

Branch News – May, 2008.

Executive Musings

It was great to meet up with so many colleagues at the very successful Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne in April. The Melbourne LOC headed by Brigitte is to be warmly congratulated for providing a really interesting program and social functions. The hats at the conference dinner were a treat with the most innovative and scientific being made by Michelle Rozee from noseclip sponges. It had to be seen to be believed and would have looked good at the Melbourne cup. The ANZSRS masterclass lived up to expectations built on a short but strong history.

The standard of presentations by ANZSRS members was fantastic and prizes were awarded to Catherine Walsh (Bird Healthcare Young Investigator Award), Graham Hall (Technipro Best Oral presentation), Robyn Schoefel (Compumedics Best Poster) and David Bolton (ANZSRS Education Scholarship).

The new Board are Paul Guy, Alison Boynton, David Robiony-Rogers, Bill Noffsinger, Maureen Swanney and Mike Brown and the new Executive of Leigh Seccombe, Danny Brazzale and myself are looking forward to working with them to realise the Vision of the Society. There was overwhelming acceptance at the Annual General meeting for development of the new constitution to reflect the realignment of Board and Executive roles and this will form a large part of the work that will be undertaken over the next 12 months.

We are all indebted to Graham Hall, Rob Tagliaferri and Derek Figurski for their excellent stewardship of the Society over the last 3 years. We know it will be a hard act for the new Executive to follow but we are already receiving significant guidance from this dynamic group!

CRFS awards were presented to members at the Conference dinner with 20 members receiving CRFS awards from recent exams. These members were:

John CAMPS	David BOLTON	Lorraine LEVERSHA
Sonya JOHNSTON	Catherine WALSH	Carolyn BRAYLEY
Andrew THORNTON	Rosemary HAWKEN	Matt ELLIS
Eleonora DEL COLLE	Leanne RODWELL	Faizel HARTLEY
Marijke CURRIE	Andrea MILLER	Bruce THOMPSON
Jeni NORVAL	Vanessa KELLY	John McLACHLAN
Amir GHANBARI	Angela LEWIS	

There are now 118 members holding CRFS awards which is a fantastic achievement for our Society and those who have driven this, Stephen West and more recently Peter Rochford.

Please contact the executive if you have any issues you would like to raise.

Kind regards,

Debbie, Leigh and Danny

Debbie Burton, President

dburton@csu.edu.au

Leigh Seccombe , Secretary

seccombel@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

Danny Brazzale, Treasurer

danny.brazzale@austin.org.au

Annual Scientific Meeting News

Darwin 2009

Sonya Jonhston

Chair, Darwin 2009 LOC

sonya.johnston@health.sa.gov.au

New South Wales / ACT

What a great start to the year with a healthy turn out of over 40 members attending the first branch meeting. For those who missed the evening's events, in addition to a quick tour of the Concord lab & listening to Clinical Associate Professor Alvin Ing's interesting & entertaining presentation on the topic of chronic cough, good group discussion came about on issues including:

- Jay Flack spoke and is keen to progress with an inter lab QC project. For those NSW members who wish to inquire further or become involved, please e-mail Jay directly Jay.Flack@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au
- Awareness was raised regarding a 'Reference Values' template to be posted on the web-site in the next couple of weeks- so keep an eye out. Should labs have some data (preferable > 50, healthy, never smokers) it would be useful to consider submitting reference data for lung volume (plethysmography) and diffusion capacity (single breath?).
- Interest / feedback was sought regarding the idea of a short 1-2 day opportunity for junior staff members to 'visit' other laboratories. If certain lab managers are keen to become involved, as a starting point I shall be happy to collate a list which could then be used to help coordinate this valuable opportunity.
- Members present voted that the next bi-monthly meeting should again be held at CONCORD hospital due to overall convenience. Agreed to meet at 5.00pm with an estimated start time of 5.30pm. Exact date / topic to be advised.

One last thing, it would be greatly appreciate if members could please check that their contact details (especially e-mail) are current on the members directory { you can edit your own details on the web-site and a copy of the changes is sent to Festival City Conventions and to me, so it is a good way to ensure you are kept in touch with Society happenings. KG, Ed. }

And please don't hesitate to contact me!

Stay well and flu free as the colder weather kicks in.

Dana

Dana Anquetil

doin04@hotmail.com

New Zealand

Greetings from New Zealand,

Well winter has finally arrived for those of us on this side of the ditch with snow falls on both Islands and the frosty mornings beginning. Even with the cold snap the New Zealand branch has been busy - as usual.

We had 3 NZ member sit the CRFS exam and we are just waiting on the results, good luck to all 3, I am sure all that study has paid off.

The Christchurch Spirometry course was run again this month with a good turnout and positive feedback from the participants. This course is a credit to those involved in its design and also to the hard work done by our spirometry training course committee.

The Wellington Hospital laboratory was sad to lose Ian Martin who after 6 years is off to have his OE. We wish him all the best hope to get a few postcards from his travels. Meanwhile Wellington Hospital is very happy to welcome Denise Minogue to the laboratory. Denise has a wide range of experience in diagnostic and research testing as well as her experience with the Sormedics equipment. A warm welcome to Denise.

The Respiratory lab at New Regional Hospital in Wellington is starting to take shape and hopefully there will be an opening in July this year.

Finally a new member has been brought into the NZ branch. Anthony from the Hawkes Bay laboratory is a proud dad again with Kody arriving April 16 at 6lbs 14oz. This is Anthony's 3rd child, and this will hopefully not prove too much of a handful.

Planning is underway for the Branch meeting in November. I will keep everyone informed of the confirmed dates once I get these.

Until Next Time,

Chris

Christopher O'Dea

christopher.odea@cdhb.govt.nz

Queensland

As your newly elected regional representative, I'd firstly like to give a big thanks to Leanne and Pauline for the hard yards they've put in representing and organizing us in the last year as our Queensland Reps. I hope that I can do at least as half as well! But a tall ask for a bloke. Our many thanks and congratulations go to Mike Brown as our elected Board member. We hope it is smooth sailing for you Mike.

We had a good turn out for our second bi-monthly meeting for the year, held on 30th April at the Brisbane Private Hospital. Mr Barry Dean (Royal children's) gave a fascinating tour of the airways as seen from the bronchoscope, in children with some pretty bad respiratory conditions. His talk was entitled "Airway Abnormalities in Children. Imaging and Flow Volume Loops." Barry was able to show us the corresponding flow-volume loops of children, some of whom had severe

airway disease and malformations. We have been left with lasting images of attempts of hauling out from CF airways, mucus plugs, that recoil like elastic. Many thanks for a great presentation Barry, and we will have to get you back again for more! And many thanks to Sean Raffety representing GlaxoSmithKline for their ongoing support for our bi-monthly meetings.

Subsequent meetings are scheduled for 25th June, 27th August & 29th October. Ideas for these future meetings are invited.

You will be aware that the 2010 ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meeting, is being hosted in Queensland, and as such a Local Organising Committee is being formed. If you would like to become involved in the then please contact me.

Also, as discussed at the last meeting, nominations are called for an assistant to the elected Regional Representative. The closing date for this is Friday 16th May. Send your nominations to me, and do contact me if you need to know more.

Any Queensland members interested in continuing our successful CRFS study group, please let me know of your interest. The next application deadline for the CRFS exam is 19th September, with the exam on 17th October.

We welcome Lucy Keeling, a scientist, to her new job at the Queensland Respiratory Laboratory at The Wesley Hospital. The Wesley have done well in recruiting Lucy.

If you have any news to share from your Labs, then please let me know.

And lastly to all those in Public Health in Queensland, I hope that all of your new role descriptions as Health Practitioners and the work unit proposals, come to fruition, and pay dividends. As Health Practitioners we have gained an average pay increase over three years of 23%. It certainly is good news!

Late notice:- The TSANZ Qld Branch Winter Scientific Meeting is being held on July 19-20, 2008. The theme is Respiratory Infectious Disease.

Guest Speaker: Dr Grant Waterer, Thoracic Physician, Perth.

Venue: Casuarina Beach Resort.

Casuarina Beach is a resort suburb located on 3.5km of beachfront on the New Tweed Coast, northern NSW. It is located just south of Kingscliff and Salt Beach. Just to the west is Mount Warning, surrounded by the vast, World Heritage listed, Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia. The Tweed inland waterways offer boating, fishing and canoeing, while Casuarina Beach's own coastline is popular for surfing, windsurfing, diving, fishing and cycling. The resort features tennis courts, playground, swimming pools, a state-of-the-art gymnasium, cocktail bar & lounge, gourmet deli & takeaway.

Registration Fee: \$55 for members of ANZSRS (\$50 +GST.) Registration includes: morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on Saturday, conference dinner on Saturday night, morning tea and lunch on Sunday.

Partners/ children are welcome to attend the lunches and conference dinner and will be asked for a small contribution towards the cost of these meals.

We hope that you will be able to participate in this year's Winter Meeting, which we hope will be interesting, informative and interactive. Spouses and children are welcome to attend the weekend.

Closing Date for Registration: Thursday July 10th 2008

Registration details are available from Andrew Coates.

Yours in Science

Andrew

Andrew Coates
ancoates@mater.org.au

South Australia

This is a brief report, to firstly thank Rachel Schulz from Lifespan Physiotherapy for her informative presentation at our April branch meeting. Her presentation on 'New Advances in Respiratory Physiotherapy' generated many questions and general discussion points whilst providing an insight into her areas of expertise and special interest. Thanks also to Mandy Kittel from Pharmaxis for sponsoring the meeting.

Our next branch meeting is scheduled for the 26th May, but may be bought forward to the 19th May. I will confirm the presentation and date via email as soon as I have confirmation.

The first 'In-lab' practical session at RGH on Helium dilution lung volumes was an interesting educational meeting with Danny Talbot (Mayo Healthcare) and David Schembri taking us through the complexities and subtleties of this measurement. Further sessions are planned for latter this year.

Hope to see everyone at the next meeting

Michelle

Michelle Rozzee
respiratorylab@respiratoryspecialists.com.au

Victoria / Tasmania

Firstly, let me extend a warm welcome to our Tasmanian members. Its been a busy couple of months since the ASM and we are a week away from our next Branch meeting. The meeting will be held at Monash Medical Centre where Prof. Philip Barden will be speaking on "COPD revisited". We are looking forward to a very interesting and relevant presentation that hopefully stimulates much discussion amongst the group.

Following this our next meeting will be held at the Austin Hospital and is scheduled for the 15th of July. We hope to have some of our members present a summary of the ATS meeting which is just around the corner.

Faizel

Faizel Hartley, CRFS
f.hartley@alfred.org.au

Western Australia

Hi from WA

It seems only yesterday that we were in Melbourne at the ASM yet another month has gone by. Our bi-monthly meetings have turned into monthly meetings in the first half of this year but we will be back to normal for the second half of 2008. This month we had an interesting presentation by Dr. Umadevi Muthukumar, a visiting Respiratory Physician from Malaysia, on "Vaccines for TB - Fact or Myth". The presentation covered:

- Why we vaccinate
- What we vaccinate with
- Is it safe and is it effective?

The upshot was that immunisation, although relatively safe, does not infer protection from acquiring TB as an adult. In fact, it could mask true exposure. The talk generated much discussion with a review of spirometry within outpatient clinics, in the wind. AstraZeneca, represented by Les Sharp, generously sponsored the meeting. We bid farewell to Pauleen Guy who has represented AstraZeneca for the past few years and wish her well in her new 'endeavours', starting with an extended holiday around the top end.

With the National ASM behind us, WA is busying planning its local joint TSANZ/ANZSRS ASM for October 25th/26th. It will be held in Mandurah, an easy hour's drive from Perth and a lovely place for a holiday/conference. A Respiratory Symposium follows on from the ASM and is held on Monday 27th, back in Perth. We would like to extend an invitation to all Respiratory Scientists and would love to see some of our colleagues from the East join us. If you are interested, drop us an email (address below) and we will keep you updated.

Where are they now?

At the ASM we had opportunity to catch up with Amanda Piper, former WA ANZSRS member and WA CRFS co-ordinator. Amanda has gone back to study doing a Masters in Business (Health Management), but is still working casually in sleep medicine at Western Private Hospital, Monash Medical Centre and Cabrini Sleep Centre. We wish Amanda all the best for her studies.

Diary Reminders

May 22 nd (Thursday)	Next Clinical Presentation Session (SJOG) "Did you inhale? The use of external devices to take drugs!"
October 25 th &26 th	TSANZ-WA/ANZSRS-WA Local ASM
October 27 th	WA Respiratory Symposium

Sina and Sharon

Sina Panic BSc,CRFS
Sharon Lagan BSc,CRFS
anzsrswa@yahoo.com.au

Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report

News from the Board is that the interim constitution has been lodged with the Office of Business and Consumer Affairs, SA.

Paul Guy, Board Chair, is in the process of setting up a meeting with Board Matters to set out an action plan for further development of governance changes. As a result, the Board may be required to meet a couple of times over the next year to complete the action plan. This should not be too onerous a task to get them together now that the Board consists of 6 members only.

In the meantime, the Governance Committee awaits further instructions from the Board as to what assistance they can provide in this process.

Regards,

Brigitte

Brigitte Borg
Chair, Governance and Vision Subcommittee
b.borg@alfred.org.au