

Queensland

Merry Christmas to all from the “Sunshine” State. I put sunshine in inverted commas as it is currently a miserable and very wet 18 degrees outside – very unseasonable for this time of year in Brisbane. Let’s hope the sun starts shining for the break!

New Robina Lab

A new lung function laboratory was opened a couple of months back at Robina on the Gold Coast. The lab is running as a sister lab to the Gold Coast Hospital laboratory run by Debbie Zagami (world famous ANZSRS board member!) Below is a summary from the scientist in the lab, Jess Wilson, on the first few weeks of operation:

The Robina laboratory is located within the Clinical Measurements Department, Level 1 at the Robina Hospital. Currently there is only one staff member (myself); however Debbie Zagami from the Gold Coast Hospital is the Director of this Laboratory. Our labs are currently running like sister labs with the number one sister being Robina.

As far as services go, I’m currently only offering basic testing: Spirometry, Bronchodilator Reversibility testing, Lung Volumes (Plethysmography), Carbon monoxide diffusing capacity, Haemoglobin finger prick testing, exhaled CO testing for DLCO adjustment, MIPs and MEPs, Bronchial Provocation using Mannitol.

My equipment was installed on the 19th September, however was not completely functional till the 27th of September. We officially had an open day for staff on the 3rd of October which led to Deb and I being famous and in the local rag (now we have to keep an eye out for the paparazzi on the coast – the simplest tasks like grocery shopping has become difficult)! I’ve had the opportunity to become a master at putting together flat pack furniture, as it was very difficult to find a bookshelf to fit in the room. Business is beginning to take off and Electronic Medical Records is currently bringing the hospital to its knees! I’ve had to fight to put posters on the wall and I am still waiting for a key to my room. I’m lucky I have a dedicated receptionist who lets me in every morning.

Deb and I are currently working towards having the computers networked. It has been a long frustrating process however things are moving forward slowly and business is beginning to boom. Dodging the paparazzi is tiring but it’s all worth while when you get to work at Robina with an awesome boss.

Last Meeting – 26/10/11

Our last educational meeting of the year was held in late October. Guest speaker for the evening was Annette Dent, director of the Respiratory Investigation Unit at the Prince Charles Hospital. Annette gave us a most interesting talk titled “All that Wheezes is not Asthma”. We were shown a case presentation of a lady that had

been seen at TPCB with "Asthma", that after some investigation was diagnosed with Wegener's Granulomatosis, and quite a rare form of it at that. Annette gave a great summary of Wegener's, a complex disease that we don't see all that often in most of our labs.

I also gave a brief summary of the "Year that Was", with some highlights of the year in QLD respiratory medicine and summaries of the presentations at our meetings throughout the year. We also discussed some issues moving forward, such as a new (and much cheaper for sponsors) venue for next year, and some ways to incorporate our regional members more into our meetings. Thanks to Sean from GSK for sponsoring the evening, and all our sponsors from throughout the year.

2011 has been another busy year, and a transitional one with a change of regional chair. I'd like to thank all the QLD members who have made my first 6 months in the position very enjoyable, and particularly Jarrod Warner for all his help with 'showing me the ropes'.

Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party is to be held Friday 16th of December at The Hutch Bistro at The Grange. Niche Medical have kindly offered to sponsor some drinks on the night. It's sure to be a great way to relax and unwind after another busy year. On behalf of the QLD ANZSRS branch, I'd like to wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Here's to another wonderful year in respiratory science in 2012!

Mark Davis