From the Director

The first AIRmed Newsletter for 2014 again emphasises the large number of peer-reviewed publications from AIRmed, which is primarily a hospital clinical department, reflecting the major contribution made by AIRmed staff and affiliates to the global medical literature and clinical governance in our disciplines. Additionally, there have been a number of major grants and specific awards relating to presentations at major international meetings, including notably, a tour de force by the Transplant Service at the recent International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation meeting in San Diego. A number of Adjunct Monash University appointments have been formally reviewed and renewed recently with particular congratulations to Dr Glen Westall on his promotion to Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor.

I hope that you enjoy reading this edition of the AIRmed Newsletter. Regards, Robyn

Prizes & Awards

Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand (TSANZ) Annual Scientific Meeting
Professor Anne Holland won the TSANZ OLIV (Orphan Lung Disease/Lung Transplantation/Interstitial Lung Disease/Pulmonary Vascular Disease) SIG prize for best presentation: “Be honest and help me prepare for the future: What people with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis want from education in pulmonary rehabilitation”.

Annemarie Lee won the TSANZ Physiotherapy SIG best poster award – “Field walking tests are reliable and responsiveness in individuals with non-CF bronchiectasis”.

American Thoracic Society (ATS)
Dr Kirk Kee has received an Abstract Scholarship to attend the 2014 ATS International Conference in San Diego, on behalf of the Assembly on Sleep and Respiratory Neurobiology (SRN).

International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation (ISHLT)
The Lung Transplant team was well represented at the recent ISHLT meeting in San Diego. Greg Snell, Glen Westall, Miranda Paraskeva, Bronwyn Lewey and Louise Fuller were all invited speakers for the pre-meeting symposia, an AIR1 record, reflecting the high international regard. AIR1 presented the highest proportion of abstracts from an individual transplant centre.

Congratulations to Lou Fuller (left) who won the Nursing, Health Sciences and Allied Health Excellence in Research Award for her study entitled - Longer versus shorter duration of rehabilitation following lung transplantation: a randomised controlled trial. Miranda Paraskeva (right) received the Transplant Registry Early Career Award.

Grant Success

Associate Professor Glen Westall received a support grant from Commonwealth Serum Laboratories to establish a lung tissue bank for Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) at the Alfred. ($216,000)

Professor Michael Abramson and colleagues were awarded an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) Grant totalling $2,500,000 over five years for their CRE in Population Health Research on Electromagnetic Energy. Together with co-investigators including Professor Malcolm Sim and Dr Geza Benke (both with MonCOEH), this international research collaboration will include researchers from the University of Wollongong, the University of Queensland, Utrecht University (Netherlands) and the Karlsruhe Institute (Germany), with a strong track record of research and translation. Outcomes will be translated into health policy and practice through linkages with international and national organisation.


The Australian Lung Foundation/Ludwig Engel Grant in Aid for Physiological Research $5000 was awarded to Professor Anne Holland: Effect of pulmonary rehabilitation on airway immunity in patients with COPD.

Research Council of Norway Grant ($AUD 1,116,000) awarded to Zanaboni P, Wootton R, Holland A, Dineson B, Lien L A . Multi-Center Randomized Controlled Trial (Norway, Australia, Denmark). “Long-Term Integrated Telerehabilitation of COPD Patients.”

Ivan Cash Lung Foundation of Australia Grant ($5000) awarded to Dr Ian Glaspole: “The effect of persistent anxiety and depression in IPF.”
World Allergy Organization Professor Robyn O’Hehir has accepted an invitation to join the WAO Committee on Immunotherapy and Immunomodulators.

Kerry Parker was awarded a WTMS travelling scholarship for scientists.

Dr Glen Westall has been appointed as an Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Central Clinical School, Monash University, recognising his clinical and academic contributions.

Dr Robert Puy was reappointed as Adjunct Clinical Senior Lecturer with Central Clinical School, Monash University.


Borg BM, Thompson BR. Expiratory reserve volume manoeuvre may be the preferred method for some patients during Spirometry testing. Respiratory Care 2013; 58(2).


Holland AE, Wadell K, Spruit MA. How to adapt the pulmonary rehabilitation programme to patients with chronic respiratory disease other than COPD. European Resp Review. 2013 22(130) pp 577-586.


Osadnik C, Stuart-Andrews C, Ellis S, Thompson B, McDonald CF, Holland AE. Positive expiratory pressure via mask does not improve ventilation inhomogeneity more than huffing and coughing in individuals with stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and chronic sputum expectoration. Respiration 2014;87 (1) pp. 38 – 44.


