

# **Branch News – October, 2008.**

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

Well there are certainly plenty of things going on in the ANZSRS at the moment. Later this month the WA and New Zealand branches will have their local combined meetings with the TSANZ, which have become big annual events on the calendar. Both branches have done a great job in securing sponsorship for what look to be very exciting meetings.

Plans for the Annual Scientific Meeting in Darwin next year seem to be progressing very well. Having recently visited Darwin and seen the Convention Centre, I am certainly looking forward to this meeting. The call for abstracts and travel grants for this meeting will be made very soon, with some information already available from the link on the ANZSRS home page.

As well as reviewing the travel grant guidelines, the ANZSRS has set-up the Christine McLachlan Travel Grant. This travel grant was set-up to honour the late Christine McLachlan who was a well-loved and respected member of the Society. The grant has been specifically set up to allow a New Zealand member to attend, and preferably present at, the Annual Scientific Meeting. The guidelines for these travel grants will soon be available on the ANZSRS website. Speaking of travel grants, congratulations are extended to Josh Stanton and Brenton Eckert who were awarded the Pharmaxis and Asencia travel grants (respectively) to attend the APSR meeting in Bangkok.

The other piece of information that we would like to pass on to all the members is the upcoming increase in membership fees. Unfortunately, as costs everywhere increase, the ANZSRS is not spared. At the 2005 Board Meeting the decision was made that, rather than continue the unplanned membership price increases that have happened previously, the society would increase the membership fees on a 3-yearly basis. This price increase is based on the increase in CPI and means that membership fees for next year will increase by about 10%. Although a price increase is never good news, as you can see by the amount of activity in the society, we think the ANZSRS continues to provide exceptional value for money.

All the best,

***Debbie, Leigh and Danny***

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

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



## **Darwin 3-6 April, 2009**

The Darwin conference is drawing nearer. The program, themed “*Lung Function Beyond the Laboratory*,” is complete and laden with talented speakers from both within and outside the Society, including Prof. Josep Roca, Prof. Anne Chang, A/Prof. Peter Morris, A/Prof. Alan James, A/Prof. Peter Catcheside, Prof. Roger Seymour, Mr Jeff Pretto, Dr Andrew Thornton, A/Prof. Graham Hall, A/Prof. David Johns, A/Prof. Alan Crockett and Dr Debbie Burton.

Members can expect to receive a copy of the Registration Brochure in the not-too-distant future. Of course interesting invited speakers make up only part of a good conference. It still needs original research from you, the members to complete the scientific content and make the meeting the best it can be! The **abstract deadline** has been set for **Wednesday 26 November 2008** so if you haven't already done so, get your thinking caps on, gather some data and submit an abstract by the due date. The more involvement we have from the membership, the more we all can learn from each other! I hope you can all submit an abstract and make it up to Darwin to see what our top end has to offer.

## **Sonya**

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## **New South Wales / ACT**

How quickly time passes – I'm once again writing the next instalment of monthly NSW branch news!

Well, don't forget that Brooke Fallon and Merylese Mercieca from the Respiratory Lab at the Nepean Hospital are busy conducting a survey on Infection Control Practices, and would greatly appreciate our help. Could each NSW Laboratory please complete one copy of the survey before the 17th October 2008, and submit by either Fax (02 47342963), or Mail.

Remember also, that kind invitation extended our way from our neighbours in NZ for their branch meeting scheduled for Friday 24th October. If any member is interested and able to attend, email Chris O'Dea ([Christopher.Odea@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:Christopher.Odea@cdhb.govt.nz)) for more details.

Now, as membership did seem keen to occasionally change our NSW branch meeting location, and with the two previous meetings being Sydney based, it's perhaps fair to give those in the Central Coast / Newcastle area a bit of a break from travelling. Thankfully, Trevor Borgas and the team at Gosford Hospital are happy to host the next meeting, both Jeff Pretto (John Hunter Newcastle) and Danny Brazzale (Austin Hospital VIC, & ANZSRS Hon. Treasurer) are willing to present on interesting topics, and NicheMedical are additionally pleased to sponsor the night's events by providing catering. Therefore if the majority of members are now to travel up from Sydney, thought that it might be a good chance to trial a Friday evening meeting. That way people could come by train (easy walk from station to Hospital), have a glass of wine, and enjoy a more relaxed atmosphere not needing to hurry back home again for another workday ahead, especially with the daylight hours fortunately extending!

Hence a note for the diary.....

The next NSW branch meeting is scheduled for **Friday 31st October 08**, and I shall be sending out more information via member emails very soon.

Please continue to feel free & make contact,

**Dana**

Dana Anquetil  
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## **New Zealand**

With the clocks moving a forward an hour here in NZ it is time for us to crack out the BBQ and enjoy the summer entertaining season (if we ever get rid of the cold weather that is).

This month we have news from around the traps and I would like to thank all contributors this month.

### **Branch meeting**

Yes the branch meeting is being held on Friday October 24 here in Christchurch (Just in case you have been ignoring the emails about it). A registration form has been sent to all NZ members and those who expressed an interest in attending the meeting. If anyone from across the ditch is keen to join the fun please give me an email and I can forward the form on to you. I am pleased to add that in addition to Anne-Marie Gibson we have 2 special guests to our meeting. ANZSRS president Debbie Burton and the CRFS Co-Coordinator Peter Rochford will be attending and presenting at the meeting.

Peter has been working in the field for a number of years working at the Respiratory Laboratory at the Repatriation General Hospital from 1984 until 1996. In 1996 he became the Head Scientist at Austin Health.

Peter has been a board member for ANZSRS and in 2007 took on the unenviable job of being the CRFS Co-ordinator. Besides his involvement in ANZSRS Peter is also a member of the TSANZ and Australasian Sleep Technologists Association.

We are very lucky to have Peter along to our meeting. He will be co-ordinating the NZ CRFS challenge which has prizes up for grabs for the best region!!

### **We're moving**

The Wellington Respiratory Medicine and Pulmonary Function Lab would like to announce the moving date of 7 January 2008. They are pleased to be moving to the new Wellington Regional Hospital. Final touches are being made with the architects at the moment.

I for one am looking forward to an official opening ceremony bash!!

### **Departures**

Palmerston North is saying good-bye to Scott Hay on October 27 as he takes on a new adventure overseas. Scott is heading to Cork in Ireland to take up a position over there. I am sure Scott is looking forward to the 100 days of fog a year. I am sure you are wishing you chose a tropical destination now Scott ☺

### **Lab profile**

Continuing on from the successful lab profiles in the last 2 branch news it was time to head to the Deep South. Dale Gwynne "volunteered" to help this month to tell us a little about Southland.

*The respiratory and sleep needs of the people of Southland are met by a small group of technologists based in the Diagnostic Testing Department, Southland Hospital in Invercargill. With our new hospital being opened about four years ago, we have an excellent work environment in our purpose-built department.*

*The Diagnostic Testing Department provides cardiology, respiratory and sleep services and is therefore staffed by a multidisciplinary team. Our three respiratory technologists have all attained their CRFS qualification and have dual-registration with the Clinical Physiologists Registration Board, two as respiratory/cardiac technologists, and one as a respiratory/sleep technologist. We also have two staff performing respiratory/sleep technician roles. Three cardiac technologists, an assistant and our receptionist make up the rest of the Diagnostic Testing Department team.*

*The respiratory services provided include spirometry, diffusion capacity, plethysmography, exhaled nitric oxide measurement, allergy testing, mantoux tests and challenge tests including methacholine, exercise and hypertonic saline. We are looking forward to the replacement of our lung function testing equipment this financial year.*

*The sleep service provides portable home sleep monitoring with an Embletta system. The department is funded to provide CPAP units and the initial consumables to patients. The sleep technologist is therefore responsible for the fitting and trial of CPAP/BiPAP equipment and annual follow-up care for long-term patients.*

*Long-term goals for our department include achieving accreditation for our respiratory laboratory. We look forward to the Southland District Health Board employing a permanent full-time respiratory physician to help us with this process.*

Thanks again to the team in Invercargill!

### **CRFS**

This month is the last CRFS examination for the year. A couple of our NZ members have signed up for the challenge. We wish them all the best and know their hours of study will all pay off.

A few of our members are jetting off to Europe to attend and present at the ERS conference. We wish all those members luck and look forward to hearing about the trip at our Branch meeting.

That is all for this month, I hope to see you all at our meeting in a few weeks in Christchurch. This will be the meeting you will not want to miss.

Until Next Month,

**Chris**

Christopher O'Dea

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### **Queensland**

Hi Everyone,

It's Andrew's 2IC again. The boss has swanned off with Mike Brown in tow to the ERS in Germany and left me to keep you all up-to-date on the happenings of the QLD Branch.

We had 3 speakers at the meeting last month. Yoon Shin, a music therapist, shared her PhD work with us – she is studying the effect of singing on Cystic Fibrosis children. And yes, there was some audience participation. Andrew spoke on the usefulness of the MVV test prior to CPET and I reviewed a recent journal article on the 6MWT. The paper, if you are interested is: ‘Validation and Comparison of Reference Equations for the Six Minute Walk Distance Test’. Cote C.G., Casanova C., Martin J.M., Lopez M.V., Pinto-Plata V., de Oca M.M., Dordelly L.J., Nekach H. and Celli B.R. Eur Respir J 2008; 31: 571-578

Since our last entry, a new Lung Function Laboratory has sprung into being. The Gold Coast Hospital in Southport, a Queensland Health Facility, finally has a lab (picture attached). I’m working in a sole-charge capacity at present which should get interesting as this is a 700+ bed hospital. Hopefully the next QLD branch news update won’t start with “Respiratory Scientist has melt-down due to colossal workload”.



The upcoming Christmas knees-up is planned for November 22<sup>nd</sup> at George’s Paragon Seafood Restaurant at Sanctuary Cove. It looks like turning into a sleep over as many of the Brisbane lot are planning on booking accommodation nearby. Rest assured, I’ll take a camera so I can bring you all the action in the next branch news instalment.

Dr Simon Bowler, a renowned Respiratory Physician who works at the Mater Hospitals in Brisbane, is speaking at our next gathering on October 29<sup>th</sup>. The topic is The SMART treatment program and asthma. A big shout out goes to Mayo Healthcare for offering to pay the parking costs for this meeting.

Our database of QLD labs is almost complete and ready for distribution amongst the QLD membership. Included are the contact details, equipment used including software versions and the numbers and sizes of calibration syringes. It will be particularly useful for labs and scientists that are relatively isolated - I will certainly be putting it to good use.

Well, that’s about a rap. Just one more article that you may find interesting: The Carbon Monoxide Diffusing Capacity: Clinical Implications, Coding and Documentation, Plummer A.L. Chest 2008; 134 663-667. I found the section titled “Measurement and Utilization of Volume-Corrected Diffusion Capacity” on page 665 particularly interesting – yep, that controversial parameter, DL/VA.

Debbie out.

**Debbie**

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## **South Australia**

### **Michelle**

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## **Victoria / Tasmania**

Hi from Vic/Tas,

The year is flying by and we are all looking forward to the warmer weather of summer. Our last branch meeting was held at Box Hill Hospital, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, where we had the newly appointed Director of Respiratory Medicine, A/Prof Frank Thien, presenting on “Remodelling in Asthma and COPD”. It was a fantastic talk which generated plenty of discussion. Danny Brazzale followed this up with a very interesting and unique case presentation from the Austin Hospital. I would like to thank those who presented at the meeting as well as those who helped me in getting it organised.

Our next, and final, meeting for the year is scheduled to be held on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of November. Further details about location of the meeting will follow. There is also a sitting of the CRFS exam to be held on the 17th of October. Good luck to all those who are planning to sit the exam!

Regards,

### **Faizel**

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## **Western Australia**

Greetings from the West! A warm welcome to another branch member: Ray Davey. Ray has been the new face around Pulmonary Physiology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital over the last 6 months.

The combined TSANZ/ANZSRS (WA) and the Respiratory Symposium have gained momentum over the past month.

### **TSANZ/ANZSRS (WA) ASM**

The Local ASM will be held in Mandurah on October 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>. Deadline for registration, submission of abstracts and nominations for TSANZ awards was on September the 22<sup>nd</sup> however there is time till 5pm Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October to apply for ANZSRS (WA) Travel award and Accommodation grant.

The theme this year is:

### **“The Challenge of Clinical Practice and Research in Minority Groups”**

For a line up of speakers refer to September branch news. Final programme will be circulated soon.

## **ANZSRS-WA Respiratory Symposium**

Flyers and RSVP forms for this have been circulated. Detailed programme will be circulated shortly.

The topic this year is:

### **“Body Bits Beyond the Lung”**

Jeff Pretto, Scientific Director, Department of Respiratory & Sleep Medicine at the John Hunter Hospital is the keynote speaker. Jeff will be presenting “Pulmonary Consequences of Severe Liver Disease”.

This meeting is sponsored by Pharmaxis and Niche Medical.

### **September’s clinical presentation meeting :**

#### **“Revised historical spirometry reference ranges are reflective of contemporary healthy spirometry values.”**

A/Prof Graham Hall presented some background into collection of data for reference values and then went on to discuss his work on testing the validity of the revised NHANES data (NHANES III) with contemporary healthy Australian spirometry data.

Laboratories in Australia and New Zealand were invited to submit spirometry data obtained from healthy Caucasians subjects who had no history of respiratory diseases, were life-time non smokers and had been studied in 2000 or later.

Twelve centres submitted data from 2123 individuals.

These showed that:

- 95% of the study population had FEV1. within 2 standard deviations. (SDS)
- There were significant differences in FEV1.0, FVC and FEV1. /FVC SDS between centres and equipment types.
- Jaeger equipment produced higher SDS than Sensormedics and Medgraphics.

In conclusion Contemporary Australians subjects were not considerably different from the revised historical reference data. (NHANES III)

A copy of this presentation can be found in the member’s area of the website under tutorials:  
[www.anzsrs.org.au](http://www.anzsrs.org.au).

## **News around Town**

Congratulations to Ray (SCGH) and Sarah on their recent engagement. The staff of Pulmonary Physiology, SCGH, wishes him well in this next stage of his life.

Best wishes to A/Prof Graham Hall (PMH) who is presenting at the ERS and we hope all those attending the ERS enjoy the conference.

### **Diary reminders**

October 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	ERS	Berlin, Germany
October 25-26 <sup>th</sup>	TSANZ (WA)/ANZSRS (WA)	Mandurah

	Combined ASM	
October 27 <sup>th</sup> (1:30- 5:00pm)	Respiratory Symposium	ICHR, Subiaco
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	ANZSRS (WA) Clinical Meeting	
November 19 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	APSR	Bangkok, Thailand

For any information on any of the above items please contact us.

*Sina and Sharon*

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

Nothing to report as the committee is still awaiting instruction from the Board.

***Brigitte***

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