

Branch News – September, 2006.

Executive Musings

As we approach the half way mark for the Society year (yes, it's just over 6 months to go before the ASM in Auckland!), we would like to remind all members of the importance of attending the ASM. This is an ideal time to met up with your peers, discuss ideas, ask questions and learn new information. Next year's program is shaping up to be very exciting, with a joint sleep/physiology SIG and symposium on Monday, as well as our regular CRFS workshops. We hope that everyone is working hard on those projects to present at the ASM. Information on abstract submissions will be available soon.

Next year is shaping up to be a very exciting year for respiratory science in Australasia with the APSR meeting being held on the Gold Coast. While the TSANZ are heavily involved in organising that meeting, ANZSRS will also be represented on the local organising committee.

Of interest, our membership keeps increasing, having recently surpassed 250 members and is fast approaching 260. While some of this is driven by the requirements of registration in New Zealand, it is gratifying to see an increase of applications from around Australia and from Asia. As mentioned previously, payment of membership fees will be easier next year with the on-line facility during the ASM registration. Another changes which will occur, from later this year, is that Festival City Conventions will provide secretarial support to ANZSRS. While this will result in some changes, the Executive believe it will also streamline services to our members. We will now be able to provide credit card facilities for payment of fees (though, unfortunately only for Australian members at this time) and will be able to use a permanent e-mail address for the society, no matter who happens to be on the Executive.

While on the subject of fees, finally, don't forget there is still time to arrange payment of your 2006 fees - just contact Rob or Derek.

Graham, Rob and Derek.

Graham Hall, President

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New South Wales

Ahhh....September, spring is in the air and we are well on the way to another branch meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be held at Liverpool Hospital on Wed 27 of September at 5.30pm.

Debbie and I would like to carry on the theme of constructing and following through on a research topic to presentation stage. I think we all got very good direction and feedback from branch meeting held at the Woolcock Institute with Dr Marks presenting on forming a

research question. Unfortunately the email discussion group did not work with no extra messages being posted to further develop projects or discuss the start of a research idea.

We are hoping to revitalise the discussion at the next meeting and will provide some possible 'trigger' questions for possible research projects prior to the meeting. The projects will be very practical ones that are directed to clinical measurement of pulmonary function. If you are a new researcher or if you have wanted to be involved in respiratory research but felt you were too inexperienced to do it alone then this is for you! Use those with more research experience to guide your skill development in research!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Alison and Debbie

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New Zealand

We could like to congratulate 4 NZ members on passing the CRFS exam recently: Carla Shaw and Avis Williamson from Dunedin Hospital, and Dale Gwynne and Penny Faulkner from Southland Hospital, Invercargill. Great work guys, and all the best to those who are planning to sit the exam next time around!

There are a few NZ ANZSRS members we know of attending and presenting at the ERS conference in Munich, Germany this year: Chris McLachlan, Paul Kelly, Maureen Swanney, and Lutz Beckert. It will be a fantastic meeting and we look forward to hearing how it went on their return.

REMINDER: The 2006 ANZSRS NZ Branch Meeting, run in conjunction with the TSANZ, and the NZ Lung Cancer Group, is being held in Auckland on the 13th October. So far there has been a good amount of interest from the ANZSRS members. It will be a fantastic opportunity to discuss some important issues (i.e. registration, governance, accreditation, etc) and to meet our colleagues. We are planning a breakout session, which will include a couple of talks on pre-operative lung function testing and chemotherapy toxicity, some original research presentations, and addressing discussion points presented by those attending.

Lauren & David

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Queensland

Spring weather has finally arrived in Queensland with the first of the long awaited spring showers and elections. We welcome new member Chloe Parsley from the Matar Children's Hospital to our branch meetings as well as Respiratory Scientists from the Gold Coast and clinical measurement students from Griffith University.

The speakers at our recent meetings have included Dr Fiona Kermeen, Transplant & Thoracic Physician from The Prince Charles Hospital, who gave an excellent overview of the diagnosis and treatment of Primary Pulmonary Hypertension. This was followed by our August meeting when Annette Dent, Senior Scientist at The Prince Charles Hospital, presented “A Physiological & Mathematical view of Shunt Studies”. Her detailed presentation stimulated general discussion regarding the derivation of constant values that are used in shunt equations. Thanks go to the speakers for their time and presentations.

Our next meeting (Wednesday 25th October) is our last for the year. At this meeting Janet Shaw will present research from her Masters thesis. Also presented will be a brief overview of the proposed changes to the Governance of the society.

Members should also get their thinking caps on regarding a time and venue for our annual Christmas dinner. Any thoughts or desires, regarding the dinner, should be emailed to either Skye McLennan or Leanne Rodwell.

We also wish Skye McLennan the very best over the final months of her pregnancy. Is the Princess Alexander Respiratory Laboratory ready for its newest member?? Lots of hot water and clean towels is all that's needed! As Syke will be pre-occupied next year we are looking for nominations to fill her position as the Queensland representative on the ANZSRS board. If you wish to nominate then please contact either Skye or Leanne.

Cheers until next month.

Leanne & Skye

Leanne Rodwell and Skye McLennan
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South Australia

Nothing received

Donna and Sharla

Donna Keatley
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Sharla Anderson
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Tasmania

Nothing received.

David Johns

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Victoria

Collaboration

A colleague of mine from another state said we need to collaborate more. This is something I fully agree with, not only in this specific case, however in more of a general sense as a group of respiratory scientists. Moreover not only should we be collaborating in research, but also in our clinical practise.

Our laboratory is very fortunate to be involved in the CRC (co-operative research centre) for asthma and airways. For those who have not heard of the CRC, the CRC for asthma and airways is a collaboration between government, industry and research institutions. The research institutions from around the country are formed into a number of groups in areas such as, diagnostics and monitoring, therapeutics, immunomodulation etc, and the funding is achieved with cash from government and industry and in-kind from the research institutions. The total funding over the 7 years is in-excess of 50 million dollars. However what the CRC does particularly well is collaborate. We collaborate with the different research groups, and there is specific collaborative funding to support that. We also collaborate with industry as one of the primary aims of the CRC is commercialisation. This example is on the grand scale, however there is no reason why we cannot do this on a smaller scale between our laboratories. I constantly welcome people to our lab just to talk, both clinically and research. Last Friday David Parsons from Adelaide came to the lab and did a superb presentation on his research with CF mice and his work with the synchrotron. We are proposing to actively collaborate on some projects in the near future. Furthermore I am honoured to be invited to the Western Australian combined ANZSRS/ TSANZ meeting later in the year. I will not only be talking about the research in my lab, but will also exchange ideas on how we go about our clinical practise, and hopefully start a dialogue between our various laboratories. Finally our colleagues from overseas are usually more than happy to welcome us to their labs. A few years ago I applied for a travel scholarship through the hospital to go to the ERS meeting in Vienna. I then spent a couple of weeks in Sylvia Verbancks lab in Brussels. This led to a strong collaboration in the research sense, and she is now coming to my lab for a month towards the end of the year.

The simplest form of collaboration is with regular branch meetings, if only to discuss cases and interpretation of lung function tests, which Brigitte mentioned in the last branch news. I believe this is vital in maintaining a healthy dialogue between the labs and keeping the standard of respiratory science as high as it is in this country.

Our next meeting is on the 12th of September at Monash Medical Centre. The theme is respiratory anatomy. From the flyer that was sent out to the Victorian members the meeting will contain graphic medical procedures and nudity!

Bruce and Brigitte

Bruce Thompson, CRFS
Brigitte Borg, CRFS

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Western Australia

Well, ERS is upon us and there has been a flurry of poster presentation preparation around the labs. Have a great meeting to all those attending. We look forward to the 'de-brief' on your return.

Clinical Presentation Meeting

The August clinical presentation was hosted by Dept of Respiratory Medicine at the PMH campus. Bill Smith, Respiratory Scientist, Fremantle Hospital ran an excellent workshop on:

**“Science isn’t scary – having to tell an audience what I’ve been doing *is* scary!”
Tips to Reduce the Fear**

Bill is a highly experienced, industry recognised professional public speaker and Chair and ran this workshop by special request, as an encore from his March session. Led by Bill, the group discussed: (1) the problems, pitfalls, and tips for the ‘mechanics’ of presentation such as: speed and clarity of speech, use of eye contact, control and influence on the physical environment (podium set-up, microphone use), appropriate/inappropriate use of Powerpoint, the role of body language. (2) The importance of the role and attention to the duties of a Chair in providing the speaker with the best possible environment for their presentation. This workshop was very useful and a big thanks to Bill Smith.

The August clinical presentation session was generously sponsored by Mayo Healthcare, represented by Alison De Mattia. Quite frankly we have never seen so much and such a great variety of pizza – seemed like all attendees had pizza for lunch for the rest of the week - excellent effort Alison!

There will be no clinical meeting held for October as both the Local Combined ASM and the ANZSRS Respiratory Symposium shall be held that month. Instead, a replacement clinical presentation session will be held on Wednesday 22nd November.

CRFS

CONGRATULATIONS to Robert Tagliaferri, Sharon Lagan, and Sally Young (all from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital), for successfully attaining the CRFS. Rob hasn’t stopped eating celebratory chocolates since finding out!! Well done to everyone and a big thanks to: Amanda Piper for liaising with Stephen West on behalf of the CRFS Study Group and organising the venue; and, Kevin Gain as exam supervisor.

Future local exam dates have previously been circulated by Amanda along with the CRFS examination application form. Amanda has offered to lodge applications on behalf of study group members. Applications must be submitted one month prior to the exam dates. Information regarding exam dates, start times, and venue has been circulated. For further information contact: Amanda Piper (Study Group Co-ordinator), Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

Best of luck to everyone taking the CRFS exam over the coming months!

TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA ASM

The theme of this year’s meeting is: *‘Genomics: A Revolution to What Resolution?’*

The Call for Registration, Abstracts, and Awards and Grants has been circulated to all TSANZ –WA and ANZSRS-WA members. Closing date for all of these is Friday 29th September.

Remember to apply for:

- (1) **Respiratory Scientist Education Grant:** created to support ongoing professional educational activity. The Grant may be used towards: course registration/enrolment, conference attendance (presentation), research project funding contribution, conference attendance (non-presenting). The Grant is open to all members of the WA Branch (senior, junior, ordinary, associate) and will be adjudicated by an independent-of-ANZSRS panel. The Grant is generously sponsored by Mayo Healthcare.
- (2) **Accommodation Subsidies:** for the Combined TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA Asm. Open to all local members registering for the full weekend meeting, including the Saturday night asm dinner and overnight stay the Swan Valley.

AND/OR nominate a worthy recipient for:

- (3) **The Janine Panizza Award:** in recognition of an individual who has made a substantial contribution to respiratory physiology.

So lots of opportunity for involvement of all members on the Combined meeting front. For information regarding the Combined Meeting or any of the awards on offer, contact Christine Nathan or Sally Young.

Respiratory Symposium

October is a big month for the local branch, as the Respiratory Symposium follows-on from the local Combined Society ASM.

'Peripheral Vision'

Dr. Bruce Thompson – Keynote Speaker

Session One: How is peripheral airway function currently assessed in the clinical setting? What do these measurements mean? Emerging new techniques and potential clinical application.

Presenters: Bruce Thompson and Graham Hall (Princess Margaret Hospital)

Session Two: What Does DLCO Mean to You? Pitfalls and problems in measurement and interpretation. Presenters: Bruce Thompson and Justin Waring (Royal Perth Hospital)

The Symposium will be held on Monday 30th October, 2 – 5pm, at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. RSVPs will be called for shortly. For information about the Symposium please contact either Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

Bruce Thompson is the inaugural recipient of the WA Visiting Respiratory Scientist Grant. ANZSRS-WA wish to thank Pharmaxis for their generous support and sponsorship of both the Grant and the Respiratory Symposium.

Book Group

The monthly order for August has been placed – those who have placed an order will be notified as soon as the books arrive. Closing date for next ordering cycle is Friday 29th September. Please forward orders to either Sally Young or Christine Nathan.

Social Activities

Film Night: Come & join us for an evening at the movies:

'Thankyou for Smoking'

Wednesday 6th September
7pm (meet in foyer 6.40pm)
Luna Leederville
Tickets \$8.50

Christmas/ End-of Year Function:

This year a lunchtime picnic will be held at the Perth Zoo on Sunday 10th December. We are getting in early so that this can go into the diary well ahead of time and to fully work the kids up into a frenzy of Zoo excitement. Full details will be circulated as the date approaches.

News From Around Town

Welcome to Gary Nolan who has joined us over here in the West. Gary has commenced at The Telethon Institute for Child Health Research as a PhD candidate and is being initiated into the world of infant lung function by the team in the Dept Respiratory Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital. The project that Gary will be working on is: an examination of the relationship between airway structure and function in infants (0 – 2yrs-of-age), diagnosed with CF. We wish Gary all the very best with his research endeavour and look forward to presentations on the project as it progresses.

Semi-Farewell to Amanda Rowe, Senior Respiratory Scientist, Lung Function Services at The Mount Hospital. Amanda will be stepping down from her full-time role as Lab Manager to go part-time as she pursues her role as a mother and an Administrator with the Baptist Church. We wish Amanda every success with her new direction.

As a consequence of Amanda's changing role, we welcome Leanne Thornton and Tonia Leonard who shall both be 'stepping into the breach'.

Diary Reminders

September 6th: Social Activity: Film Night

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

October 30th: WA Respiratory Symposium (3 – 5.30pm), Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.

December 10th: Social Activity: Perth Zoo picnic

That's the news from WA for September.

Chris & Sally

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CRFS

Stephen West
CRFS Coordinator
1/8/2006.