

Branch News – October 2005.

Executive Musings

Exec Musing Oct 2005

As mentioned in the August Exec musings ANZSRS is investigating the introduction registration for respiratory scientists. This process is critical in ensuring the field of respiratory science, as it applies in diagnostic laboratories maintains international best practice and is a natural extension of the laboratory accreditation process already in place in Australia and New Zealand.

This process is being developed by the Registration committee, in liaison with the ANZSRS Board and Executive. ANZSRS is advocating a College model representing all areas of clinical physiology. These will include, but may not be limited to respiratory, sleep and cardiac scientists. The use of a College model will allow the registration process to be efficiently applied across a large sector while allowing the education, training and continuing educational requirements to be specified for each clinical group.

The Registration model will include the following areas:

- Defined Scopes of Practice
- Minimum educational and experience requirements for Registration, this will include;
- Minimal educational requirements; likely to be set at postgraduate level to permit independent practice.
- Certification; as currently offered by ANZSRS
- Minimal training in Recognised laboratory; such as a TSANZ Accredited RFL as per advanced trainee registrar.
- A grandparenting clause for existing Scientists for a defined period of time
- Annual Practicing Certificates as a means of clarifying scope of practice and ensuring continual professional development.
- A monitored program of continuing professional development

The final details of the Registration model are being examined now by ANZSRS and will be forwarded to the Board in the near future.

ANZSRS was recently invited to make a submission to Federal Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into workplace exposure to toxic dust. Many thanks to Kevin Gain and David Johns for their hard work in preparing this submission on behalf of ANZSRS. As a result of this submission we were invited to attend the committee hearings in late September. Both David and Kevin attended on behalf of ANZSRS and were given a very positive hearing. Members interested in the ANZSRS submission can contact Rob Tagliaferri for a copy.

Finally, abstracts for the ANZSRS 2006 ASM will be due in late November. Danny Brazzale and the rest of the organising committee have put together an interesting and diverse program and we would encourage all members to start planning their data and funding and make the trek to Canberra in March 2006. Details of abstract submission, travel grants and other meeting information will be on the website in the next week.

Graham, Rob and Derek.

Graham Hall, President

Graham.hall@health.wa.gov.au

Robert Tagliaferri, Secretary

Robert.tagliaferri@health.wa.gov.au

Derek Figurski, Treasurer

Derek.Figurski@act.gov.au

Canberra Local Organising Committee Update

Time is creeping by and the 2006 ANZSRS ASM (24-26th March 2006 in Canberra) is getting closer. The planning is now in full swing with the program in the process of being finalised, the abstract review committee being set-up and other important arrangements being made. Once again the abstracts will be published in a Respiriology supplement, making the closing date for abstracts late November, to allow the abstract review committee enough time to sort things out prior to Christmas. I imagine people thinking of submitting abstracts will be well on their way to tying off any loose ends in their projects and those that aren't will probably be getting their skates on.



One of the local organising committee members was lucky enough to be in Copenhagen recently for the European Respiratory Society meeting where he had a chance to meet face to face with our international guest speaker for next year, Professor Paul Enright. By all accounts he is very excited about speaking to our group and it sounds like he might generate plenty of healthy debate about some controversial issues. Given his role in the recent and ongoing publication of the combined ATS/ERS recommendations about various lung function tests we are very fortunate to have him attend our ASM.

Once again this year we plan to run a couple of workshops on the Monday morning (27th March). One of these is aimed at helping scientists gain their CRFS qualification. This year the plan is to cover specific topics listed in the study guide including the measurement of lung volumes by various techniques (something not everybody has had experience with) and characteristics of measurement devices (something that is easy to forget about with "black box" systems). The other workshop will be an introduction to research techniques with a special focus on developing skills necessary to critique scientific papers. We hope the program has something in it for everybody.

Danny Brazzale

on behalf on the 2006 ASM LOC.

danny.brazzale@austin.org.au

New South Wales

Alison and Debbie

Alison Boynton

BoyntonA@sesahs.nsw.gov.au

Debbie Burton, CRFS

dburton@csu.edu.au

New Zealand

No news from NZ for this month except a reminder to everyone to get their registrations in for the joint NZ Branch ANZSRS/TSANZ annual meeting on the 11th November in Wellington. Registrations were supposed to be in by the 2nd October but I'm sure late registrations would be accepted.

Lauren & David

Lauren Wallace
lauren.wallace@cdhb.govt.nz
David Robiony-Rogers CRFS
David.Robiony-Rogers@ccdhb.org.nz

Queensland

It must be heads down and all work here in QLD as there is very little to report this month. There are whispers of next years ASM creeping into conversations as people begin to gather data and pen abstracts for presentation. Along with accreditation pressures, there seems to be little time left over for much else!

Leanne and I are on the hunt at the moment for a date and venue for this years Christmas function. If anyone has a great place they know of or have a preferred time or day for this grand event, please let us know. We still have one more branch meeting before we make it Christmas though, so mark October 26th in your diaries and keep an eye out for a reminder coming out soon.

Leanne & Skye

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan
Leanne_rodwell@health.qld.gov.au
Skye_McLennan@health.qld.gov.au

South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

Donna Keatley
donna.keatley@nwahs.sa.gov.au
Sharla Anderson
lfunit@burnsidehospital.asn.au

Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS
david.johns@utas.edu.au

Victoria

Well there has been a bit of movement in the Victoria Branch over the past few months. With no scientist positions available in Respiratory Function Laboratories for some time, there are now a number of positions available. Furthermore there have been 2 senior positions that have recently been advertised. In our Laboratory alone there are a number of positions available with Nory Side taking up a senior position at Box Hill hospital, Stuart Jack having a career change and moving to the IT industry

and Faizel Hartley having a career break and travelling through Europe for 12 months. So look out for a series of positions available on the Web site.

Last time I wrote something for the branch news we were in the middle of preparing our submission for accreditation. Since that time we have submitted and have received the response from the accreditation assessment panel. Thankfully everything is roughly in order, which was a relief. Even though I have been on a number of assessment panels and chaired 2 sleep accreditation panels, having your peers critically review your laboratory practices is still a daunting experience. As expected the review was very comprehensive and detailed and raised a number of excellent points about how we go about our business. One issue raised (the length of time a subject needs to breathe 100% O₂ for the measurement of shunt) will lead to a complex physiological research project performed by the scientists in the laboratory. However, one aspect of the accreditation process that still needs to be addressed in the broader sense is what is actually required of us. It is not clear in the TSANZ accreditation document what level of detail is required in the laboratory manual or the application document. The approach we took was to do absolutely everything to as much detail as possible. Basically attempting to model what would be required for NATA accreditation. Despite the feeling of working in an abyss of unknowns the process for the whole laboratory has been very positive.

To my knowledge only 2 laboratories in Victoria have been accredited. There are two laboratories formulating responses to the assessors report and expecting to have site visits before the end of the year. So there must be many laboratories sorting out their submissions before the end of the year, which is rapidly approaching. Finally, for anyone who is in the process of submitting for accreditation and needs advice, encouragement or some simple motivation then please ask. There are a number of us who have gone through the process, and I am sure will be willing to pass on their experiences.

Last meeting was held at Monash Medical Centre and the speaker was Brigitte Borg discussing the new spirometry guidelines published by the ATS/ERS. If you have not read the document then it is well worth reading it through as there are a number of changes from previous document which are quite subtle. We would also like to thank Viasys for sponsoring the meeting.

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS, and Brigitte Borg, CRFS
b.thompson@alfred.org.au
b.borg@alfred.org.au

Western Australia

Welcome to the following new member: Elizabeth Salamon from Dept Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital. Elizabeth has already thrown herself into the swing of local activity and we have been very pleased to have seen Elizabeth participating in our recent meetings and lung mechanics sessions.

No clinical meeting for September was scheduled. The next clinical presentation meeting will be on Wednesday 5th October at Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Royal Perth Hospital at 5pm. The invited speaker is Dr. Elizabeth Geelhoed, Senior Lecturer, Health Economics & Policy, School of Population Health, University of Western Australia. Liz shall be speaking on: 'The application of economics in health care programs: using the example of COPD.' If you have ever wondered how our health care programmes/policies are developed, then this is the talk for you! The meeting is sponsored by Mayo Healthcare.

An additional clinical presentation meeting has been scheduled for November 16th and will be held by The Dept Respiratory Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. The invited speaker will be Liz Balding, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Dept of Respiratory Medicine, PMH. The presentation will be on 'Cystic Fibrosis: The Challenges of the transition from the world of paed to adults.' Liz has extensive experience in the area of CF in Western Australia. She is closely involved with those with cystic fibrosis and their families from the time of diagnosis, in early life thru to the transition into the world of adult medicine. The addition of this meeting to our schedule is to make-up for the lack of a December clinical meeting, due to our Christmas function.

The lung mechanics 'come and see' sessions have proven popular. These sessions were offered for those with an interest in taking a look at the equipment used for making measurements and also to observe how to perform chest wall mechanics, lung mechanics, phrenic nerve stimulation. The 'sitting-in' opportunities were kindly made available courtesy of Dr. Susie Chong, Robert Tagliaferri, and Sina Panic, and have been part of a research project being undertaken in the Dept of Pulmonary Physiology.

Due to a combination of annual leave, the dreaded lurgy, and ERS, no CRFS/Ongoing Ed workshop was held for September. The next CRFS/Ongoing Education workshop will be held on Thursday 27th October, 8.30 – 9.30am in the Dept Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH.

Activity on the organizational front is ramping-up for the October TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA local ASM. The final programme has been circulated. Support of the meeting by ANZSRS-WA members has been terrific and is reflected in the number of registrations (16 of our 23 members). Derek Figurski, Hon Treasurer, ANZSRS, has confirmed that he will be attending the full weekend meeting and also, the airway challenge workshop following the local ASM. As the full complement of the Exec will be in attendance at the weekend meeting, this provides an excellent opportunity for local members to meet the Exec and have a chat with them over a glass or two, about any societal issues that you may have a particular interest in – here's a chance for you to air your views/ideas directly to the Exec!. If there are other interstate ANZSRS members who wish to attend this meeting, please contact Sally Young asap.

The call for Abstracts for the inaugural 'WA Respiratory Science Research Award' has also been strongly supported, showing that research in the clinical labs around Perth is alive and kicking strongly. This award is sponsored by Mayo Healthcare and is accompanied by a prize of \$500.00, for use specifically towards attendance at a

national or international respiratory meeting. Excellent effort to all those that have submitted an abstract and good luck on the day!

The airway challenge workshop 'Which Challenge to Use?' is generating a great deal of interest. The workshop is to be held on Monday 24th October, 2-5.30pm at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital with Sandy Anderson as the invited speaker. Additional presentations will also be made by local respiratory scientists, researchers, and clinicians. A preliminary programme has been circulated and includes the following presentations:

Dr Sandra Anderson:	Exercise Challenge Testing - Pitfalls & Problems
Dr. Sally Young:	The Challenge of Challenges (1): 'Are we delivering the goods?' Methacholine and histamine challenges in clinical practice.
Dr Sunalene Devadason	The Challenge of Challenges (2): 'Aligning your output to your aim. 'Standardising delivery device and output for bronchoprovocation testing.
Dr. Graham Hall	'Challenging Children: the ABC of AMP.'
Assoc Prof Stephen Stick	'Relationship between exhaled nitric oxide (eNO) and airway responsiveness.'
Assoc Prof Alan James	'Use of induced sputum for assessment of airway inflammation.'

This workshop is generously sponsored by Niche Medical.

A review of the workshop will be compiled and will be made available electronically to any interested ANZSRS members. If you wish to receive a copy, please contact Sally Young.

The 'Moroccan Passion' was as delicious as we had anticipated. In two hours we not only learnt how to cook but feasted upon: Moroccan tomato and red lentil harira, tagine of chicken with ras el hanout, chickpeas and raisins, harissa-spiced carrot and parsnip mash, roast pumpkin and almond couscous, almond and cinnamon b'stilla with orange blossom syrup. . . mmmm' mmmm.

At the time of the initial circulation of the end-of-year social function flyer, there were only 100 days until Christmas! . . . yes, we can hear the groaning!

When:	Wednesday 14 th December (as for previously planned clinical meeting)
Where:	'Sassy's on the Swan'
5.45 for 6.15pm	Seafood & canapés will be served
6.15 – 6.30pm	Invited Speaker
6.30pm to . . .	Bountiful Festive Feast menu

If there are any interstate ANZSRS members who will be in Perth at the time of this dinner, you are very welcome to join us. If you wish to attend, please contact either Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

News from around town:

- Rob Tagliaferri was recently shortlisted for 'Best Actor' at the recent DramaFest '05
- Rob's wife, Jo Sterkenburg, won 'Best Actress' at DramaFest '05

Diary Reminders - ANZSRS

5th October: Clinical presentation meeting, RPH

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

27th October: CRFS/Ongoing Education workshop, SCGH

16th November: Clinical presentation meeting, PMH

14th December: End-of-year/Christmas dinner

Diary Reminders - Others

24th October: Airway Challenge Workshop: 'Which Challenge to Use?', SCGH

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

Chris & Sally

Christine Nathan, CRFS (RPH)

Sally Young, PhD (SCGH)

Christine.nathan@health.wa.gov.au

Sally.young@health.wa.gov.au

CRFS news

The latest member to gain CRFS status was Sue Brenton from St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia. Congratulations and well done!

Thanks to all members who have emailed me with their opinions and suggestions for the CRFS. As the Working Party works through the suggestions I will keep you informed via this page.

Respiratory physiology is the topic for this month's CRFS questions.

Stephen

Stephen West, CRFS

CRFS Coordinator

Stephen_west@wsahs.nsw.gov.au