

Branch News – July 2005.

Executive Musings

The last month has been a busy one for the Executive with a number of initiatives from the 2005 Board Meeting being established.

The Board recently called for expressions of interest the Assistant Editor positions and we are delighted to announce that the appointment of Alison Boynton and Skye McLennan to these positions has been approved. Alison and Skye will be working with Kevin to re-develop the ANZSRS website, so if you have any suggestions or ideas on how the web-site could be improved please contact the Editorial team.

Stephen West has worked tirelessly over the past 10 years on the coordination of the CRFS exam. He has recently indicated that it was time for new blood to be involved. A group of members have agreed work on the revision and possible redevelopment of the CRFS process. These are Peter Rochford (Chair), Stephen West (Co-Chair), Jeff Pretto, Bruce Graham, Andrew Coates and Maureen Verheggen. This group represents all aspects of clinical respiratory science, including paediatrics and adult medicine, CRFS and education.

The Executive is also pleased to announce that the Young Investigator Award presented at the annual scientific meeting is undergoing a name change. ANZSRS has entered into a five year agreement with Bird Healthcare for the sponsorship of this award which will now be known as the Bird Healthcare Young Investigator Award. This agreement will allow improved recognition of the important role Bird Healthcare plays in our Society. Full details of the award conditions will be available in the meetings section of the website within the next month. The Executive would like to thank Bird Healthcare for their continued support of ANZSRS and it's advancement.

Graham, Rob and Derek.

Graham Hall, President

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Robert Tagliaferri , Secretary

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New South Wales

Have had positive feedback from those who attended the TSANZ Advanced Course on the topic of Exercise Physiology and Pathology Sandy and her lab successfully hosted. There was a good role-up of ANZSRS members from interstate and NZ. Sandy organized a good display of contemporary and historical equipment in the lab where 150 participants observing and participated in practical demonstrations.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ruth Martens (RPA) gave birth to Alexander Matthew Martens on 6th June - his actual due date! He weighed in at 3.5 kg, is feeding ferociously and is doing well – the new parents on the other hand are severely sleep deprived, but fine otherwise. Well done Ruth!

My (Alison) e-mail and contact numbers will change soon. I have accepted a position at Liverpool Hospital and will be setting up the new respiratory lab. I am looking forward to the challenge starting on the 18/07/05 and will be looking for some good feedback on equipment performance prior to purchase!

Next NSW Branch meeting it at Nepean

Friday July the 29th; 5.00pm

.. with Merylise and Chris!

Topic: Lab accreditation and GP's Spirometry

Alison and Debbie

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New Zealand

Lauren & David

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Queensland

There has been plenty of action around the QLD traps to keep everyone busy this month. The big item on the agenda for several labs has been the installation of new exercise systems as well as more (yes more!) staff movements, long service leave and restructuring.

The June branch meeting was again held at the Brisbane Private Hospital and we were fortunate enough to have Dr John Coucher, the radiology fellow from the Princess Alexandra Hospital, speak to the group about the basics of respiratory radiology. Everyone present agreed this was a great meeting and the diverse topic was well presented in "respiratory scientist" language! We thank Dr Coucher for taking the time to guide us through various imaging techniques and the correlations between the common disease processes we encounter in the lab and the associated radiological findings.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to attend the TSANZ advanced course on exercise physiology at Sydney's RPA. This proved to be a fantastic meeting with many high calibre international guests, including Professors Jerry Dempsey and Dennis O'Donnell, present to share a wealth of knowledge, answer some well

constructed questions and generate some lively debates. The associated workshops and practical sessions gave the opportunity to address more specific questions and attempt to trouble shoot certain issues. The TSANZ are to be congratulated for another quality meeting and allowing us to participate.

Not much in the pipes for the next month, drop us a line if you're inspired! Details for the next branch meeting will be coming your way soon. And for those who have pushed their ANZSRS fees to the back of their minds, watch out, Derek has you in his sights.....

Leanne & Skye

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan

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South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS

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Victoria

As this goes to press our July branch meeting will have passed us by, and we will be looking forward to our September meeting and what that holds in store for us. Thank you to Dr Ian Millar, Head Hyperbaric Services, The Alfred and Bruce, for their presentation on hyperbaric and hypobaric effects on human physiology. And thanks to Cathryn and Craig, Niche Medical, for kindly providing refreshments.

Any ideas for the next meeting? Let us know.

We submitted our laboratory manual for accreditation two months ago. Since submitting our manual, we have made a number of changes to the document due to changes or clarification of laboratory procedures. Ultimately, a procedure manual is a living document and requires regular review and updating. Somewhere amongst the patient testing, quality assurance programs, teaching and reporting, we need to set aside a regular time to review and update our manuals. How to schedule this, I'm not sure – we may not have changes to make on a monthly basis, but not rostering time means it may get forgotten. I'd be interested to know how other laboratories plan their reviews – send me your thoughts.

Until next month,

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS, and Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

Another busy month has flown by for the WA Branch.

First of all, warmest congratulations to Amanda Pike on the birth of Lizzie (7lb 11oz) on Thursday 16th June. We hear that Lizzie is coming along nicely and has already started on her show and tell expeditions around the Perth labs.

June has been a full meeting month. The clinical presentation meeting was held on the 15th June at the Princess Margaret Hospital campus and we were again treated to an excellent presentation. Dr Andrew Wilson, Consultant Paediatrician (Sleep and Respiratory Medicine), PMH, presented on 'Pre and postnatal influences on adult lung function'. Andrew gave a comprehensive and fascinating review on this topic and provided food-for-thought, and some cause for concern for those in the adult world, with regards to the potential impact of early life respiratory function on future adult respiratory morbidity. The meeting was generously sponsored by Alison Spocter of Mayo Healthcare. As the evening was wild and woolly weatherwise, the tasty eats were appreciated.

The next clinical presentation meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th August at Department of Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH, 5-6pm. The topic will be 'Lung Mechanics in Clinical Practice: physiology, measurement & interpretation', presented by Dr. Bhajan Singh, Consultant Respiratory Physician, SCGH.

The first CRFS workshop was held on Thursday 23rd June at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. The topic was 'Instrumentation: Part 1' with a comprehensive presentation given by Bill Noffsinger. This meeting was well attended and good work to all that made the effort to come to the meeting on a wet and stormy morning. It was particularly good to see the extra effort made by those who were on their day-off and came in especially for the workshop. Bill's presentation is available in electronic format to the workshop group members. If you have not received your copy, please contact Sally Young. The next CRFS workshop will be held on Thursday July 29th 8.15 – 9.30am at SCGH, and the topic is 'Instrumentation: Part 2'.

The TSANZ-WA Associates/ANZSRS-WA organising committee met and have issued a preliminary programme for the local ASM in October. This programme has been forwarded to all the WA members and, as usual, is designed for the interest of both clinicians and researchers. Of particular note is the debate topic: 'Well Controlled Asthmatics Should be Allowed to Scuba Dive' - this is likely to be a pretty lively session given the views that abound on the topic. Those members intending to attend are reminded to consider booking their accommodation early, as October is apparently peak wedding season in Mandurah and accommodation can become a bit scarce. The ASM organising committee have secured an accommodation allocation for the weekend, however, rooms are limited and first in, first housed. When

booking, please advise reservations that you are with the TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA meeting.

A new feature of the meeting is the ANZSRS-WA poster session and award. Chris and Sally are very pleased to be able to announce that the newly created, in-the-throes-of being-named, ANZSRS-WA poster award, has been very generously sponsored by Mayo Healthcare (Local Rep: Alison Spocter). As a result of this sponsorship, the award will be accompanied by a prize of \$500.00. This prize is for use specifically towards attendance at a national or international respiratory meeting.

Our new representatives (Sunalene Devadason, Mari Noffsinger) attended their first meeting at ACOSH (Australian Council on Smoking & Health) with the immediate past rep (Sina Panic) this month. Our understanding is that it was a pretty interesting introduction to ACOSH and we look forward to hearing more about the issues/activities of ACOSH at our next clinical presentation meeting.

A local membership drive initiative has commenced, with an invitation forwarded to all respiratory scientists in the Perth metropolitan area who are currently non-members. The invitation pack included: a review of the objectives, goals, and activities of ANZSRS at both national and local level, a recent local newsletter and events flyer, and membership application documents. All labs around Perth have been advised of the membership drive and have been asked to support the initiative and where possible assist with questions/queries regarding the Society and to encourage those currently not members to consider joining.

The Research Bulletin initiative has proven a successful way to recruit study participants. So far the 'Fit-to-Fly?' and 'FOT' projects have benefited from using the research bulletin broadcast. For more information, contact Sally Young or Chris Nathan.

Advance diary notice has gone out for the social get-together for September 15th - an evening of 'Moroccan Passion'. 'Urbanprovider' passions are hosted by Nico Moretti and for those that haven't yet had the 'Nico' experience, then rest assured it is a terrific evening. Basically, Nico does the cooking and we do the eating, accompanied by a couple of glasses of your favourite, and hey presto, cooking class couldn't be any easier! For those wanting more drool inducing details, please contact Chris Nathan or Sally Young. So far this year the WA Branch has been all work and no play, so this provides an opportunity to meet informally and think about gastronomy rather than physiology.

Chris Nathan will be away from the lab on a well deserved annual leave break for a couple of weeks and we hope she takes the opportunity to get some good quality r& and not think about anything respiratory – have a good one Chris!

Diary Reminders

CRFS Workshop: Thursday July 29th 8.15 – 9.30am, SCGH.

Clinical Presentation Meeting: Wednesday August 17th, 5-6pm, SCGH.

Social Evening: Thursday 15th September 7-9pm

TSANZ-WA Associates/ANZSRS-WA ASM: October 22nd/23rd, Mandurah

. . . and that's the WA news for June.

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS, and Sally Young

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CRFS news

One of the inherent aims of the CRFS process is to raise the general standard of respiratory function measurement in Australia and New Zealand. The CRFS achieves this aim by establishing a standard of knowledge appropriate to the competent performance of basic respiratory function testing. Gaining the knowledge to pass the CRFS exam is not an easy task, for most candidates it requires study and application over an extended time. A supportive environment where a range of resources are available and learning is encouraged and time scheduled for professional development is not always available especially to those scientists working in laboratories outside teaching hospitals. Consequently, it's always a delight when a scientist from outside of the larger cities gains the CRFS credential. Congratulations to Janine Ferns from Cairns Base Hospital in northern Queensland who passed the CRFS exam in June with an excellent score.

This month's CRFS questions relate, in a broad sense, to quality assurance.

Stephen

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

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