

Branch News – December, 2007.

Executive Musings

Another year draws to a close and, once again, it has been a busy one for our Society. A lot of changes have been introduced, the biggest being the approval at the ASM of the Governance review, which is now being implemented. This is quite a formidable task and the Executive would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul and all the members on the Governance subcommittee, both past and present, for their devotion and work. The Governance subcommittee are working to a very tight deadline so that the changes can be finalized within 2008.

Registration, though not quite achieved, is closer to reality, pending government reviews in both NZ and Australia. We expect this to be finalized some time in 2008. Our thanks to David Robiony-Rogers and Gary Nolan and the other members on the Registration subcommittee for the work they have achieved in bringing this complex issue to fruition.

The Executive would also like to congratulate all those members that sat the CRFS exam this year and well done to those that passed. Peter Rochford has done an admirable job since taking over the task of coordinating the CRFS from Stephen West earlier this year and we look forward to even bigger and greater things next year.

Our thanks also to Kevin Gain and his editorial team for their tireless efforts in maintaining the ANZSRS website. These monthly reports are one avenue of communication between the Executive, Board and the members. The recent web survey will hopefully help Kevin and the editorial team to improve the web site even further and we encourage all members to pass on any ideas to Kevin. More importantly, the website cannot be maintained without your help and input.

Finally Rob, Derek and I would like to wish all members and their families a safe and Merry Christmas and an enjoyable break.

Graham, Rob and Derek

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Annual Scientific Meeting News

ASM Website link

Link to the ASM webpage that now appears on the ANZSRS homepage. Please take the time to peruse the site – information is going up on a regular basis – so it's worth visiting every week or so.

ASM Registration Brochures

Members should have received the Melbourne ANZSRS ASM registration brochures in the mail this week. Please take the time to have a look at what the meeting has to offer. On-line registration will also be possible. Earlybird registration closes 18th February 2008.

ASM Abstract Submissions

The Abstract Submission closing date has now passed (26th November 2007). Due to the APSR congress – the deadline was extended to 5th December 2007. Notification was sent to members via email from the Website Editor (thanks Kevin). The Abstract Review Committee, headed by Brenton Eckert, will be reviewing the abstracts over the next week or so and notification of acceptance should be sent to all authors prior to Christmas.

Program:

Speakers of the month:

Andrew Bersten is Professor and Head of Department of Critical Care Medicine at Flinders University and Flinders Medical Centre. Following a research Fellowship at the University of Western Ontario with Professor WJ Sibbald he returned to Flinders in late 1988 as an Intensive Care Specialist. Current research interests include mechanical ventilation, ARDS and the lung in heart failure. Measurement of respiratory mechanics at the bedside, in animal and laboratory models has provided important insights and the ability to explore different hypotheses. Andrew will be presenting his expert knowledge in the measurement of lung mechanics in restrictive disease in the ICU setting.

Professor Simon Gandevia is a medical graduate and neurophysiologist with a major clinical interest in the neural control of breathing. With more than 250 published articles, Simon's research focuses on how the brain controls human limb muscles and human respiratory muscles in health and disease. One emphasis has been the development of tests of neuromuscular function which can be applied to understand pathological changes in patients. This has included work on dyspnoea, phrenic nerve testing, diaphragm and intercostals muscle function and more recently, on the control of upper airways muscles. Simon will be presenting his expert knowledge on the inspiratory muscles in health and disease.

CRFS Workshop (Monday am):

While the program speakers have yet to be finalised – the topic for review this ASM will be The Lung Parenchyma. The themes that will be explored include:

- anatomy and function
- diseases of the lung parenchyma
- normal and abnormal gas exchange at the blood-air interface (the basics)
- tests of lung parenchymal function and their interpretation

Some time will also be spent reviewing the upcoming changes to the CRFS examination. As with other years, places will be limited – so ensure you register early for this workshop.

Until the next instalment,

Brigitte

Brigitte Borg
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Alison and Debbie



Well, we made it through another year of lung life here in NSW. Hope you are all taking long relaxing breaks and enjoying some festive cheer soon!!

We are a little sad to report that Rein Simmul from the Royal North Shore lab has decided to retire, (sad for us, not Rein!). Congratulations Rein, but we will miss your years of expertise

and input to the branch and society over the years.

Robyn Schoeffel has stepped up to fill Reins position so congratulations Robyn!
Robyn has also informed me that the RNS team has two more CRFS successes with Catherine Walsh and David Bolton recently passing, well done!!

We would also like to welcome Jeff Pretto to NSW!! Jeff will be taking the role at John Hunter Hospital of managing the sleep and pulmonary function labs.

What about our Christmas gathering I hear you all wondering! With the APSR so late in the year we thought it would be a good idea to gather for drinks to farewell Rein in style, and to welcome Jeff, however Jeff has had to decline due to such a tight schedule (arriving Newcastle 17/12/07 and back to Melbourne on Thursday!!) so we will catch up with him in the new year. The venue will be at Darling Harbour and Bird Healthcare has generously offered to fund this get-together. It will be on Thursday the 20th of December (at around 3.30pm) at Cohibar so cancel all those bookings on Thursday afternoon!!

Well, it is the end of the year and the end of the Golden Age of Debbie and Alison's reign over NSW!!! We are hoping the NSW members out there will put their hands up to take on the role of NSW representative (or we will be tapping on your shoulders!!) as it is not an arduous task, just need to be organised (not speaking from experience!!!).

Thanks for another great year and for all your support with great member turn-outs at meeting once again! Have a great festive season and see you in the New Year!

Deb and Alison

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New Zealand

Nothing received

Lauren & David

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David Robiony-Rogers CRFS
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Queensland

The end of the year was celebrated with a Christmas dinner at Amici's Italian restaurant at South Bank. Several members attended, including Ingrid from the Gold Coast. It was great to catch up with everyone!

The Queensland branch finished the year with more than 10 Queensland members sitting the CRFS exam at the end of November. This was a wonderful turnout. The CFRS monthly study group was well attended by locals. We also aimed to help our out of town members benefit from the study group by sending study material to them.

Thanks again to Craig Abud from Micro-Medical for supporting these monthly Saturday morning meetings and also Andrew Coates from the Mater Children's Hospital for organising the venue.

The Thoracic Society of Queensland's ASM was held on Saturday 17th November and was attended by several members. Professor Lidia Morawska from the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences, Director, International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health, Queensland University of Technology was talking on "Ultrafine particles in the air: characteristics, exposures and health effects. It was a very interesting meeting.

Many Queensland members attended the recent APSR and pre-congress courses on the Gold Coast. Thank you to the many QLD members who contributed, including not only those who manned the booth but also those who couriered the ANZSRS pens, pamphlets & display material to the Gold Coast, to those who provided historical photos and posters and to those who helped co-ordinate the stand. Thank you also to all ANZSRS members who contributed their time in manning the booth during the conference.

Thank you again to Sean Rafferty from Glaxo Smith Klein for supporting our bi-monthly meetings throughout 2007. These bi-monthly meetings are very important as they provide the only opportunity for QLD members to meet on a regular basis.

And finally we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope everyone has a relaxing break over the Christmas, New Year period and that you are all refreshed for the ANZSRS meeting in Melbourne (28th March – 2 April). We look forward to seeing you all again in 2008.

Christmas Cheers to all!!

Leanne & Pauline

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South Australia

Nothing received

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Tasmania

Nothing received.

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Victoria

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Western Australia

Clinical Presentation Meeting

The final clinical presentation session for 2007 was held on Wednesday 14th November and was hosted by Dept Respiratory Medicine, PMH. Two presentations were given:

1. Karla Logie presented on ' Investigating Exhaled Breath Temperature'. Karla is an Honours student under the supervision of Graham Hall. In preparation for her Honours viva presentation, Karla was seeking to gain presentation experience and feedback. Karla gave an excellent presentation covering: the pros and cons of the currently available methods of determining airway inflammation in children, the need for a non-invasive measurement of airway inflammation in children, exhaled breath temperature (EBT) methodology, comparisons of FeNO and EBT methodologies, evaluation of the relationship between EBT and inflammatory respiratory disease in 10-year-olds. Questions and queries followed and presentation tips offered.
2. The second presentation was made jointly by Christine Nathan and Sally Young: 'ANZSRS-WA: Where From and Where To?' This presentation was a round-up of the last three years of Branch activities under the current incumbents.

Clinical Meeting Sponsorship: CN thanked Grant Vincent of Mayo Healthcare for ongoing generous sponsorship of the clinical presentation meetings throughout 2007.

This session also provided the final opportunity for a Branch business meeting for the year and quite a lot of business was discussed. This is summarized as follows:

WA Branch Positions Falling Vacant

During their presentation CN & SY advised that they would be resigning, as State Representatives, effective December 31st, 2007. Chris Nathan will continue as WA representative to the Board, and both Chris and Sally will continue with their various current committee duties.

CN & SY advised that there are three positions that are to be vacated effective 31st December and, therefore, require nominations. The positions are: Regional Reps x 2, TSANZ-WA Associates Committee.

Regional Representatives: With the Society governance changes being proposed, regional representation around Australia will, at some yet to be determined future date, be reduced to a single State rep. CN & SY proposed that it would be beneficial to the Branch that from January 1st, 2008 until the governance restructure occurs, the State should continue to have 2 state reps. Once the new governance structure is applied, one of the reps becomes the State Representative and the other a 'State Representative Elect' (as proposed by Gary Nolan). These proposals would allow a sharing of the workload of state based activities and also enable 'training' of an interested person who may wish to in the future, nominate for State Rep. CN & SY advised that they are offering mentorship for the new Regional Reps, if they so wish.

TSANZ-WA Associates Committee: Membership of this committee involves assisting with the planning and running of the annual local ASM. Sina Panic advised that this position offers an excellent opportunity to gain experience in both committee membership and meeting planning and organisation. The rep on this committee is required to liaise closely with the ANZSRS-WA Regional reps.

Nominations for the above positions were called for and closed Monday 26th November. As only one nomination was received for the TSANZ-WA position, the nominee has been elected unopposed. As three nominations were received for the 2 positions of local rep, an election is to be held. The ballot papers have been distributed to the WA Branch and voting closes 5pm Monday 10th December.

Successful candidates for all positions shall be announced on Wednesday 12th December at the end-of-year dinner.

The Combined TSANZ/ANZSRS (WA branch) Annual Scientific Meeting

Sina Panic, ANZSRS-WA rep on TSANZ-WA Assoc Committee, advised that the weekend meeting was well attended but attendance at the Saturday night dinner was down on previous years. A concurrent ANZRS-WA session was held on the Saturday afternoon at which Paul Guy presented on 'Societal Governance'. This session was successful and has continued to generate a lot of discussion amongst local members. The TSANZ Associates committee is to meet shortly to review this year's ASM and to also advise of the new committee for 2008. Sina shall be vacating the position of ANZSRS-WA rep on this committee. The meeting thanked Sina for her efforts throughout 2007.

TSANZ WA-Branch Executive Committee

Sally Young advised that there was no activity to report and that this committee has completed all meetings for 2007 and will reconvene in early 2008.

ACOSH

Mari Noffsinger reported the last ACOSH meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for December. Mari advised that she is willing to continue in 2008, as one of the ANZSRS-WA representatives on ACOSH. Sunalene Devadason is the second ANZSRS-WA rep.

ANZSRS-WA Respiratory Symposium 2007

SY reported that this meeting was successful. There was a group discussion on the merit of continuing with this meeting. The opinion expressed by those in attendance was that the Resp Symposium was a highlight of the ANZSRS-WA presentation year and was a valuable contribution to the general respiratory community meeting calendar. Sally will continue to have a role in the development and organisation of this meeting.

ANZSRS Governance Subcommittee

Chris Nathan reported that the Governance Sub-Committee has made significant headway on redrafting the Constitution and a Governance information pack for the general membership. The redrafted Constitution shall be lodged with a specialist lawyer for review. Chris advised the meeting that members are able to keep up-to-date on Governance issues via the Society website, where governance documents are regularly posted and updated.

TSANZ-WA Lung Club Dinner Meeting

The final dinner meeting was held on Wednesday 21st November at The University Club at University of Western Australia. ANZSRS was well represented at this meeting at which the Respiratory Advanced Trainee Young Investigator Award session was held. The presentations were of great interest and high standard. This meeting was sponsored by NicoMed.

TSANZ-WA & LIWA (Lung Institute of Western Australia) Dinner Meeting

A last minute addition to the ANZSRS-WA Branch 'meeting and eating' calendar was held on Tuesday 13th November at "The Hyatt". Again, this was well attended by local Branch members. The invited speaker was Prof Robin Taylor who gave an outstanding presentation on 'Inflammometry – Shedding Light on the Diagnosis and Management of Non-Specific Respiratory Symptoms.' This presentation covered the history, the early hopes and expectation, and the realities of measuring and interpreting FeNO. The meeting was sponsored by AstraZeneca.

ANZSRS-WA End-of-Year-Get-Together

A Thai Banquet Evening is to be held on Wednesday 12th December, 7pm, at the 'Dusit Thai'. All members and their partners are invited to attend what promises to be a very delicious evening. A flyer has been circulated. RSVP to Sally by Friday 7th December.

Sponsorship

On behalf of the WA Branch, we wish to thank our generous sponsors who have encouraged and supported local activities during our term: Mayo Healthcare, Niche Medical, Pharmaxis, Astra Zeneca.

News From Around Town

Elise McKeon was married on November 24th.

The local branch wishes to extend a welcome to Karla Logie, Respiratory Medicine, Princess Margaret Hospital, who has just become a member of ANZSRS. We look forward to seeing Karla at future meetings.

Congratulations to Graham Hall who was recently made Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Western Australia.

Diary Reminders

- December 10th: Closing Date for WA Branch vote
- December 12th: End-of-Year Get-Together - Thai Banquet at the 'Dusit Thai'

Next Clinical Presentation Meeting

2008: in the hands of the new State representatives

The Final Word

At this point Chris and Sally would like to take the opportunity to thank whole heartedly all those who have provided support, guidance and feedback throughout our term. It has been a privilege to have represented the WA members and to have worked with The Board. We trust that the working relationships and friendships that we have developed over the last three years will continue to grow. It has been an incredible learning experience and we have learnt oh so much.

Side note: If you are ever over this way and want to go for a bit of a scenic flight over Perth and or Rottnest Island, drop Sally a line (if there is no aerobatics involved there will be no throwing-up – unless you happen to be Bruce Thompson).

Merry Christmas to all and all the best for your New Year endeavours.

That's the news from WA with a final sign-off from us.

Chris & Sally

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Sally Young, PhD, CRFS (SCGH)
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Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report

Since the last website update, the Governance subcommittee has finalised the proposed constitution (Society rules) and this has been forwarded to the Board Chair for distribution and comment from the Board. The subcommittee also included a copy of the Incorporations Act SA 1985 for reference and a list of proposed by-laws and schedules required to be read in conjunction with the proposed Society rules.

We have drafted a couple of these schedules and by-laws to allow the immediate operation of the rules. The remainder are merely a list of those needing drafting in the short, but not immediate term. There will be many more by-laws and policy documents required to ensure the efficient and proper functioning of the Society – but this will be the role of the new Board and Executive Committee

We have secured the services of a constitutional lawyer to review the documentation following Board approval and before it is distributed to the wider membership for viewing. A special resolution will then be called for a change to the proposed Society rules at the 2008 AGM. This will be a very important meeting and we will require approval from 75% of all

voting members in order to pass the resolution. Notification will be sent at least 21 days prior to the resolution being voted on.

We are hoping that the proposed rules will be available via the website (members only area) in late January 2008.

The committee also hopes to have a couple more education packages for the membership over the next couple of months.

Regards,

Brigitte

Brigitte Borg
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