



## **DIVING AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

### **1. OVERVIEW of ACTIVITIES 2010**

In accordance with the SIG's constitution, the Executive Committee consists of the following:

#### Executive

The Executive currently consists of:

Dr Margaret Walker (Chair)	TAS
Dr Mike Bennett	NSW
Dr Andrew Fock	VIC
Dr David Smart	TAS
Dr Robert Webb	QLD
Dr David Wilkinson	SA
Dr Bob Wong	WA

#### Membership

The SIG currently has 199 members, which represents a reduction of 11 members since last year.

#### Introductory course in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine:

The annual ANZHMG course was again held this year in March at the Prince of Wales Hospital under the supervision of Dr Mike Bennett. Again, there were attendees from across Australia, Asia, Pacific and Europe. Attendance at this course is one of the requirements for the ANZCA Certificate, as it covers a wide range of subjects in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, with lectures, tutorials and discussions contributed by faculty from around the country. The next course will be held 21 Feb – 1 March 2011.

#### Completed Activities

##### Scientific Meetings:

Members of the SIG have been active in attending scientific meetings and presented papers at national and international conferences, including the meetings of the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society (SPUMS), European Underwater & Baromedical Society (EUBS), Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS), as well as the Australian Diving & Hyperbaric Medicine Meeting hosted by the Hyperbaric Technicians & Nurses Association (HTNA).

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### Diving and Hyperbaric 2010 AGM:

The DHM AGM was held during the 2010 ASA Congress at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The AGM was attended by Dr Margaret Walker (chair) and Dr Jan Lehm. As there was not a quorum, no decisions could be made on anything. Dr Lehm was keen to develop clinical indicators for Hyperbaric Medicine treatment, but has not been able to find anyone at ANZCA who is interested in helping him to advance this.

### Activities planned for 2011

Despite considerable effort on the part of the Chair, no-one has been persuaded to help to organize scientific sessions at the ANZCA meeting in Hong Kong or at the ASA meeting in Sydney. The AGM will be held at the HTNA meeting to be held in Sydney the week after the ASA meeting.

The South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society will hold their Annual Scientific Meeting in Guam in May this year. This meeting is basically organized by the SIG members every year, so they see no need to hold another scientific meeting at an ANZCA or ASA meeting each year.

### Research:

Members of the SIG are currently actively involved in many research projects. The HORTIS trial of Hyperbaric Oxygen therapy in the treatment of late radiation injury continues as a multi-centre international trial co-ordinated from the Baromedical Research Centre in California. Data collection on radiation cystitis and soft tissue (skin) radiation injury is nearing completion.

The chronic wound database, co-ordinated by Prince of Wales Hospital, continues to collect valuable data about outcomes for patients both with and without HBO.

The Hyperbaric Oxygen Lower Limb Trauma trial (HOLLT) continues to recruit patients, and is co-ordinated through the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

### Other Notes

The main raison d'être is the Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine Certificate training programme. This has fallen into difficulty with changes in the administration at ANZCA, such that all corporate knowledge was lost, and we are still waiting for those three candidates who passed their exams in November 2009 to actually receive their certificates! Hopefully the new Chair of the Committee will be able to report next year that they have actually received them.

Margaret Walker  
Chair, ANZCA SIG in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

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the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists.

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