



ANZCA SIG in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine

Annual Report 2008

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 202 Members, and 5 associate members. This represents an increase of 7 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:

Facility accreditation:

Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney and Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart underwent their routine five yearly review of accreditation for training for the Certificate In Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine. Both Units were re-accredited for a further five years.

Fremantle Hospital will have its five- year review early next year, and The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne will undergo its first inspection early in 2009. All other non-accredited units are strongly encouraged to apply.

Examinations:

There was no examination held this year, due to there being insufficient number of candidates. Regardless of the number of candidates, there will be an examination held in November 2009.

Dates are:

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.



Written examination: Monday 9th November 2009

Oral examination: Friday 27th November 2009

All prospective candidates are encouraged to sit the exam.

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 annual ANZHMG course was again held this year in March / April 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. It will be held next March 9th – March 20th 2009.

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).

Prof Mike Bennett organised a fascinating and highly successful scientific session at the Sydney ANZCA ASM 2008, which was attended by an enthusiastic audience. Prof Bennett started proceedings with a fascinating talk on the uptake, distribution and elimination of nitrogen from the body, making the analogy to anaesthetic agents. Dr Simon Mitchell followed up with some helpful information on how re-breather circuits work. Dr David Wilkinson reported a study on nitrox diving and its influence on perceived fatigue in divers. Dr Simon Mitchell ended the session with a chilling presentation of a diving death in a sink hole in Africa. This was a fascinating session!

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.

ANZCA HOUSE 630 ST KILDA ROAD MELBOURNE VIC 3004
Telephone: (03) 9510 6299 Facsimile: (03) 9510 6786



The SIG will hold its next scientific session at the ANZCA ASM in Cairns 2009, to be organised by Dr Robert Webb.

Research:

Members of the SIG are currently actively involved in many research projects. The HORTIS trial radiation proctitis arm has now been published by the International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics. Recruitment in the other arms of the HORTIS trial is still continuing, with the trial co-ordinators keen to produce another report in the next year or two. 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

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.

ANZCA HOUSE 630 ST KILDA ROAD MELBOURNE VIC 3004
Telephone: (03) 9510 6299 Facsimile: (03) 9510 6786