

Branch News – February, 2006.

Executive Musings

It's the New Year and that can only mean 2 things. Annual subscriptions are now due and the ASM is quickly approaching. By now everyone should have received their 2006 renewal notice. If you haven't, please contact the Secretary, Rob Tagliaferri.

The ASM is being held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra and we hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend. Our thanks to Danny and the LOC for putting together such a great program. The ASM is also a time for us to recognise those members that have contributed greatly to the Society with the awarding of Life Membership for service to ANZSRS and the Fellowship Award for scientific contribution to ANZSRS. Further details on the Awards are available from the Secretary or ANZSRS web site. Nominations for both Awards should be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by Friday 10th March 2006.

We also invite all members to attend the 2006 Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 25th March 2006 at 4:30pm. At the AGM will be decided the next Executive Committee, which will take up responsibilities from the 2007 AGM. Nominations must be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary prior to the AGM. Nomination forms are available from the Secretary. Nominees must be *financial, Ordinary* members of the Society and be proposed and seconded by Ordinary members. If you are unable to attend the AGM, please also inform the Secretary.

Also to be decided at the AGM is the period for payment for subscription fees. This was recently reviewed by the Board as the current Constitution allows for a member to be financial for up to 18 months after their fees are due, during which time they are allowed full member privileges, such as member registration at two Annual Scientific Meetings and access to the members only area of the web site, even though they may not have paid their fees. This allows for the potential of abuse of the 'goodwill' of the Society. The notice of the proposed Constitution Change was circulated with the 2006 renewal notice and will be considered and voted on by the eligible voting members at the AGM. If you have any queries or would like further information, then please contact the Secretary or your Regional Board Representative.

We hope to see you all in Canberra.

Regards
Graham, Robert & Derek

Graham, Rob and Derek.

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Canberra Local Organising Committee Update

Well this year has now arrived and I can finally say that plans are certainly moving for this years meeting. The abstract review committee have done a fine job of looking over the abstracts leaving us with a healthy number of 22 final abstracts. Its down a little on last year but I imagine a lot of labs have been tied up with accreditation. The invited/guest speakers have also been putting together their abstracts for the delegates brochure which is now well under way.

My continued communications with Professor Enright suggest that he will be a very entertaining speaker, with significant expertise in the area of respiratory function testing. I'm sure that he, along with the other local experts will provide us with a lot of food for thought by the end of this annual scientific meeting.

A quick reminder to everybody that early-bird registrations close on Friday 10th February. So book your flights, organise your accommodation and I look forward to seeing lots of you in Canberra in a couple of months time.

Danny



Danny Brazzale
on behalf on the 2006 ASM LOC.
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New South Wales



Happy New Year!

Hope you all had a refreshing break
and are ready for another year in the
lab!

News

Welcome to 2 new members Tessa Bird and Jenni Norval!

Tessa Bird is with the Woolcock Institute and Jenni Norval is at RPAH.

We are looking forward to meeting with you all in Canberra!

Our first NSW Branch meeting for 2006 is scheduled for late February/early March. We arranged for this time prior to the ANZSRS so people could present orals or posters to get rid of some of those pre-conference jitters, and obtain any helpful hints. Those of you who would

like to take advantage of this please contact Debbie or me and let us know what technical needs you have in order to present.

The newly commissioned respiratory lab at Liverpool Hospital is now up and running with an official opening scheduled in March! Dr Guy Marks and his team have been anticipating the final conclusion to a long process for some time now so congratulations are in order!

Congratulations to Dana Anquetil who has successfully completed her Honours research project which was supervised by Gary Nolan and Debbie Burton and conducted at Gosford Hospital. Dana critically appraised the recent Clinical Services Guideline for Chronic Care which recommended that 100% of patients admitted to NSW public hospitals with a pack year history of 15 years or more should have spirometry screening during their admission. Some of Dana's early results were presented at last years ASM and we will hear some more about the final results in the near future!

It has been a busy year of study for the staff at the Gosford and Wyong Hospital labs as congratulations also go to Cathy Dyroff who successfully completed her CRFS examination. Well done Cathy!

That's about all for now.

Alison and Debbie

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New Zealand

Hi from the NZ Branch

We hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New Year break. We can't believe that it is February already!

Many of us are busy preparing for the Canberra conference which is looming closer every day now. We're pleased to say that there should be a good turnout from the NZ team.

Many NZ labs are still busy in the process of accreditation. So far NZ has three accredited labs, Dunedin, Palmerston North and Christchurch. My apologies to the Dunedin lab for not getting a mention in the December update...extra special mention to you now :) All the best to those labs who are awaiting a response and to those who are preparing to submit. Let us know how you go.

Last year we welcomed a heap of new members to the NZ branch. At the end of 2005 we welcomed 6 new members from the Waikato: Jacqueline Friel, Anderson Mok, Ana Ng, Hayley Robinson, Jenny White and Anna Wilson. Scott Hay and Catherine Corble joined the team in Palmerston North, and we welcomed back a previous member, Anne-Marie Gibson, who has been in England for the last few years. We now have a total of 37 NZ members, making us one of the largest ANZSRS regions. We are always on the look-out for new members, so if you have anyone in mind who would be interested in joining ANZSRS, pass their details on to your regional

representatives.

The ANZSRS 2007 ASM Local Organising Committee has been formed and is busy with all heads down planning topics and guest speakers. The 2007 ASM is going to be held at the Skycity in Auckland 23rd-25th March. This meeting is in the early stages of planning so watch this space.

All the best for the rest of 2006.

Lauren & David

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David Robiony-Rogers CRFS
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Queensland

Nothing received

Leanne & Skye

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South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

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Sharla Anderson
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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS
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Victoria

Hi All, Happy New Year and all that! I'm sure many New Year resolutions have already been forgotten. Since I knew I would not be able to keep them, I didn't make any!

Well abstracts have been submitted and accepted and now presentation preparation is underway. I have realised that it is easier to prepare for an oral than a poster. Posters require a lot of planning – concise information that tells the whole story on one sheet of paper with size limits! And it needs to be ready at least 4 weeks prior to the conference for formatting and printing! No last minute changes as you can do with an oral!

Our first meeting for the year will be held on Tuesday 28th February at 6.30pm at The Alfred. As usual (why change something that works so well?), we will be providing a forum for those presenting abstracts at the ASM to practise and get feedback in a friendly, informal environment. Those not able to attend the ASM will get the opportunity to see their Victorian colleagues' work as well. More details to follow shortly.

Other branch meeting dates for this year are:

3rd May 2006

5th July 2006

12th September 2006

22nd November 2006

...so put them in your diaries!

Once again, we are asking our members for suggestions for topics, so please let us know if there is something you'd like presented.

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS
Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

2006 activities are up and running after a very pleasant festive season break. Just to round-up on 2005: We finished the year with a Christmas dinner at 'Sassys' on the Swan' - a very tasty and fun evening indeed, so a nice way to end the local branch year of activities.

What's Happening For 2006

Welcome to New Member

The WA Branch's geographical boundary was extended this month with a welcome to our new member from the Philippines, Mr Richard Chock ; Respiratory Therapist, Respiratory Care Unit Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart, Baguio City. (*In case you are wondering, the Philippines is in the same time zone as WA. Ed*)

CRFS Study Group

The core group interested in the CRFS met in January to plan their exam preparation. The group decided to set a study schedule for the first 6 months of 2006 with the aim of sitting the July exam. The study group will meet fortnightly, commencing Feb 2, with the topic, presenter, and venue schedule set and circulated. The study group co-ordinator is Amanda Piper (St John of God Hospital) and we welcome Amanda to this position, which she genuinely readily agreed to take-on – no coercion required! Amanda comes 'to the job' with invaluable experience in facilitating study groups. Please contact Amanda Piper, Christine Nathan, or Sally Young if you require further information.

Clinical Presentation Meetings

Clinical presentation meetings will continue on the 2005 schedule: third Wednesday of every second month starting Feb 15th; 5 – 6pm'ish with the venue rotating between the three training hospitals located in the Perth CBD. Dates for the meetings have previously been circulated.

The first clinical presentation meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th February at Princess Margaret Hospital. The invited speaker is Dr. Catherine Lane of the Children's Clinical Research Foundation, who will be presenting on 'Reducing Harm from Cigarette Smoke: Fact or Fiction?' A topic that will no doubt generate some lively debate.

An additional meeting will be held on Wednesday March 15th, at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, for those members who will be presenting at the Canberra ASM. This session will allow those that are presenting orals/posters to have a run through prep before heading off for the main event. These sessions have in the past proven useful to presenters by way of audience feedback and members are encouraged to come along and support local researcher efforts by way of questions, queries and so on.

Canberra ASM Preparations

From chats around the traps, it would appear that quite a number of WA members will be able to attend the Canberra ASM, both as presenters and non-presenting attendees. We are very much looking forward to the meeting and catching-up with our interstate and cross-Tasman colleagues.

Congratulations to Elise McKeon (RPH), Vaska Murdoska (PMH), Maureen Verheggen (PMH), and Elizabeth Salamon (RPH), who were successful in their applications for ANZSRS Travel Grants to enable attendance at the ASM to present their work.

TSANZ-WA Associates/ANZSRS-WA Local ASM

A positive and productive partnership was formed between ANZSRS-WA and TSANZ-WA Associates during 2006, which resulted in a successful local ASM. ANZSRS-WA again has representation on the Associates Organising Committee (Sally Young) and preparations are well underway for this year's local ASM. At this stage the meeting will be held in October, around a similar date as for 2005 – so pencil this into the diary asap. Details of meeting topic theme, venue, accommodation and so on will be circulated, as the information becomes available.

That's the news from WA!

Chris & Sally

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CRFS news

Stephen

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