

Branch News – September, 2008.

Executive Musings.....

Following the recent distractions of cold weather, great snow falls, Le Tour and the Olympics, we can now concentrate on working on those research projects for presentation at the 2009 ASM in Darwin! The program is coming together nicely and before you know it the Call for Abstracts will be posted. Along with this, there will be the opportunity to apply for ANZSRS travel grants to attend this meeting. Preference will go to those presenting - we hope that many of you are planning to apply. The ANZSRS Board met with “Board Matters” last week. This company provides advice on all aspects of Governance policy and processes. With their help, we hope to ensure that our new Governance structure will be run in the most effective manner. We look forward to hearing and seeing (!) the outcomes of this meeting. Deb, Danny and I now have finally found (some sort of) routine in our Executive duties and I personally would like to thank all those patient members that have assisted me in my queries, of which there were many. In particular, our past Secretary, Rob Tagliaferri, who has now moved away from Respiratory Science to new challenges. Rob has contributed greatly to our society and will be missed.

Kind regards,

Debbie, Leigh and Danny

Debbie Burton, President

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Leigh Seccombe , Secretary

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Annual Scientific Meeting News

Darwin 2009
TSANZ & ANZSRS Annual Scientific Meetings



Darwin 3-6 April, 2009

No update received.

Sonya

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Chair, Darwin 2009 LOC

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New South Wales / ACT

Greetings, and what a wonderful start to Spring - the sun's strong rays return!

Pleasingly, membership numbers continue to grow, with the addition of another two NSW members this month. A big friendly welcome to both Ms Allyson Louise, and Mrs Julieth Vivian Lyon. I'm sure that collectively the membership looks forward to working with you and wishes you both a satisfying respiratory profession.

Attention, Attention!

As previously mentioned, NSW members have expressed both the desire for, and interest towards supporting "organised laboratory visits" for junior staff.

Excellent and exciting news.....

Mr Stephen West (Westmead Hospital) has graciously offered his time in hosting a one day "**Experience the Westmead Lab**" educational session for a small group of approximately 3-4 junior members.

So that you don't miss out on your chance to spend a great day with a very knowledgeable Senior Scientist, and the opportunity to see the facilities at the Westmead Respiratory Function Laboratory, **be the first to reply!**

Stephen has asked that interested individuals make direct contact with him to arrange a mutual date for the group day visit and suitable programme content.

Email Stephen.West@wsahs.nsw.gov.au or phone the Lab reception on Ph: 9845 7214.

Heads up on two other issues!

Firstly, are there any NSW members planning to sit the CRFS exam this year? The next application to sit this exam closes on Sept 19th, with the exam scheduled for October 17th. Always good to give things a go....

Secondly, a society member has forwarded the current contact details for syringe verification / calibration. If interested the new contact is as follows:

Umesh Kotwal
NSW Office of Fair Trading Standards Laboratory
C/- CSIRO Bradfield Road West Lindfield NSW 2070
Ph: 02-8467 4402
Email: umesh.kotwal@oft.commerce.nsw.gov.au

I shall be in contact soon regarding further information for our next bimonthly meeting in October.

Remember to please stay in touch if there is anything I can help with.

Till next month.

Regards,

Dana

Dana Anquetil
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New Zealand

I don't believe it is that time of the month to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and present another exciting edition of branch news. The year is flying us by and just as I am used to the winter months, along comes spring.

Well I seem to always discuss the weather but we have had it all here so far, nice sunshine, rain, floods, tornados, snow, and yes even for some of our members the earth moved for them. Yes that is right the Hastings lab had the "good vibrations" of a 5.9 magnitude earthquake. Besides a box of filters falling over and the gas cylinders testing their restraints no damage occurred. Deb in Hastings said they have a habit of locking the wheels on the equipment. This is a reminder to us all that we need to make sure we keep everything secure in our labs.

Branch meeting

Last month I confirmed the meeting date at being October 24. A combined dinner with the TSANZ is being held on October 23. Could all members interested in the dinner e-mail me so we can organise a venue large enough to host us.

This year we are lucky to have members presenting from Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. I am pleased we can cover almost all of the country. Expressions of interest for the meeting have been received from some Australian members, so this should be a meeting to remember. I am also pleased to announce a special guest speaker this year will be Anne-marie Gibson from the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Anne-Marie was kind enough to give a brief bio about herself:

"Long long ago, back in 1997 I was a new BSc graduate from Canterbury University, I embarked on my career at the Respiratory Physiology Lab and Christchurch Public Hospital (called Canterbury Health back then) with Maureen Swanney and a while later Lutz Berkert, I worked for a couple of years there and learnt a lot about Respiratory Physiology and how to test it! I was eager to get overseas and see the World, so after travelling through South East Asia for 6 months I arrived in London. I managed to land a job with a company vying for the right to supply Lung Function Tests for the Coal Miners Compensation Claims, for 6 months then I moved to the Cotswolds to cover a Maternity Leave position. I was then hired as a Senior Scientist in Hull, this was a great opportunity as the department had a Sleep Lab, enabling me to learn about Sleep Physiology and how to test it! The manager left and I was appointed as Manager. Now Hull isn't really that interesting, so I decided to chase the Pound Sterling and started testing the Coal Miners for their compensation claims, a mind numbing experience, but I learnt through that a lot about maintenance of the Respiratory Equipment and travel around the UK quite a bit. It was then that I had the unique opportunity to Manage a Paediatric Respiratory and Sleep Lab in Sheffield. This was great as the lab was fully equipped and well funded. Through working here I was able to attend many European and British Respiratory and Sleep meetings as well as Specialist Infant and Paediatric Lung Function courses I was given the opportunity for Post-Graduate Study at work, and working with kids is, I know now "what I am meant to do!" I set-

up a Paediatric Spirometry Course that was accredited by the equivalent of the ANZSRS. Well that was all going well, then I turned 30 years of age, and had to make a decision "do I stay or do I go now?". I decided I didn't want to live in the UK for the rest of my life and made the move towards New Zealand, and arrived in Australia, having never been here before!!! I initially worked as Second Scientist In-Charge then In-Charge Scientist at the Western Hospital Sleep and Respiratory Laboratories in Melbourne's West, after about 2 years there I was offered the opportunity to complete my PhD by research at the Royal Children's Hospital here in Melbourne, ahhhh back with the kids! I am about to start the study investigating Lung Function, Transfer Factor, Exercise and Ventilation Inhomogeneity in a large cohort of Ex-prem (with Gestational ages below 30 weeks) and Extremely Low Birth Weight Babies (with Birth weights below 1kg) very interesting and exciting stuff!!!"

Thanks to Anne-Marie for agreeing to present at this meeting Anne-Marie will be covering the clinical utility of respiratory function tests in Children. I look forward to what will no doubt be a fun and informative talk.

Registration board

The Clinical Physiologists Registration Board (CPRB) held its 2008 Board meeting and AGM on Friday 22 August 2008. The CPRB continues to maintain voluntary registration of clinical physiologists in New Zealand working in the fields of cardiology respiratory and sleep physiology. The CPRB is working with the NZ Ministry of Health towards state registration for the professions. The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance (HPCA) Act is in the last phase of its review which is expected to be completed by the end of 2008: <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/hpca-review>. Once the review of the HPCA Act is complete we believe the MoH will again engage with the CPRB to look at the future of registration of clinical physiologists.

In the event that clinical physiologists require to be regulated all respiratory scientists will be required to register with the CPRB in the first instance and then the MoH defined registration board going forwards. Voluntary registration is open to all through the Clinical Physiologists Registration Board. The grandparenting period for respiratory scientists who can demonstrate a minimum of 5-years full time experience prior to 1-January-2008 closes on 1-January-2009. Once the grandparenting period is closed all applicants will be required to fulfil the registration requirements as described in the Clinical Physiologists Registration Board Guidelines for Registration 2008 [Draft document].

Voluntary registration costs \$150. Where an annual practicing certificate is required the APC costs \$150. At present Clinical Respiratory physiologists do not require an APC to practice.

Thanks to David Robiony-Rogers and Maureen Swanney who attended that meeting.

Lab Profile

Thanks to Solomon Theodore and Catchy Douglas from Starship Hospital who put together a brief about the Starship lab to continue our series on meet the laboratories.

Although 3 of us (Cathy, Solomon and Mailyn) joined the ANZSRS membership recently, Cathy is our Charge technologist and has been in our lab for the past 15 years (I hear that she had was a member earlier and then stopped, she's joined back again).

Solomon joined the lab in September 2007, previously working in Malaysia and India for about 8 years. His interest has always been in paediatric lung function, which led him to take up this job at Starship. Mailyn joined the lab in January 2008, previously worked in the Philippines and Kuwait for about 10 years mostly as a Respiratory Therapist in the Intensive care - a good mixture and addition to our lab.

We three, along with Sheri (4 of us) have a wonderful team here.

Currently the Respiratory Physiology Department at Starship has been going for approximately 18 years. Age of testing starts from 5-18 years of age .We start practising with CF patients at the age of 4 years, The tests that are being done are as follows: simple spirometry , lung volumes ,airway resistance , DLCO ,bronchodilator challenge ,exercise testing (no VO2 uptake) ,hypertonic saline challenge, maximal mouth pressures (MIP,MEP) and Niox testing(exhaled and nasal). We are in the process of starting Fitness to Fly Testing. We have not started oscillometry as we have been continually understaffed for the last couple of years and dealing with really young children is very time consuming.

As well as lung function testing, the physiologists are responsible for all the NIV (cpap ,trache cpap /vpap) setups, titration and follow up of the patients in and out of hospital. The other services that we are involved with are humidification of trache patients, overnight oximetry and Sleep Studies (CRSS&PSG)

Currently I have been doing sleep analysis along with 3 paediatric specialists trained in sleep. As you can see the physiologists must have a wide range of expertise which also gives them good variety and interest.

That is all for this month, keep an eye out for further information and an agenda which will be sent out, and hopefully placed up on the ANZSRS page.

Cheers,

Chris

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Andrew

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South Australia

Welcome to Spring! After a cold and thankfully wet winter I hope everyone is starting to feel energised as the days start to warm up. The City to Bay Fun Run is only a few weeks away so good luck to those that are training hard and planning to participate. Keep up the good work.

Thanks to Rebecca Harper (RAH), who has volunteered to be our 2008 Inter-laboratory Biological Control and has been arranging dates to visit laboratories in late September. If you haven't arranged her visit with you please contact her ASAP. The program has been running in SA for about 15 years and is a valuable adjunct to your laboratories QC program and all labs are encouraged to become involved. Data will be collated, distributed and discussed at a future ANZSRS meeting.

At our next Branch meeting on October 13th, Associate Professor Garry Scroop from The Royal Adelaide Lung Function Unit, Department of Thoracic Medicine will be presenting his research work on '*Exercise-induced hypoxemia - Fact or Fiction*'. Associate Professor Scroop has extensive experience in exercise physiology and I urge everyone to come along and hear about research in this area. As usual light refreshments will be provided. AstraZenca (Brett Martin) will be sponsoring the meeting, which will be held will be at the usual venue, RAH Chest Clinic Conference Room at 6.00pm.

That's all for now, take care.

Michelle

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Victoria / Tasmania

Nothing received

Faizel

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Western Australia

Greetings all. We wish to extend a warm welcome to our latest WA member, Peter Franchina. Peter has joined the newly opened private laboratory, **RespiratoryWest** located in Subiaco.

This year is flying by fast and the remaining months will be a hive of activity with ESR, Local ASM's and APSR nearly upon us. Best wishes to those presenting and an enjoyable and safe meeting to all attending.

TSANZ/ANZSRS(WA) ASM

The combined meeting is drawing near. This will be held in Mandurah on the weekend of 25/26th October. We would love to have some of our fellow scientists

from the Eastern States join us this year and at the same time enjoy the WA sunshine .The theme this year is:

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

The line up of speakers includes A/ Prof Graeme Maguire, Mr. Jeff Pretto, Prof Nick Anstey, Dr Tarun Weeramanthri, and many more local speakers. Registration, abstract and award documents, along with the preliminary programme have been circulated to TSANZ(WA) and ANZSRS(WA) members. The closing dates are:

Friday 12th of September Registration, Abstracts and TSANZ awards
Sunday 5th of October ANZSRS (WA) Awards

We encourage all WA ANZSRS member to apply for both the:

1. ANZSRS (WA) Travel Award

This award is open to all members of the WA branch and has been created to encourage and assist the ongoing educational development of a member. It can be used for travel to an international or national conference. The Award is for \$500.00 and has been generously sponsored by MayoHealthcare.

2. Accommodation Grant

Also open to all local ANZSRS members registering for the full weekend meeting including Saturday night stay in Mandurah. Created to give assistance towards accommodation costs.

3. Janine Panizza Award

Please consider nominating suitable candidates for this award. It is an opportunity to reward a WA TSANZ member who has substantially contributed towards respiratory science or respiratory medicine.

Respiratory Symposium

Back in Perth on the Monday following the ASM, we have an interesting and informative Respiratory Symposium lined up. 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 and recipient of the WA Respiratory Scientist Grant sponsored by Pharmaxis. Jeff will be presenting “Pulmonary Consequences of Severe Liver Disease”.

Other Body Bits include:

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| <i>The Heart</i> | A/Prof David Playford Consultant Cardiologist |
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| | Armadale |
| <i>Mystery Body Bit Case Study</i> | Dr Jeanie Leong Consultant Respiratory and Sleep Medicine RPH / SCGH |
| <i>The Gut</i> | Ms Kelly Shepherd PhD Candidate West Australian Sleep Disorders Research Institute |
| <i>Muscular Skeletal System</i> | A/Prof Phillipa Lamont Neurologist and Neurogeneticist Royal Perth Hospital / PMH |

News from around town

We congratulate Vaska and her husband, Mite, on the arrival of their son Oliver Kliment. Vaska will be taking a year's leave from her respiratory work at PMH to concentrate on her new role as a mother.

Sally has extended her love of flying this year with the pursuit of her commercial pilot's license. We wish her all the best with her study and many hours of enjoyable and safe flying

Diary reminders

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| September 18 th | ANZSRS-WA Clinical Meeting | PMH |
| October 4 th -8 th | ERS | Berlin, Germany |
| October 25-26 th | TSANZ (WA)/ANZSRS (WA) Combined ASM | Mandurah |
| October 27 th (2:00 - 5:00pm) | Respiratory Symposium | ICHR, Subiaco |
| November 12 th | ANZSRS (WA) Clinical Meeting | |
| November 19 th -22 nd | APSR | Bangkok, Thailand |

Sina and Sharon

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Governance & Vision Sub-committee Report

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

Brigitte

Brigitte Borg
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