

Branch News – February 2004.

Executive Musings.

The rush to complete assigned tasks and preparations for the 2004 Annual Scientific Meeting has begun in earnest. The LOC, and Abstract review committee are both on schedule to ensure an exciting and informative meeting in Sydney. Regional board representatives and ANZSRS Committee Chairpersons are preparing their reports and the Executive is planning and co-ordinating the Board and Annual General Meetings. Members are reminded to check the Meetings pages on the web-site for updates. I would also remind you that Early-bird registration closes on the 16th February 2004.

By now you should have received notification of the constitutional changes to be put to the 2004 AGM. These changes arise from recommendations within the Publications Review. You can view the review and the proposed changes within the Members Only area of the Society web pages. Please provide your local Board Representatives with any comments and feedback for discussion at the Board Meeting and at the AGM. Not all the recommendations have, at this point, been accepted and further discussion is required before there is final resolution on all recommendations.

Just before Christmas the Department for Health and Aging released a call for tenders to produce a spirometer buyers guide. Of course, the timing of the call for tenders was inconvenient considering many people were on holidays and even overseas. There was much tooting and froing before a small sub-committee was formed to produce a tender on behalf of the ANZSRS and TSANZ. Debbie Burton is chairing this committee and had been in regular contact with several members about this tender whilst on holiday in the UK. Maureen Swanney and David Johns make up the rest of the Committee. The Executive would like to thank the many members who have offered support and help with this project. Your details have been forwarded on to the Committee. Please do not feel disappointed if you are not directly involved at this stage as there may be considerable scope for future contributions should the tender be won.

Congratulations to, the following members who have been awarded travel grants to the 2004 ASM.

Ana Herrero	SA	Skye McLennan	QLD
Graham Hall	WA	Kathryn Wilson	NZ
Jan Oostryck	WA	Lauren Wallace	NZ

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your presentations at the meeting.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the many members who continue to participate in the Society's activities and invite you all to contact us at any time for information, or to discuss Society business.

David Schembri, President

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Michelle Rozee, Secretary

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Glenn Thomas, Treasurer

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Sydney 2004 News

Abstracts have been processed and all those who submitted abstracts should have heard back whether they are preparing oral or poster presentations.

A reminder that Early-bird registration is due by Feb 16th 2004.

Kevin Gain
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New South Wales

Welcome back to work for those who have been on holidays. Trusting everyone had a great time and that we're all refreshed and fired up for 2004.

NSW Branch has been quiet since our final meeting last year, but we're all looking forward to Sydney 2004. It'll be great to catch up with everyone, and I know we'll all learn a lot. Gary Gazibarich has put together an excellent programme.

The next branch meeting after Sydney will be mid-year and we hope to encourage some of our junior members to present some of their work. The Spring meeting will be held out of Sydney; we hope this will encourage many of our country members to attend. Watch this space.

Congratulations to the Canberra Laboratory which has achieved reaccreditation for another 5 years.

Dana Anquetil has joined the lab at Gosford for twelve months whilst concurrently enrolled in an Honours year for her BMedSc(Respiratory Science) at Charles Sturt University. This is the first year that CSU have had an Honours student in this course.

Gary Nolan & Jacqui Furler

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New Zealand

Nothing received.

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Queensland

Welcome to 2004, we hope that the year is off to a great start for everyone around the traps. Christmas and New Year now seem like an eon ago with the year in full swing and the Easter eggs already on display!! QLD has been busy with the return of patients to the labs and staff settling back into work mode. There have been some significant changes in QLD staff so far this year with a few resignations and the creation and movement of several positions, especially around Brisbane. If anyone is looking for a change of scenery, perhaps to the warm sunny QLD environment, there seems to be plenty of work available with the "regular" locums now working in permanent positions or completely booked.

In the spare moments between patients, there is a still lot of work to keep us going. Several labs are busy preparing themselves and their mountain of paperwork for accreditation, with one having recently submitted the required documents. Of course the ASM is looming large on the horizon for everyone in the society. It is expected that there will be a large contingent of Queenslanders converging on Sydney in March with a few oral presentations and posters currently under construction. From QLD, congratulations to those who have had their work accepted for presentation and good luck with any further work to be done before the ASM.

The first branch meeting for QLD is still scheduled for February 25th and although still quite some time before the big trip to Sydney, this will serve as an opportunity for presenters to test their material out and scope for feedback, suggestions and advice. We are hoping to create some really exciting meetings this year by recruiting some unusual speakers to give us a different perspective on breathing - so watch this space!

Thanks again to Allan Lawson (GSK) who has kindly agreed to sponsor these meetings again for 2004.

To ensure as many people as possible are aware of any society events, we are currently attempting to compile a complete list of all QLD ANZSRS members. This has been a little tricky with the recent movement of people in and out of different positions. If you currently do not receive any correspondence from us, please let us know so we can add you to our contact list. Branch meetings are traditionally held on the last Wednesday of every second month and if anyone is visiting/holidaying from interstate please feel free to come along and join us at these meetings. Drop one of us a line to find out the details.

Cheers until Sydney!!

Debbie Murray and Skye McLennan

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South Australia

The SA Branch is proposing to evaluate and address the issue of standard lung function predicted values across the public hospitals. This is in response to initiatives to have a state repository of public hospital generated lung function results available through a statewide database, which can be accessed by health professionals providing care to patients with respiratory disease. Currently, three members are working on this and will be reporting to the SA branch sometime in 2004.

During 2003 the best attended meetings were those with presentations from health professionals outside the membership on respiratory related topics. Some topics suggested for 2004 include skin allergen testing and its role in management of respiratory disease, and pulmonary mechanics during mechanical ventilation.

Short case study presentations are also being considered for inclusion within the scheduled meetings. The aim is to stimulate understanding on the respiratory physiology and pathophysiology of various lung diseases.

Several members have suggested establishing study workgroups for individuals wishing to achieve CRFS certification. Hopefully there will be a motivated effort from the members to have routine tutorials addressing the various topics outlined in the examination handout.

Finally, the success of the SA Branch Quiz will continue (Derek is biased on this topic!) with the aim of strengthening respiratory knowledge and friendships (red wine can help) within the SA branch.

The first meeting for 2004 is proposed for the 17th of February at the RAH Chest Clinic. The content of this meeting will include discussion on the proposed ANZSRS constitutional changes, feedback about the ANZSRS web site and the format of the SA branch meetings. The meeting is being sponsored by Medtechnica.

Derek Figurski and David Sharp

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Tasmania

Nothing received

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Victoria

Another year is already well under way. Less than two months to the ASM in Sydney means that at least a few people will be working hard on their presentations. The first Victorian Branch meeting for the year will give presenters an opportunity to have a practice run at their presentations in front of a friendly crowd that usually comes up with a few suggestions / questions. It also gives people not attending the meeting a chance to see some of the presentations. This meeting will be held at the Austin Hospital on Tuesday 2nd March at 6.00pm (invitations are on the way - but of course any interstate visitors are welcome to attend).

Probable meeting dates for the rest of the year are listed below, so pencil them into your diary:

4th May
6th June
8th September
24th November.

Mayo Healthcare have kindly agreed to sponsor our first branch meeting -thank you. They look forward to talking to ANZSRS members at the upcoming Annual Scientific meetings, particularly at the workshops that they are holding.

Some news on the population front. Kim Bennetts (and her husband Scott) from Frankston Hospital have recently become new parents to a beautiful baby girl by the name of Jessica. By all accounts parents and baby are doing well although not getting quite as much sleep as they used to.

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Western Australia

Well the excess of Christmas and the New Year and the slog of 2004 has arrived with vengeance. The start of the year always promises to be gentle but reneges very quickly as conferences, meetings and plans for the new year get put in place.

We were honoured to have David Schembri visit Perth in late December to present a very entertaining and interesting talk on "Risky Business" - looking at the risks, traps and pitfalls of lung function testing from an occupational health and safety point of view. David also managed to visit several of the hospitals during his flying visit and we sent him back wrung out and without any voice left. Unfortunately we didn't have the time to squeeze in a game of golf - someone must have told him how 'good' we are, not!

The new year has started with our interlaboratory QA program getting settled in nicely. Rob will be presenting our initial impressions on that in Sydney. 2004 has been dedicated the year of QA in Perth. We hope to look at a number of ways individual labs can combine to make this sometimes very time consuming job easier and more informative. A big challenge will be validating reference data and asking that troublesome question once again: "are my reference data the best ones for my patients".

Our first ANZSRS Branch meeting of the year is scheduled for 18th February at SCGH, which we intend to use as a 'practice' for those presenting at Sydney.

Cheers
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&
Ciao
Rob

Graham Hall & Robert Tagliaferri

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CRFS news

The next round of exams is scheduled for May 2004. Applications close 19 April.

Although all members without CRFS are urged to give the exam a go I would especially encourage members who were unsuccessful at their first attempt to try again. Many of these members have found that the experience gained from sitting the exam is substantial and gives them a much better understanding of the required level of knowledge and 'flavour' of the exam. Consequently, many pass easily at their second attempt.

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