

ANZCP 24th Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne 9-10 Nov 2007

2007 was a historic year for perfusion in Australia and New Zealand.

In March we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first case performed on CPB in Australia.

In November 2007 the Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Melbourne Australia.

Although it was the 24th such gathering of perfusionists from Australia and New Zealand, it was historic as it was the first ASM and AGM of the new Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists.

To mark this historic event the meeting was held in a venue steeped in history – the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Melbourne is the sports capital of Australia, and the historic MCG is the ‘temple’ at which all sports lovers come to worship. The ‘G’, as it is affectionately known to the locals, has been the site of many sporting firsts and some notorious events. The themes of the meeting were to be history, sports and extracorporeal support.

A faculty of both international and local speakers was assembled it consisted of:

Professor Julie Wegner from Arizona, who presented interesting papers on the mechanisms of CPB mediated inflammatory response. Some interesting work on the anticoagulation management of mechanical support devices and a paper on the emerging role of the perfusionist in perioperative blood management;

Professor Bruce Searles from Syracuse, New York who presented some thought provoking work on crisis management and what we should do as perfusionists to avoid disasters. A candid and honest insight into the anatomy of a perfusion disaster, and finally an introduction to his latest research on mapping the vascular anatomy of the myocardium;

Dr Robert Baker from South Australia’s Flinders Medical centre who needs no introduction to the Australian and New Zealand, perfusion community – and this is increasingly so for the international perfusion community. Rob presented some of the interesting work he has been doing with the International Consortium of Perfusion on the generation of evidence based perfusion guidelines;

Dr Andrew Hilton, who is an ICU physician from the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne and has a keen interest in echocardiography, both transoesophageal and transthoracic, and its use in the ICU. Andrew presented his extensive work on using ECHO with ECMO to help select what kind of support and cannula is necessary, to assessing recovery and weaning from ECMO.

The Royal Children’s Hospital in Melbourne made an extraordinary effort in contributing four papers to the meeting; their effort in supporting the ASM should be applauded.

On a personal note I must say that having a group as keen as the RCH perfusion team contribute so much does make organizing the meeting easier. It was no surprise that they

were later to receive the 'Perfusion Unit of the Year' award for their contribution to the ANZCP.

Many other papers were presented by perfusionists from Australia, Japan and Mauritius. To those who contributed abstracts and papers, on behalf of the committee I would like to thank you all for doing so. I would also like to encourage all perfusionists in the ANZCP to contribute to our College's one and only meeting.

Congratulations must also go to the winners of the various awards. This includes the Terumo award for best paper which was won by Jane Ottens, Ashford Hospital S.A.; an extraordinary effort as it is back to back awards for Jane – will she go for a threepeat? The Medtronic Encouragement Award was won by Yuzo Takahashi, Osaka, Japan. The Medtronic Encouragement Award was taken by Kuljeet Farrar from the Flinders Medical Centre, S.A. Catie Claessen from the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne won the CellPlex sponsored Sid Yarrow Award while the Perfusion Unit of the Year was awarded to the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. The Best Student Award for an Australian or New Zealander was taken by Sarah Armarego from Newcastle while Tanee Chan won the Singaporean equivalent. Lovell Surgical Supplies was honoured for their Best Trade Display – many thanks also go to the corporate delegates who set up trade displays at the ASM.

Thanks must also go to ULCO for displaying the Orpheus perfusion simulator; for many perfusionists it was their first chance to see the simulator in action. Thanks also to Jill Futter and Wayne Pearson of Cellplex for allowing the Orpheus to be displayed at their stand.

The scientific programme of the meeting was a success and so was the social programme. The minor hiccup of buses not turning up to take the delegates to the bowling green on Friday evening was quickly forgotten as people enjoyed having a drink and 'a roll' at the oldest bowling club in Australia.

The Saturday night social event was held at the MCG; the brilliantly lit up MCG provided a stunning backdrop for the black tie social event. Many of the delegates availed themselves of the opportunity to take a tour of the MCG before dinner. After dinner the delegates were entertained by the likes of the Blues Brothers, Abba, Kylie, Neil Diamond and Elvis Presley – all courtesy of the band Vinyl Revival. It will be a night that will not be quickly forgotten by those who attended.

On behalf of the organising committee I would like to thank all those who attended and helped make the meeting a success. I would encourage all perfusionists in Australia and New Zealand to support the ANZCP meeting in Adelaide through both attendance and contributing to the scientific programme.

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