

# **Branch News – December, 2008.**

## ***Executive Musings.....***

It's December! Hopefully everything is winding down work-wise and you are starting to enjoy Christmas parties, Mojito's and sunshine. To finish off the year, quite a few things have been going on for the Executive.

By all accounts the ESAP programme at the APSR in Bangkok was well attended with great feedback and I believe that most made it out before the airport closure! As mentioned in the last edition, the ANZSRS "Physiology Roadshow" concept was pitched to the APSR Executive Committee. This exciting proposal was received very well and hopefully will come to fruition soon.

Our immediate past President Graham Hall has been invited to sit on the newly formed ERS Task Force for Lung Function Predictive Values. Graham will keep us informed of the progression of this group and has already provided minutes of their first meeting (which has been made available on the site). This is a terrific result from the hard work collating normal reference data, which has come from many ANZSRS laboratories. We look forward to the important publications that will emerge from this.

A new sub-committee has been created - the "Fellowship Assessment Panel". This panel will be responsible for assessing any applications for ANZSRS Fellowship and the Society Research Medal. The panel is led by Associate Professor David Johns, with other panel members including Dr Sandy Anderson, Dr David Parsons and Paul Kelly. The terms of reference for the panel and guidelines for this award have been approved by the ANZSRS Board and have been placed on the website for your interest. Any nominations for this prestigious award will go directly to the Fellowship Assessment Panel Chair.

In response to some overseas interest in sitting the CRFS exam, Peter Rochford has submitted formal guidelines for this. It includes appropriate supervision of candidates (sitting the exam either in their own country or while in Australia/New Zealand).

Finally, the ANZSRS Executive trialled a teleconference with all Branch Representative's last week. We felt this beneficial as per the new Governance structure, we need to ensure there are sufficient mechanisms to encourage communication between the Executive, Branch Rep's and the ANZSRS Board. We discussed topics such as communication, education of junior members and sponsorship of local meetings. The general consensus was that these teleconferences should continue and we plan to get together formally at the ASM in Darwin.

The Executive wishes everyone a safe, happy and fun Christmas break.

Kind regards,

***Leigh, Danny and Debbie***

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## ***Annual Scientific Meeting News***

**Darwin 2009**  
TSANZ & ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meetings



**3-6 April**

By now you should all have received your registration brochure for the Darwin meeting and, if abstracts are anything to go by, the meeting will be very well attended. The Abstract Review Committee have received a record number of some 40 abstracts for next year's meeting and are in the process of reviewing them as you read this! It is fantastic to know that this meeting has attracted so much interest both from within Australia and New Zealand and as far a field as Europe. Thank you to all those who submitted abstracts to the meeting. I look forward to seeing the spoils of all your hard work. Thank you also to the Abstract Review Committee who really have had their work cut out for them this year.

There have been some minor changes to the TSANZ program, though these should not affect ANZSRS delegates. One change of note is the addition of another TSANZ Plenary on Bronchiectasis which will concurrently run with the Predicted Values and Ethnicity Plenary on Sunday morning.

Convention Centre Management have told FCC that the waterfront accommodation adjacent to the Convention Centre, comprising Vibe and the Medina Grand is almost complete and both hotels are on schedule to open in late January, 2009. If you are planning to come to the meeting, remember that the accommodation booking deadline is earlier than the early-bird registration deadline so please make sure you book before February 2, 2009 to avoid disappointment.

For those who intend to spend some more time in the top end, the tour packages are being finalised and should appear on the website in the new year, so keep an eye out for that.

Now that you've submitted your abstracts all you need to do is register and for those that haven't submitted an abstract get along and register so you can support your colleagues and hear what they have been working on. Registration forms are available in the registration brochure and online so get "registering" and I'll see you in Darwin.

***Sonya***

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***New South Wales / ACT***

Well, we've made it through another year!

Thanks for all the support with very pleasing turn-out numbers at meetings once again. Thankfully too, it's been great to see that the NSW/ACT membership numbers continue to grow in a positive direction, and it's been lovely to welcome four new members into our growing group.

However I'm sure like me, others were saddened to hear the recent news that Alison Boynton from the Liverpool Hosp lab decided to move to 'greener QLD pastures' (sad for us, not Ali!). Congratulations Alison and QLD for gaining a wonderful woman and her expertise! Alison, your bubbly nature and always friendly face and input to our branch activities will be sadly missed but sincerely our very best wishes!!

I hear you all asking, 'Well what about our Christmas gathering?' Hope that my recent email has managed to circulate around the traps. Whilst short notice, it would be great to have a few loyal NSW ANZSRS'ers gather for casual drinks, some nibbly's and a social festivity to culminate another successful year. "James Squire Brew House" in King St Wharf area Sydney has been decided as the venue, and big thanks also to the guys from Cardinal Health (Todd & Matt) for chipping in to fund this get-together. So have a break from wrapping your Christmas presents, & come along, Friday 19th December at 5.30pm & join the end of year ANZSRS wrap up! Hope to see many of you there, & wherever the night may lead .....

Have a fantastic festive season, and hope that you're all getting to have a relaxing break!!

See you in the New Year!

**Dana**

Dana Anquetil  
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## ***New Zealand***

To my surprise, walking down the street the other day, I noticed the Christmas decorations, Christmas Carols and the unmistakable sound of the cheesy "Happy Holidays" statement coming from the mouths of the staff at Starbucks it was then that I realised that was obviously Christmas time and it was time for me to get my act together and start my Christmas shopping.

It is also time for us all in the New Zealand branch to reflect on what has been a very busy and active year. Our membership numbers have increased dramatically and we now can claim to have more members than any of the Black Caps could score runs against the Aussie Cricket team. I am pleased to say that we have over 50 members now within the New Zealand branch and hopefully this number will continue to grow as our branch becomes more active.

This year also saw our largest meeting of New Zealand Respiratory Scientists with members from across the country and even our Trans-Tasman cousins attending the meeting. I would once again like to thank all the presenters, session chairs and my colleagues here in Christchurch for assisting in making this meeting the success it was.

The New Zealand branch has also been active and successful in sitting for their CRFS exams with approximately half of our members now having obtained their CRFS.

## **Arrivals**

The Greenlane clinic would like to welcome Tracey Righton and Brooke Cantley. The New Zealand branch would like to welcome them to the fold and it will be nice to have 2 new members joining the branch.

## **Congratulations**

The staff at Auckland's Starship Hospital along with the rest of the NZ branch would like to pass on our congratulations to Solomon who married his long time love Jemima in India at the start of the month. Solomon is enjoying a well earned holiday and honeymoon.

I would also like to congratulate Solomon on successfully completing his Post Grad Sleep Sciences course through University of Otago. Solomon also recently completed the Post Grad Paediatric Respiratory Science course offered through University of Western Australia, he has been a very busy bee this year so we hope he is enjoying his very well earned rest.

## **New Equipment**

The staff at Hawkes Bay lab have been very busy trialling new CPET equipment with the exciting news that they will be soon the proud owners of new equipment.

## **Movement in Dunedin**

Sue Filsell from Dunedin sent through the following development on Sleep Services at Dunedin Hospital:

“The Sleep Laboratory refurbishment has been completed, we are up & running again for full polysomnography studies & are enjoying the larger brighter work space. We are particularly pleased with the office providing the best view in town (of course keeping that quiet around here). Provision of portable diagnostic sleep studies & therapeutic studies continued during the refurbishment.

The laboratory will become a shared facility for the adult clinical sleep service & the paediatric clinical & research sleep units. A formal opening has been planned for early 2009”

I look forward to an invite to the formal opening ☺

## **Lab Profile**

Continuing with the Lab profile section of the branch news this month it was Wellington who was kind enough to give us some background about their lab. Thanks to David Robiony-Rogers and the team there for the following:

*The pulmonary function laboratory was established in the mid 60s under Trevor Gebbie on his return to Wellington after a time of clinical and research work with the late Moran Campbell at the Hammersmith, London. 1973 saw the University of Otago establish a Clinical School of Medicine in Wellington and the introduction the first body plethysmograph (using a constant pressure Emerson box) and cardiopulmonary exercise testing, initially with Douglas bag gas collection but subsequently mixed gas real time. Data from O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> analysers were recorded to a Grass polygraph initially but later the process was computerised – by 1980 a computer was the centre of the recording system.*

*In 1985 David Jones joined the department as a physician who was joined shortly afterwards by Kevin Gain as the first scientific officer to supervise the running and quality of the lab. A Morgan Model C transfer test controlled by a computer became the workhorse in 1987. This and its successor, the Morgan Benchmark TT, gave excellent service until replacement in 2005. The other reliable*

*staple was a rolling seal spirometer that provided flow volume loops.*

*Exercise testing evolved incrementally from the founding set-up, with updated gas analysers and – for a while - a troublesome mass spectrometer. Computerisation for data handling and display was improved. This was still very much a “home-built” system and was a lot more operator dependent than the off-the-peg apparatus available today.*

*The late 1970s saw the introduction of exercise provocation for asthma using the treadmill. 1986 saw the introduction of methacholine provocation followed by the addition of saline provocation.*

*Between 1990 and 1997, when the University of Otago Sleep Laboratory was established, the Wellington PFT laboratory employed overnight oximetry and afternoon “Nap tests”, conducted in a dark room in the department, in an attempt to diagnose sleep apnoea. This allowed the inductance plethysmography and end tidal CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring, with an ancient Grass polygraph generating reams of paper, to be retired.*

*Mid 2002 saw Kevin Gain leave Wellington Hospital and New Zealand for a position in Perth, Australia.*

*March 2003 saw David Robiony-Rogers take up the position of Service Leader for Respiratory Medicine – a role that includes being responsible for scientific direction of the pulmonary function laboratory.*

*2005 saw the retirement of the Morgan Benchmark TT from routine service and the introduction of the SensorMedics body plethysmograph with single breath carbon monoxide diffusion measurement is now the centre of diagnostic pulmonary function testing.*

*In 40 years the Laboratory has evolved from a collection of items of apparatus assembled by enthusiastic physicians and scientists to the current more streamlined arrangement using standardised apparatus and standardised techniques of calibration and QA. We believe that enthusiasm is still there, channelled into accurate performance and reliable results if not the invention or assembly of new modes of testing the physiology of our patients.*

*In early January 2009 Respiratory Medicine will be moving in to its new location in the Clinical Measurement Unit, Level 2, Wellington Regional Hospital. We will be moving from the current location on 7 January and will be open for business on 12 January. The move has seen us install our second full body plethysmograph prior to the move and means that once the move is completed we will be running two body plethysmographs along with the exercise system, provocation, spirometry and a collection of other portable devices.*

*We have also managed to increase our workforce by 0.5 FTE respiratory scientist for a total of 5.5 FTE, another 1.0 FTE RN so we will have one clinical nurse specialist and one RN and have also increased our SMO FTE and our registrars, with 3 advanced trainee registrars one each in respiratory medicine, sleep medicine and immunology.*

*With the move to the Wellington Regional Hospital we will be closing the second chapter of Respiratory Medicine at Wellington Hospital and starting Chapter 3. So, to paraphrase the unforgettable words of George Lucas; In a Capital City far, far away from where I started my professional career a new day will dawn for the Respiratory Medicine service in Wellington, New Zealand. We are all excited about the move and invite everyone to visit us for a guided tour.*

*So the journey continues...*

## **Sporting News**

The New Zealand branch would like to congratulate David Robiony-Rogers and Josh Stanton who both competed in the Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge. The temperature ranged from 10-25 degrees. Josh Stanton managed the 160Km ride in 4:55:51 seconds to be placed 943 out of the 4738. David managed a time of 6:16:59 and was placed 3201. Congratulations to both of you for completing the ride, I am not sure I would have even made it half way around in that time.

## **Merry Christmas**

To end the last Branch news for the year I would like to thank all the New Zealand members for the input they have given the branch and also welcoming the Aussie as the branch rep.

Our Membership in New Zealand is culturally diverse and as such we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in the many languages of New Zealand Branch Members:

### **Manuia le Kirisimasi, ma le Tausaga Fou – Samoan**

(Illaise Clarke- Middlemore Hospital)

### **Maligayang Pasko Manigong Bagong Taon – Tagalong (Phillipines)**

(Mailyn Dimapilis- Starship Hospital)

### **Mubarak Kareem Asalamalaikum- Arabic** (meaning Happy Holiday God's

peace be with you) (Mailyn Dimapilit- Starship Hospital)

### **Srećan Božić i Srećna Nova godina - Serbian**

(Ljubica Milvojevic-Poleksic- Greenlane Clinic)

### **圣诞快乐！ 新年快乐！ - Chinese**

(Jun Yang- Christchurch Hospital)

**Meri Kirihimete, Ngamihi Te Tau Hou- Te Rao Maori**

(Joelene Walker- Tauranga Hospital)

**Selamat hari natal dan tahun baru- Malay**

(Solomon Theodore- Starship Hospital)

**Nathar iniya puthandu vazhthukkal- Tamil (India)**

(Solomon Theodore- Starship Hospital)

**Ich wüsche Dir ein Frohes Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr-  
German**

(Lutz Beckert- Christchurch Hospital)

**Geseënde Kersfees en 'n gelukkige nuwe jaar- Afrikaans**

(John McLachlan- Waikato Hospital)

**A Blythe Yule an a Guid Hogmanay- Scots**

(Ewan Morris- Greenlane Clinic)

**Meeerry Chreesmeess- Australian English**

(Paul Kelly & Chris O'Dea, Christchurch Hospital)

**Murry Chrustumus- New Zealand English**

(And All the Rest).

Until Next Month,

**Chris**

Christopher O'Dea

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**Queensland**

As 2008 comes to a close, our branch celebrated with our end-of-year dinner at Georges Paragon Seafood Restaurant, Sanctuary Cove. This was a way of giving something back to our Gold Coast members who always make arduous trip up to Brissy for our bi-monthly meets. Many thanks go to Ingrid, Debbie, Rosemary Jarrod *et al*, who regularly make that effort. It was a very enjoyable evening, as you can see in Debbie's pics. Many thanks to you Deb, and your friend Debbie, who helped to organise this memorable night for us. Some wonderful sponsorship



was provided by Cardinal HealthCare in the way of drinks and wines, which made the evening very special! Many thanks go to Todd Spokes for his company's continued support of our branch.



Other news to share is the experiences of the TSQ meeting for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November and the TSANZ Advanced trainees from Friday. Prof. Iven Young gave a brilliant presentation

on gas transfer to an audience including 10 of our members on the Friday. On the Saturday he also covered COPD and gas transfer, and Mike Brown presented his IOS work, but alas Mike was our only attending Scientist, which is a shame. We need to keep up our involvement and contributions to the Thoracic Society of Queensland who have always been supportive of our group. Let's try harder next time!

Four of our intrepid members recently competed as an ANZSRS corporate team (The Spirojets) in the Inaugural Australian Lung Foundation (QLD) Fun Run. What a good cause! Skye, Ryan and the two Andrews pounded the track around the Brisbane River from Eagle Street to the Kangaroo Point Cliff's and back. Your's truly, tried not to let my elite running team down and pushed hard, and consequently suffered for it. We went OK, and kept running the 6.4 km course with Andrew Southwell doing very well coming in 7<sup>th</sup> overall. As a team we lost to the Mater Physios! We can't let this happen again, so let's keep on training for next year!

Thank you again to Sean and Glen from GlaxoSmithKline for supporting our bi-monthly meetings throughout 2008, without whom we would not be as strong and willing as we are. And finally we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope all is well for you in 2009.

***Andrew and Debbie***

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## ***South Australia***

Rebecca Harper presented results of the SA 2008 Inter-laboratory QC program at our meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> November. Rebecca was an excellent subject who then completed a thorough analysis of the data and gave us a detailed presentation of the results. So many thanks to Beck for her hard work. In summary, spirometry and lung volume measurements compared well across the labs. The usual higher CV's were seen in DLCO and RV; with TLC and FRC (helium dilution) having lower CV's than previously recorded. The issue that generated the most discussion was the difference in reported percent predicted of individual parameters. Generally it was felt that as a group we could implement a strategy for all South Australian laboratories to use a

common set of predicted values. Please contact me if you have any strong views or suggestions regarding predicted value sets and we will pursue this issue further.

As our Inter-lab QC program has now been going since 1993 members that have been involved hope to present the data at the 2009 ASM.

The evening was sponsored by Cardinal Health. Thanks to their representative, Stuart Jack, for organising and providing plenty of delicious pizza!

Next year's first meeting will be Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Anyone presenting at the ASM is invited to have a 'practice' run of their presentation on this evening. This is an excellent opportunity to fine tune in a supportive environment so please let me know if you would like to take part.

Lastly, Best wishes for a safe and Happy Festive Season,

**Michelle**

Michelle Rozzee  
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### **Victoria / Tasmania**

As we approach Christmas, the rush is on to get all those last minute things done that have been pushed aside all year long. The Vic branch had its final meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, where Vanessa Kelly presented some work from her PhD research. This was followed by a lovely dinner and plenty of funny stories.

We are now well into preparation for 2009 as abstract for the ASM in Darwin had to be submitted last week. Good luck to all those who have submitted their work for that meeting. The next Victorian branch meeting will be held just before the ASM so members can refine their presentations on the way to Darwin.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those from the trade who have supported us throughout the year. Your support is much appreciated. I would also like to thank Kevin and his team for all their work on the website. Keep up the good work.

Merry Christmas and a Happy new year to all!!

See you all in 09

**Faizel**

Faizel Hartley, CRFS  
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### **Western Australia**

Greetings from WA. The year has quickly come to an end and ANZSRS-WA will be winding down its activities for the festive season with its last 2008 get together on the 11th of December. We shall be wining and dining the night away with an Indian Banquet at the 'Mela Sweets and Eats' restaurant.

We would like to wish members all over Australia, a happy and hopefully restful festive season and look forward to catching up with everyone at the Darwin ASM.

## News from our Paediatric Respiratory Lab

Graham Hall (past ANZSRS president) has summarised the year at their lab.

*2008 was a growth year for the respiratory laboratory at PMH. Vaska Stavreska had a baby boy Oliver. Liz Salamon left us to return to the adult world full time, while Claire Shackleton and Karla Logie commenced full time work within the laboratory following the successful completion of their Honours projects through the University of Western Australia. Maureen Verheggen continued her award winning ways for her Masters research with an award for her presentation at the ASMR Medical Research week conference. Rebecca Vernon joined us briefly and has just been offered a scholarship to undertake her medical degree and we wish her the best of luck.*

*The laboratory was stretched with the roll out of a home oxygen program for infants with bronchiolitis. This program is a unique collaboration with general paediatrics and ambulatory care nurses and allows infants with respiratory tract infections to be discharged home on supplemental oxygen. I'd like to thank all the team for making this program a success and in particular Maureen and Claire whose efforts are largely responsible for the programs success.*

*I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the continued hard work by all the team here at PMH, Maureen Verheggen, Jan Oostryck, Claire Shackleton, Karla Logie and Rebecca Vernon and wish all our Australian and New Zealand colleagues a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

## News Around Town

Congratulations to Sally Young on obtaining her commercial pilot's license.

## For the Diary

11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2008	ANZSRS-WA end of year function	Mela Sweets & Eats
Feb 2008	ANZSRS-WA Branch Meeting	
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	ANZSRS ASM	Darwin
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	TSANZ ASM	Darwin

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All*

*Sina and Sharon*

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## **Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report**

STILL nothing to report as the committee is awaiting instruction from the Board.

**Brigitte**

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