



ANZCA SIG in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

Annual Report 2007

Executive:

Dr Mike Bennett (NSW)
Dr Bob Webb (QLD)
Dr David Smart (ANZ Hyperbaric Medicine Group)
Dr Brian Spain (NT)
Dr Margaret Walker (TAS - Chair)
Dr David Wilkinson (SA)
Dr Robert Wong (WA)
Dr Mike Davis (NZ)

Membership:

The SIG currently has 200 Members. This represents an increase of 10 members since last year.

Honours obtained:

Congratulations to Dr Robert Wong, who was awarded the Australian Defence Force Medal. Dr Robert Webb was appointed Associate Professor, James Cook University Medical School.

ANZCA Certificate:

Approved training courses were reviewed during the year and now comprise three alternative pathways:

1. Completion of training courses in Diving Medicine and in Hyperbaric Medicine of at least 4 weeks total duration. For example, one of:
 - a. ANZHMG course at Prince of Wales Hospital Sydney, **and** Royal Adelaide Hospital or HMAS Penguin diving medical officers course **OR**
 - b. The "Medicine 714 and 715" components of the University of Auckland Post Graduate Diploma In Medical Science – Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine. As the University of Auckland has abandoned this course on financial grounds, this applies only to current students and existing graduates.

Facility accreditation:

No new facilities have been inspected since last year, but all facilities are encouraged to apply.

ACECC is a joint initiative of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, the Australian Society of Anaesthetists and the New Zealand Society of Anaesthetists.

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Examinations:

There being insufficient candidates to hold an examination this year, the next examination will be held according to demand, probably in October 2008.

Examiners are:

Dr Mike Bennett (NSW)
Dr David Smart (Tas)
Dr David Wilkinson (SA)
Dr Robert Wong (WA)
Dr Barbara Trytko (NSW)
Dr Margaret Walker (Tas)

Dr Robert Wong is Chair of the Examination Committee in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, and Dr Mike Bennett is deputy Chair.

Introductory course in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine:

The ANZHMG course is an annual event, held this year in March at the Prince of Wales Hospital under the supervision of Dr Mike Bennett, and attended by candidates from Australia, Asia, Europe, South America and the Pacific islands. 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. It will be held next March 31st to April 11th 2008.

Expert Supporting Committee in Hyperbaric Medicine of the Medicare Services Advisory Committee (MSAC):

Members continue to be actively involved in the preparation of scientific evidence to be presented to the MSAC committee to support the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for a number of medical indications.

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).

The SIG held a highly successful scientific session at the Melbourne ANZCA ASM 2007, which was attended by an audience of over 100 interested people. A cutting-edge

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programme was organised by Dr Mike Bennett, which included international and local experts. Simon Mitchell kicked off the session with an update on the treatment of decompression illness in the 21st Century. Professor Bruce Speiss then gave a fascinating presentation about the role of perfluorocarbon emulsions in modern medicine, with applications as diverse as blood replacement and the treatment of decompression illness. Glen Hawkins presented an update on the chronic hypoxic wound database, and David Smart closed with a presentation of the current state of the evidence regarding the role of transcutaneous oximetry as a tool to predict outcomes in hypoxic wounds. There were many questions from the floor, reflecting a high level of interest. It is encouraging to see steadily increasing audiences at our annual scientific session.

The SIG will hold its next scientific session at the ANZCA ASM in Sydney 2008, with the broad theme of "What anaesthetists and divers have in common". It promises to be a fascinating session, and we encourage all interested persons to attend. There will also be a separate workshop held at the Prince of Wales Hospital examining some theory and practice of hyperbaric oxygenation.

Finance:

The Anaesthesia Continuing Education Co-ordinating Committee have agreed to change the SIG Financial Position so that each SIG is given seed funding of \$10,000 a year and any surplus or loss would be distributed among the three parent bodies at the conclusion of each year.

Research:

Members of the SIG are currently actively involved in many research projects. Amongst these, the HORTIS trial radiation proctitis arm has now been accepted for publication by the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics and will be published in 2008. 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.

Dr Margaret Walker
Chair, ANZCA SIG in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine