

## *Branch News – March 2005.*

### **Executive Musings.**

We have kept this month's musings short and ask that you read the [President's Report](#) rather than reiterate the same points.

Our last report! Where have the last 2 years gone? Many, many things have transpired to keep us on our toes. We have more grey hair and a few more wrinkles but we are lucky. We have had the pleasure of working together and with many people both within and outside the Society who have helped us face the challenges that have arisen. We have developed valuable skills and both personally and professionally derived a wealth of knowledge and experience. The privilege and the experience of being a member of the ANZSRS Executive is one that will stay with us for ever. Many thanks, to everyone for giving us this opportunity.

**David, Glenn and Michelle**

David Schembri, CRFS, President

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### **New South Wales**

GREETINGS from NSW



Eeeek, March already! Looking forward to catching up with you all in Perth soon!

AND don't forget to plan for the NSW branch meeting,

**Sat April 9th**

just before the residential school (12-15<sup>th</sup> April) at Charles Sturt Uni in Wagga! There will be a dinner on the Saturday evening and presentations Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

Always a good opportunity to catch up, and also keep up with fresh ideas and the latest updates (such as the latest release from the Charles Sturt vineyards, yes, they have great cheese!).

**Congratulations!**

Dana Anquetil has had an abstract describing her honours study accepted, make sure you check it out in Perth in the poster presentations (don't forget to vote!!). Keep up the good work Dana, your accomplishments amongst a very busy schedule certainly are an inspiration!

There have been some recent enquiries from overseas regarding Australian qualification standards for respiratory scientists, something the ANZSRS has been reviewing. Gary Nolan is involved and is as unwavering as ever in his commitment to keeping the standard high so keep up the support guys!

See you in Perth!

### ***Alison and Debbie***

Alison Boynton & Debbie Burton, CRFS

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### ***New Zealand***

Well done to the Dunedin lab who (like many other labs at present) have been busy getting their accreditation paperwork finalised and are about to submit their documents. Chris McLachlan has just headed over to Nepal to go on a trekking holiday and has managed to arrange her return flights so that they coincide with attending the Perth ASM. Great planning and we'll all be very interested to hear all her stories when we see her in Perth!

The official opening for the Christchurch Respiratory Physiology Laboratory is on the 4th of April. Due to the fact that we are so special, the CEO and other key people from the CDHB will be in attendance, very exciting. We have our very flash photo board due to arrive for the special day and the lab is looking pretty fabulous. Make sure you come and visit if you get the chance!

A big congratulation to Kathryn Wilson from Christchurch on passing her CRFS exam! The Christchurch Lab is now fully certified with 5 scientists all having CRFS. Well done!

### ***Lauren***

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### ***Queensland***

The QLD branch meeting calendar kicked off last week with a warm up presentation given by those sharing their work at this year's ASM in Perth. This format has always provided a friendly environment for speakers to finalise their presentations and it didn't disappoint this year with the small gathering present able to provide feedback, offer suggestions and spark some interesting points of discussion. GSK have again generously offered to sponsor these meetings and we thank them for their ongoing support of the society.

We welcome back Andrew Southwell from the Queensland Respiratory Laboratory, who has just returned to Australia having completed 6 months missionary work in Malaysia with his wife. Three cheers to you both, I'm sure we can all appreciate this would be a daunting task which wouldn't be undertaken lightly.

The next branch meeting is scheduled for April where we hope to have a big turn out and get some ideas from members as to what the branch would like to achieve this year and how we can facilitate this. Any suggestions in relation to the format of branch meetings, CRFS workshops & exams or other issues that pop up, drop us a line as we'd love to hear from you. The best way for us as board reps to speak on behalf of QLD is to know what's happening out there.....

See you in Perth!

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan

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## **South Australia**

Welcome to the 2005 year. I must apologise for the missing report in February's web edition. I am gradually picking up what I'm meant to do as the new board representative. I seem to stumble across what needs doing and am very appreciative of your patience as I learn the ropes.

For those of you who do not know me, I work at the Queen Elizabeth hospital as respiratory Technician (since early 2003). My colleagues are a wealth of knowledge and are well known by most of you. I must also take this opportunity to welcome and applaud David Sharp (from the Royal Adelaide) in volunteering to fill the second board representative position for 2005. Now the SA machine should tick along without too many glitches.

Our first branch meeting was held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The meeting was very interesting, with members Todd Lorenz and Sonya Johnston presenting their work for the ANZSRS Conference. Both presentations were well presented and a good discussion followed each. Look out for these presentations at the Conference – they are well worth the attention.

You should all have heard about the next branch meetings somewhere on the grapevine by now (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every 2nd month except for December), but if I've failed to reach you here are the meeting dates for the rest of the year:

<b>DATE</b>		<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>SPEAKERS</b>
February	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Adelaide Chest Clinic	6pm	Todd Lorenz & Sonja Johnston
<a href="#">March</a>	<i>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> PERTH - ANZSRS Conference</i>			
April	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Adelaide Chest Clinic	6pm	Repatriation General Hospital
June	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Adelaide Chest Clinic	6pm	RAH
August	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Adelaide Chest Clinic	6pm	Ashford / Womens & Childrens
October	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Adelaide Chest Clinic	6pm	Flinders Medical Centre
December	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	TBA	TQEH

As usual, a light dinner precedes each meeting (dinner at 6pm, meeting starting approx 6:15pm).

We have allocated a meeting to each of the Major Labs in SA, to organise the speakers. This is to provide you all with the opportunity to have a say about who you'd like to speak and what you'd like to hear/discuss. If you are not part of any of the Labs listed please contact myself or David and we'll help you have your say / input also. With the Conference approaching us quickly, we will undoubtedly have new ideas, fresh perspectives and renewed enthusiasm for the 2005-2006 year for research / study / practice in our home labs.

A safe and happy Easter to all, and, until next edition

*Donna Keatley*

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### **Tasmania**

Nothing received.

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### **Victoria**

Greetings All....

The Victorians are gearing up for the ASM in Perth and as a consequence, we rehearsed presentations at our first Branch meeting for the year on 1<sup>st</sup> March. Many thanks to Mayo Healthcare for sponsoring our meeting and to the members who came to support those presenting. The benefit in presenting to a broader audience prior to the ASM allows one to gain feedback from peers not directly involved with the work presented. Thank you to those who provided the feedback.

Discussions regarding the need for registration arose as a result of one of the presentations. A dynamic discussion was had, as the expectations of registration were different between individuals. Some saw the benefits of registration in terms of ensuring competency and validity of test results, while others saw it as potential to be able to Medicare bill for lung function measurement in the future. More to follow I'm sure.....

*Brigitte and Bruce*

A number of members have been unsettled by the December Train of Thought and voiced their concern at the wisdom of publishing potentially professionally damaging words in a public world wide forum, when the impetus of the comments were that the abstracts were going to be published in a peer reviewed journal and would be a

reflection on the Society. They also expressed concern at the Editor's breach of implied confidentiality with respect to singling out groups of the membership. They do have a point. I do, however, also believe in the right of an Editor to make commentaries on issues they feel important, though we may not always agree nor their views represent those of the Executive or the Board.

I suppose out of all this a window of opportunity has opened for the Society – to make the guidelines for abstract review robust and transparent (i.e. published), ensuring that:

- The process for selection of the review committee is well defined
- Authors submitting abstracts for presentation know what the expectation is in terms of scientific content and merit, language, style, etc, and what the weighting is for each of these criteria.

This will help to ensure consistency in review of abstracts from year to year and limit opportunities for disquiet in the future.

The proposal for the creation of a scientific and conference committee is, I think, well founded and the appropriate forum for creating guidelines for abstract review. This should be a priority in the event that the creation of such a committee is approved at Board level. In the event that it is not, the issue remains a priority for the Board to resolve before the 'Call for Abstracts' for the 2006 ASM is published.

*Brigitte*

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## ***Western Australia***

### **WA BRANCH FEBRUARY NEWS**

There was a splendid turnout for the first meeting for 2005 held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb, in the Dept Pulmonary Physiology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Apart from the pleasant social aspect of catching-up with colleagues, an excellent & lively session resulted. Proposals for the activities and directions for the local branch for 2005 were presented, discussed and decided upon. A highlight of having such a good attendance at this discussion forum was the participation and contribution made by members at all career levels, and also by respiratory scientists from the public teaching hospital labs and private labs.

Thanks to Medtechnica, represented by Peter Taylor, for sponsorship of our first meeting: the delicious food and drinks were enjoyed and appreciated.

The next Branch meeting will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March and we hope that the increased attendance and active participation, as seen at the first meeting, will be ongoing.

The ASM is fast approaching and a full and interesting programme awaits. From our recent local meeting it would appear that most, if not all, of the WA Branch will be attending the ASM. We therefore, as a group, look forward to welcoming everyone to Perth.

See you at the ASM!

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS, and Sally Young

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### ***CRFS news***

The first CRFS exam in 2005 is scheduled for 13 May with a closing date for applications of 15 April. So get those applications in!

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

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