! It was then off to the airport and the long flight

home, before an early start the next day back at work! At least I won't have to travel far to the ASM next year...

Another potential member for WA? Kelly Isherwood, a respiratory technician at LFS in Perth, gave birth to a son, Deacon John, on 09/03/04.

Ciao

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CRFS news

Nothing received.

Stephen West, CRFS

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