

Branch News – May 2004.

Executive Musings.

David and Glenn have been able to have some well earned leave during the last month and therefore the Executive has been at a slight standstill. May, will be a busy month as we catch up and push forward. There were many matters raised during the Sydney meetings that need to be progressed as soon as possible. Thank you to those individuals who have initiated communication to this end.

We must make a correction to last month's Executive musings which listed the conference award winners and sponsors but unfortunately had the award recipients mixed up. Best Presentation was awarded to Paul Munoz which was sponsored by Technipro and Patricia Lyell, received the Young Investigator award which was sponsored by RJ & VK Bird.

For members interested in the Spirometry Buyers Guide Tender, the latest information is that the Department of Health and Aging are waiting for approval of their decision and they hope to inform the Tender groups before next week. As the decision has been delayed significantly, if ANZSRS is successful in obtaining the Tender the time frame for the project will need to be adjusted accordingly. There are other concerns regarding the delay in this announcement as it may impact negatively on the other commitments some of the key people have within their employing organisations. Nonetheless, the Executive is confident that our Society has the knowledge, skill and capability to undertake this task in a timely manner whilst producing a valuable tool for health care workers in Australia and potentially New Zealand.

David has accepted an invitation from the New Zealand branch to attend the 2004 joint RACP Annual Scientific meeting in Christchurch. The meeting runs from the 3rd to the 6th August 2004 and includes the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand, Australasian Society of Infectious Diseases and ANZSRS. Friday the 6th of August is specific to ANZSRS members and will focus on the Interpretation of Lung function and COPD. This meeting is another example of ANZSRS developing a significant profile with other professional groups within the health care sphere. All members are encouraged to attend if at all possible.

Perhaps now is an appropriate time to begin the planning process for presentations at the Perth ASM. Many of you will already have work in progress. For those of us who do not have current research or developmental projects there is still time to do some brainstorming and initiate projects that may lead to presentations. Speak to your colleagues if you are struggling for ideas. Our Society is built upon sharing ideas and cooperation between individuals and laboratories.

Initial discussions with Graham Hall during the Sydney ASM have revealed a very interesting and innovative program that will have broad appeal and provide many learning opportunities for all of us. Watch the web pages for details.

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Queensland

Looking back, April has been a quiet month in Queensland. Four days of fantastic weather over the Easter long weekend had us out of the lab and in the sunshine enjoying too much chocolate. We hope Easter provided a happy, safe and well deserved break for all. The long weekends haven't stopped since in QLD, keeping everyone busy for the remaining 4 days of the week.

QLD held its branch meeting recently with a fantastic presentation by Dr Ian Stewart from Queensland University of Technology's School of Human Movement. The emphasis of the meeting was the cardiorespiratory response to repetitive free dives. It was fascinating to hear of Dr Stewart's work to date and his plans for continued research. Those who were able to attend will agree that it's refreshing to have a fresh face attend, sharing knowledge and expertise in areas a little different to our line of work.

Recent discussion amongst members of the Yahoo! Respiratory Science group in relation to adverse effects experienced by patients performing respiratory function tests coincided with this branch meeting. This has led to an impromptu survey of QLD members to gain a better understanding of the type and number of incidents occurring in our labs. Hopefully continued feedback will facilitate improved safety for patients and staff members performing these tests. A reminder to Queenslanders about the upcoming TSQ meeting to be held in Noosa over the June long weekend. This will be a great opportunity to spend a few days on the beautiful Sunshine Coast and update your knowledge on restrictive lung disorders and orphan lung diseases. If you are interested in attending, please contact Skye or Debbie for further information.

Debbie Murray and Skye McLennan

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South Australia

After enhancing our knowledge and forming new or re-acquainting ourselves with fellow members in Sydney, the time quickly passed and reality sets in again! A big thank you goes to the NSW local organising committee for the ASM for 2004.

The South Australia Branch met on the 20th of April with a combined presentation by Andrew Thornton, Sean Homan and David Schembri discussed various issues on the topic of proposed common reference values across the SA public hospital network. The meeting was well attended by members in both the public and private laboratories. The background to this topic relates to the OACIS project as discussed in previous Branch News. One of the recommendations is to provide common reference values to allow access for health care professionals across the state public system. The presentation identified the concerns of selecting appropriate reference equations and a general review of the current available reference values. The members from both public and private laboratories showed a

willingness to participate in collecting normal data. This data then will be use to select the appropriate reference set for implementation across SA. In the not too distant future the presenters will formulate a proposal to allow data collection to commence.

We like to thank the ongoing support shown by Air Liquide of these branch meetings.

The South Australian Branch of the TSANZ and ANZSRS had a joint meeting. The meeting had the theme of “Where are we going with COPD?”. Derek Figurski’s (one of the four presenters) presentation was on alternative measurements of COPD bronchodilator responsiveness. The presentation highlighted the limitation of FEV₁ as a measure of bronchodilator reversibility in COPD. The presentation reviewed the current available literature on inspiratory capacity (IC), static lung volume measurements, and FIV₁ as alternative parameters to express bronchodilator response in the absence significant change in FEV₁. The presentation made some suggestions on recommendations in developing a composite range of lung function parameters to measure bronchodilator response.

It was great to see a good attendance by ANZSRS members and special thankyou goes to Michelle Rozee for her willingness to provide help in preparing this meeting. We like to thank also Pfizer for their generous support.

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Victoria

Well autumn is well entrenched in Melbourne and winter is on its way (the Flu Vax notices are a give-away – never mind the weather changes). The post conference recovery period is just about over and we are ready to get back into it. A number of projects are already in the development stage and hopefully will be complete in time for next year’s ASM.

We have been fortunate to secure a guest lecturer for our July 6th Branch meeting. Radiological films are often shown in clinical meetings attended by scientists and many scientists have commented on their inability to read them. Angela Chan, a lecturer in medical imaging at RMIT University, will be giving us a basic overview of structures seen on normal chest x-ray and CT scan, and then showing films with a variety respiratory pathologies. The venue has not been finalised as yet and further details will be included in the next Branch News, but put the date in your diary – a not to be missed event!

We are hoping to organise a Saturday workshop for those wishing to sit the CRFS this year. In order to make the event worthwhile, we need topics from those sitting the exam and volunteers to tutor. This will be discussed at 4th May branch meeting. As this meeting will probably be past by the time this issue is published, anyone who did not attend but wishes to contribute with topics or to volunteer tutoring time please contact us!

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Western Australia

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CRFS news

The Certified Respiratory Function Scientist (CRFS) credential has commenced 2004 in a positive manner with exams occurring in three locations during April/May. Best of luck to the five candidates sitting the exam.

During the remainder of 2004, CRFS exams have been scheduled for 23 July and 26 November. If you are thinking of attempting the exam now is a good time to apply and join the other **66 ANZSRS members** who already hold this prestigious professional credential. The application closing date is a month before the exam date and application forms can be downloaded from the Website. Remember that exams can usually be scheduled whenever required by contacting the Certification Coordinator.

The table below lists the exam mark for all candidates since the first CRFS exam (6th August 1994). The pass rate is 43% (66/154).

Mark	No. of Candidates
95+	5
90-94	9
85-89	19
80-84	33
75-79	26
70-74	22
65-69	21
60-64	10
59-	9
	TOTAL = 154

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