

## *Branch News – May, 2006.*

### **Executive Musings**

*Graham, Rob and Derek.*

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### **New South Wales**

Hi all,

We had a very successful meeting last Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at the Woolcock Institute with about 20 people attending an excellent presentation by Dr Guy Marks on the research process.

Guy made the evening interactive by talking first about ‘framing an answerable research question’ using a 3 step method in which researchers describe the:

1. population in which they want to conduct the study,
2. exposure or intervention of interest, and
3. outcomes it is proposed to measure,

and then asking for people to volunteer their research question so we could practice framing the question using the 3 steps. The point of this was to clarify exactly what we want to know. We had the opportunity to discuss two studies that people are about to embark on.

The next stage of research Guy discussed was to conduct the literature review and to look critically at whether the study question had already been answered. If not then, he described the priority list of study designs with randomised control trials (RCT) being on top of the list and then other study designs such as cohort or cross-sectional studies being conducted if the study was not suited to a RCT.

While Guy was successful in encouraging interaction and discussion on the night, time was limited and we decided to form an email discussion group within which people could put forward their ‘research question’ along with an indication of how they propose to design the study to answer it and seek feedback from the group. Guy very generously offered to be part of the group and add his comments and suggestions. This is a great opportunity for all of us to learn from each other, so hopefully many NSW members will make use of the email forum.

The evening was a great success and thanks go to Guy for his time, effort and commitment to helping others embark on or improve their research process and to Craig Abud for sponsoring the evening which was much appreciated by all. It was

also great to see Bob Bird along for the evening as well. It is not often that we get interstate visitors to our meetings and is lovely to welcome them when dates coincide.

The next meeting is scheduled for late June and will likely involve a presentation from Dr Thomas from Prince of Wales Hospital on NO (Nitric oxide) measurements. We will have a research update session so members can report back on where they are up to on their research projects at the same meeting.

Cheers,

*Alison and Debbie*

Alison Boynton  
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Debbie Burton, CRFS  
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## ***New Zealand***

**New members:** The New Zealand Branch would like to take this opportunity to welcome a few more new members to ANZSRS: Penelope Faulkner, Dale Gwynne, Nicola McNaught, Lisa Wison (Invercargill), Nicole Gray, Kellie Timmins, Jacqueline Toy (Hamilton), Ilaise Totua (Auckland) and Deborah Taylor (Hawkes Bay). Great to have all of you on board!

### **Look at what's coming Up:**



Hawkes Bay Hospital Respiratory Lab is having a "Jaeger Support Day" Friday 26th May. It's an opportunity for all Jaeger Resp Labs in the mid to lower NI to get together and share info, troubleshooting tips and software victories on our Jaeger equipment!

Of course sampling Hawkes Bay wine will be a must!

Please email [lungs@hawkesbaydhb.govt.nz](mailto:lungs@hawkesbaydhb.govt.nz) if you wish to attend.

**NZ Registration:** This is a busy time for the Clinical Physiologists Board (CPB). The CPB in NZ continues to progress towards an application with the Ministry of Health for cardiac, respiratory and sleep physiology to become regulated professions under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA). To this end the board has sent out a consultation document to all NZ members and to the ANZSRS registration sub-committee. All NZ ANZSRS members are asked to carefully read the document along with the two supporting documents and to vote on the two issues in question:

1. Do you support the Clinical Physiologists Board in its application to the Ministry of Health asking that the professions of cardiac, respiratory and sleep physiology and related professions be recognised under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003?
2. Do you support the Clinical Physiologist Board as the registration board for registration purposes under the HPCA Act?

In order for the process of registration to go forward we require every NZ member to vote on the two issues. Please email your vote to [david.robiony-rogers@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:david.robiony-rogers@ccdhb.org.nz). Please have your vote in by 31 May 2006 so that we can measure the level of support for registration.

The CPB has also re-drafted the registration document which will be sent out as part of the consultation process. The board is also in the process of drafting the formal application to the MOH in relation to regulation of the professions under HPCAA.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting David by email: [david.robiony-rogers@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:david.robiony-rogers@ccdhb.org.nz)

*Lauren & David*

Lauren Wallace  
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David Robiony-Rogers CRFS  
David.Robiony-Rogers@ccdhb.org.nz

## **Queensland**

QLD members were spoilt at the last branch meeting with Dr David Fielding of the Royal Brisbane Hospital giving a fantastic presentation on “Adding value to bronchoscopy”. Dr Fielding is a respiratory physician with vast experience in the use of bronchoscopy, fluoroscopy and endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) in the management and treatment of patients. He has studied and worked extensively here and abroad as well as completing training in Japan under Dr Kurimoto, one of the legends of EBUS. Dr Fielding spoke extensively on respiratory anatomy and the many techniques available for imaging and tissue biopsy. We would like to extend our thanks to Dr Fielding for spending an enthusiastic evening with us and sharing his knowledge and experience on this topic.

The TSANZ and TSQ have been working very hard of late to organise a winter scientific meeting. This year, the meeting will be held on the June long weekend (10 - 11th June) at Sea World Nara Resort on the Gold Coast. The topic will be "Mycobacterial Disease: Practical Issues for the First and Third Worlds". There will be both morning and afternoon sessions held on Saturday and a morning session only on Sunday. There is a wide variety of speakers attending, including Respiratory, Infectious Diseases, Immunology and Specialised Health Services with the meeting dedicated to the memory of Dr Anil Patel. A comprehensive educational and social program has been put together and the ANZSRS also has the opportunity to run a parallel session if we wish to cover topics of specific interest to our group. As ANZSRS members, there will be no registration fee (\$165 for non-members) and there are several accommodation and tourist/theme park offers available as well to make the long weekend a real treat. Please contact Skye or Leanne if you have questions about this meeting or would like further information.

As many of you will be aware, Pharmaxis will be releasing Aridol onto the market as a bronchoprovocation agent in the near future. Prior to this, Pharmaxis would like to provide education and training to as many scientists as possible who will be using Aridol in the clinical setting. We are currently trying to find a convenient time and place for this to occur in QLD, so if anyone has a preferred day of the week or a meeting place to suggest – please come forward!

(Disclaimer: By organising and hosting an Aridol training session, the ANZSRS is not acting to endorse this product or company).

We look forward to hearing from you with your ideas and suggestions for future meetings, topics of discussion and any other events which may inspire you – hint, hint!

*Leanne & Skye*

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan

## **South Australia**

Nothing received

*Donna and Sharla*

Donna Keatley  
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Sharla Anderson  
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## **Tasmania**

Nothing received.

David Johns, CRFS  
[david.johns@utas.edu.au](mailto:david.johns@utas.edu.au)

## **Victoria**

On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Victorian members gathered at Box Hill Hospital for our second branch meeting for the year. The attendance was one of the largest in recent years (23 members), probably due to the content of the evening. It was great to see both new and familiar faces.

The topic for the evening was challenge testing. Pam, from The Alfred, gave a review of challenge test methods, both direct and indirect methods. The interactive session allowed members using different methods to provide practical, first-hand experience to others regarding the various challenges. Ruth and Jo from Pharmaxis then presented a 15 minute DVD on the Mannitol Challenge Protocol with question time at the end.

We wish to thank Nory Side and her team at Box Hill for hosting the evening and Pharmaxis for providing a lovely supper for us.

General notices:

- As discussed at the Branch Meeting – we are looking for interested members in joining the local organising committee for the 2008 ANZSRS ASM in Melbourne. Members of the LOC must be enthusiastic and dedicated to the task. Anyone interested needs to get in touch with me asap.
- We are searching for a theme for the ASM in 2008. We want to present topics that the membership is interested in. This is your Society – so if you have ideas, please email them to me.
- I will not be re-nominating to be a state representative for Victoria when elections are due at the end of the year. The reason for raising this now is that I would like to give individual Victorian members plenty of time to seriously consider whether this is a task they would like to take on or whether there is another member who they think would be suitable. Active participation is the key to being a state representative. Those wishing to know more about the role can read the Regional Board Member Responsibilities document on the ‘about the society’ page on the website and are welcome to call me.

### **Domiciliary Oxygen Therapy.**

In the last 15 months or so there have been 3 fatalities and 2 serious injuries as a result of patients using home oxygen near naked flames or while smoking in Victoria that we know of. The arson squad and coroner are investigating these cases, such is the concern surrounding these events, and there may be a coronial inquest in the future surrounding the safety of oxygen therapy in the home. As the State Burns Service for Victoria, The Alfred has been involved in preliminary discussions with the Arson Squad and the coroner regarding home oxygen safety information provided to patients.

I sent an email to major metropolitan public hospitals in Melbourne recently asking for information regarding education provided to patients regarding oxygen safety. I would be interested in hearing from those not included in the email (interstate offerings welcome) and would like to ascertain whether there is interest in forming a home oxygen special interest group in Victoria to look at standardising education given to patients regarding safety and use across the state. If the coordinator of your oxygen program is not an ANZSRS member, please pass this and my contact details on.

The next Victorian Branch Meeting is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> July at the Austin Hospital. More details to follow in next month's branch news.

Until next month,

*Bruce and Brigitte*

Bruce Thompson, CRFS  
Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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[b.borg@alfred.org.au](mailto:b.borg@alfred.org.au)

### **Western Australia**

#### **Clinical Presentation Meeting**

Dr. Peter Franklin, Research Fellow, University of Western Australia, presented on: 'Indoor Air Pollution: Does it impact on respiratory health?'. This was an excellent presentation that generated much discussion. Peter covered: What is indoor air pollution (IAP)?; Why is IAP a potential problem?; History of IAP research; Ventilation regulations; Evidence for an effect of IAP on respiratory health; current and futures research being undertaken by his team. Of particular surprise was the information presented on the level and variety of IAPs in our homes and the lack of standards for indoor air quality when compared to environmental air pollution. Peter has kindly made available an electronic copy of his presentation: if you would like a copy, please contact Christine Nathan, Sally Young.

This session was generously sponsored by Mayo Healthcare, with Jane Wedge in attendance.

The next clinical presentation meeting will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June at Royal Perth Hospital. The guest presenter is Dr. Justin Waring who shall be speaking on simulated altitude testing.

### ***CRFS Study Group***

The April sessions were hosted by Jan Oostyvk and Bill Noffsinger. A May session is scheduled for Thursday 11th. Please refer to the recently circulated revised topic schedule for details. For further information contact: Amanda Piper (Study Group Co-ordinator), Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

### ***Special ANZSRS-WA Meeting***

Professor Janet Stocks presented on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April, on: 'Does normal spirometry reflect normal lung function?'. This was an excellent and thought provoking presentation which covered: the sensitivity of spirometry in detecting early lung disease in children; the usefulness (or otherwise) of FEV<sub>1</sub> as an outcome measure in clinical trials; the physiology of spirometry; alternative techniques available for measuring small airways (dys)function; clinical implications. Prof Stocks' presentation was very audience interactive with a presentation 'sub-theme' of encouraging and supporting the importance of challenging guidelines and conventional thinking. Seems to be the flavour of the year – and what better people to be encouraging this than those who sit on the committees that put together the guidelines!!

The meeting was generously supported by AstraZeneca, with Palu Pal in attendance.

We shall be sorry to see Janet Stocks leave in May, as she has been unstinting in her talking engagements and very generous in giving time to the local respiratory community.

### **Additional Aridol Challenge Information Session**

Two information sessions are now scheduled: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Flyers have previously been circulated with session details. These will be combined information and hands-on promotional sessions for those interested in a new product for the assessment of airway responsiveness. The sessions are sponsored by Pharmaxis,. In preparation for this session ANZSRS-WA wish to suggest that some background reading on the Aridol challenge would be useful . A list of references on publications from 1997 – 2005 can be found at:

[www.pharmaxis.com.au/scientific-publications/respiratory-diseases/respiratory-diseases.cfm](http://www.pharmaxis.com.au/scientific-publications/respiratory-diseases/respiratory-diseases.cfm)

Publications cover mannitol as a bronchial provocation test and mannitol as a mucocilliary clearance agent. Most of the publications are accessible via PubMed.

Session Facilitator: Jo Prior: Pharmaxis Marketing Manager, Australia

This promotional familiarisation session is sponsored by Pharmaxis.

RSVPs required by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May to either Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

*Disclaimer: ANZSRS-WA is acting solely as a host organisation only. Hosting does not imply company or product endorsement.*

### **TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA Asm**

MayoHealthcare have confirmed that they will again be sponsoring both the local asm, to be held in October, and the prize for the WA Respiratory Science Research Award. The WA-Branch wishes to thank MayoHealthcare for their ongoing generous sponsorship

Full details about the meeting theme, keynote speaker, and accommodation options will be circulated in May. We wish to extend an invitation to all ANZSRS members for this meeting. For information, contact Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

### ***Co-Op Bookshop Offer***

Recently, ANZSRS-WA negotiated a 10% discount for local members on a bulk purchase of the CRFS recommended texts, with the Co-Op Bookshop at the University of Western Australia. The Co-Op Bookshop is a not-for-profit Australia wide organisation that returns profit to members via discounts and contributions to student grants and scholarships. The Co-Op has 40 branches Australia wide and offers on-line and mail order services.

On further discussion, the Co-Op Bookshop has extended the 10% discount to not only any textbook but also their wide range of general nonfiction, fiction, professional, medical, art, technical school, and children's books. For books that are not part of their usual catalogue, a special order may be lodged and will also attract the 10% discount. In addition, the Co-Op Bookshop has agreed to extend this offer to all currently financial members of ANZSRS, Australia wide. Unfortunately the Co-Op does not have branches in New Zealand.

The WA-Branch has two means by which its local members may access the discount: 1) via the local branch account; 2) individual membership of the Co-Op Bookshop. Currently a monthly book order is placed.

The WA-Branch was encouraged by the Executive Committee to take this offer to the national ANZSRS membership. Information regarding this offer was circulated recently to all Regional Representatives.

### **News From Around Town**

The recent 'Sex & the City' Cooking Passion has ensured that several local members are well versed in preparing great eats and treats for that next cocktail party!

### ***Diary Reminders***

May 5<sup>th</sup>: Fremantle Prison Torchlight Tour (RSVP by 28<sup>th</sup> April)

May 24<sup>th</sup>: Aridol Challenge Testing Session (RSVP by 19<sup>th</sup> May)

May 25<sup>th</sup>: Aridol Challenge Testing Session (RSVP by 19<sup>th</sup> May)

June 21<sup>st</sup>: Clinical Presentation Session (Royal Perth Hospital)

October 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>: TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA Local ASM, The Vines, Swan Valley

That's the news from WA.

*Chris & Sally*

Christine Nathan, CRFS (RPH)

Sally Young, PhD (SCGH)

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### **CRFS**

Following the successful CRFS Workshop that was part of the 2006 Scientific Meeting a number of members have asked for copies of the workshop presentations. These presentations are now available for downloading from the web-site. Thanks to Gary Nolan, Kevin Gain, Paul Guy and Peter Rochford for making their presentations available.

{The powerpoint presentations have been posted on the “Occasional Tutorials” page of the member’s only area. In the case of the QA session, there is a supplementary resource document and the answers and their rationale are provided as a separate word document. KG)

The next scheduled CRFS exams will be held in July. Dates are listed on the Application Form available from the web-site. However, alternative dates can be arranged by contacting me.

**Stephen West**  
**CRFS Coordinator**  
**5/5/2006.**