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Image credit: Tourism and Events Queensland.
I am pleased to present to you the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand’s Gold Coast Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 2015 Report. This report celebrates the success of the ASM and highlights the achievement of TSANZ members who were worthy winners of the Society’s prestigious Medals and Awards.

The 2015 ASM was an outstanding success. With a record attendance of almost 1,000 participants and a host of international and local speakers, ASM 2015 has set the bar high. Our thanks and congratulations go to the Local Organising Committee led by Jarrod Warner and Michael Putt who did an outstanding job. Special mention must also go to the TSANZSRS ASM Committee which was ably chaired by our own Dr Jane Bourke. This committee have been tireless in their work and have provided outstanding leadership in the delivery of the ASM. Of course the ASM would not be such a success without the professional contribution from the TSANZ SIG Convenors. A final word of thanks to our staff and to the Conference Company.

The TSANZ benefits greatly from the support of sponsors. Our sponsors support the delivery of the ASM. However they also provide a significant amount of funding to our research awards and grants programs. I would ask all our members to recognise the contribution of the sponsors who have been supporting our bright researchers through fellowship and research grants. These awards and grants are administered through the TSANZ Research Subcommittee with a sub-group formed as an Awards Committee. The Awards Committee reviewed an enormous number of applications and committed many hours of time to ensuring all applicants were fairly peer reviewed. This work was extensive and well above and beyond their day to day commitments. Their professionalism and commitment cannot be understated.

ASM 2015 marked the TSANZ Presidential Inauguration moment as I took over the role from Professor Matthew Peters. At the Gala Dinner, Professor Peters was presented with the Laennec Medal and the Society thanked him for his visionary leadership over the last 2 years.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to congratulate all the winners and to thank our members for their ongoing commitment to improving lung health.

There was no doubt that everyone enjoyed the night of the TSANZ Gala Dinner. The band was fantastic and my personal favourite was watching the surfing!

Planning for ASM 2016 is currently underway. I encourage you to book the date in advance. I hope to see you at the TSANZSRS ASM 2016 in Perth from 1-6 April 2016.

Perth awaits you in 2016!

Message from the President

PROFESSOR PETER GIBSON
The Early Origins of Lung Disease – The Program will include Three International Speakers:

Professor Fernando Martinez is Regents' Professor, Swift-McNear Professor of Paediatrics, Director of the Arizona Respiratory Center, and Director of the BIO5 Institute at the University of Arizona. His major research interests include the natural history of childhood asthma, and the role of genetic, physiological, immunological and environmental factors as determinants of the risk for asthma in early life. Dr. Martinez received his medical degrees from the University of Chile, Santiago and the University of Rome, Italy. He completed his residency in paediatrics at the University of Rome, specialising in paediatric pulmonology. He has written more than 250 journal articles, book chapters and editorials, and has lectured in over 50 countries across the world.

Professor John Henderson is Professor Paediatric Respiratory Medicine at the University of Bristol, UK and Co-Director of the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC). He graduated in 1981 from the University of Manchester and trained in paediatrics. He was a research fellow in Bristol with Dr Fleming Carswell and obtained his MD (Manchester) in 1991. He spent a year as a clinical research fellow in Perth with Professor Lou Landau and Peter LeSouef before returning to the UK to complete his paediatric respiratory training. His main research interest is in early life factors associated with asthma and respiratory health in childhood.

Professor James E. Gern MD is a Professor of Paediatrics and Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison. Dr. Gern has a BS in Chemistry from the University of Florida, and an MD degree from the University of South Florida College of Medicine. He completed Paediatric Residency training at the State University of New York in Syracuse and at Tufts University in Boston. Dr. Gern is the PI for the Asthma and Allergic Disease Cooperative Research Center and the NIH-funded Allergy/Immunology Research Training Program at the University of Wisconsin. The focus of his research program is to determine how respiratory viruses and other environmental factors affect the onset and disease activity of asthma.
TSANZRS Gold Coast 2015 Presentations in PDF and Video

The 2015 ASM presentations including the PDFs and video are available to members through the TSANZ website.

Click here to access PDF or video of the presentations.

TSANZRS 2015 Stats

AUS (By State/Territory) & NZ Registrations

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<td>WA</td>
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<td>NT</td>
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International Registrations

- BD 3
- FR 3
- GER 1
- HU 1
- MY 1
- NL 1
- NO 2
- PH 7
- SG 1
- US 2

Exhibitors

- 34 Companies
- Exhibition Personnel

Abstracts Received

- 269 Accepted as Poster
- 132 Accepted as YIA-TSANZ
- 6 Accepted as Oral

Thoracic Society News JULY 2015
The Wunderly Oration honours the memory of Sir Harry Wyatt Wunderly, the first Commonwealth Director of Tuberculosis, and has been presented at TSANZ meetings since 1982.

Andrew Bush is Professor of Paediatrics and Head of Section (Paediatrics) at Imperial College, Professor of Paediatric Respiriology at the National Heart and Lung Institute and Consultant Paediatric Chest Physician, Royal Brompton Hospital.

“Thank you for inviting me to give this oration in memory of Sir Harry Wyatt Wunderly. I am deeply honoured that my name is associated with someone who I believe ranks among the giants of humane health care.”

“Let us de-politicise health care, and proceed by cross-party consensus. Let us tackle the real problems. Let the patient be put and kept at the epicentre of health care, let us speak the truth without fear, let spin doctors, management consultants and those who trivialise issues by making them sensational be cast into outer darkness, and let politicians and professionals come to patients genuinely as those who serve.”
The TSANZ President’s Award is a prestigious award for an individual who has significantly contributed to promoting respiratory health in the community and particularly in the area of tobacco control, either in Australia or New Zealand.

Lachlan Wright

Lachlan Wright is a Project Manager for the Cardiovascular Team at The George Institute for Global Health, Australia.

Lachlan Wright was acknowledged for his work in initiating and co-coordinating the program ‘One Deadly Step’ aimed at delivering primary public health interventions to poorly accessible indigenous communities in Australia. The One Deadly Step program is organised and run as a community event in partnership with the New South Wales Country Rugby League, encouraging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to attend and be screened for a number of chronic diseases and follow up the screening with their general practitioner.

The program encourages community engagement and partnerships between local health service providers such as Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, Local Health Districts and Medicare Locals.

Below is an excerpt of the acceptance speech by Lachlan Wright:

“If we are ever going to bring the life expectancy of Aboriginal people closer to that of other Australians we need to start to listen to Aboriginal people and communities about the best way to care for their communities. We don’t need a one shoe fits all policy; we need to ask, then listen, then do. We need to ensure that if a program works in a community we don’t de-fund it because it doesn’t fit the mould of what we think it should look like!”

“We don’t need a one shoe fits all policy; we need to ask, then listen, then do.”

“I would like to thank all the staff that have worked at an event, we average 50 Aboriginal Health Workers, doctors, nurses and other health related staff at any of our events. Without them this would not work. Without the funding that has been provided by the NSW Ministry of Health and the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation, One Deadly Step would not have worked. I’m sure that the success of One Deadly Step is because of how it can be flexible to fit with Aboriginal communities rather than trying to make the community fit One Deadly Step.”
The Research Medal is awarded each year in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge in respiratory medicine or science carried out primarily in Australia or New Zealand. The award recognises an individual who has demonstrated sustained excellence in their field of research.

Richard Beasley is a Physician at Wellington Regional Hospital, Director at Medical Research Institute of New Zealand, Deputy Chair at Health Research Council of New Zealand, Adjunct Professor at University of Otago and Victoria University of Wellington and Visiting Professor at University of Southampton, United Kingdom.

Below is an excerpt of the acceptance speech by Professor Beasley:

“I am honoured to accept the TSANZ Research Medal and feel humbled to join the eminent group of previous recipients. I have entitled my presentation ‘Clinical Research: from serendipity to change in clinical practice’ to emphasise the importance of clinical research to the Society, and to encourage young members to consider a career in clinical research. What I would like to do is to briefly review three clinical research programmes in which I have been involved, to illustrate the potential of clinical research to change clinical practice.

The first research programme, which I undertook as a clinical research fellow with Professor Stephen Holgate in Southampton, investigated the observation that some asthma patients developed marked bronchoconstriction following inhalation of the ipratropium bromide (Atrovent) nebuliser solution. I noted this adverse effect in one of my research projects, in which ipratropium bromide was administered to patients with stable asthma.

On enquiry, the manufacturer of Atrovent advised me that the nebuliser solution also contained two preservatives, namely benzalkonium chloride and EDTA. I had no idea whether this was important and so I went down to the library to look them up (no internet in those days) and was surprised to find that benzalkonium chloride caused mast cell mediator release and EDTA increased airways responsiveness, both properties one would not want in a bronchodilator nebuliser solution administered to asthmatics. So I undertook a simple randomised placebo-controlled trial which compared the airways response to ipratropium bromide nebuliser solution with the preservatives, to ipratropium bromide nebuliser solution without the preservatives, with saline as a control solution in six asthma subjects in whom paradoxical bronchoconstriction with Atrovent nebuliser solution had
been demonstrated. In contrast to the ipratropium bromide nebuliser solution with preservatives which caused bronchoconstriction, the ipratropium bromide nebuliser solution without preservatives caused bronchodilation, with saline having no real airways effect.

In the second phase of the study, inhalation of the preservatives given separately produced dose-related bronchoconstriction. These findings and the subsequent research programme which investigated the airways effects of the preservatives in more detail, led to the development and worldwide introduction and use of preservative-free bronchodilator nebuliser solutions in sterile unit dose vials, rather than the use of bronchodilator nebuliser solutions containing preservatives from multi-dose bottles. So here we had a simple clinical trial that required few resources, based on a clinical observation and guided by review of the relevant medical literature, producing Level 1 scientific evidence, which led to a major change in clinical practice globally, resulting in the safer administration of medications routinely prescribed in severe asthma.

The second research programme which I undertook on my return to New Zealand in the late 1980’s investigated the causes of the second asthma mortality epidemic in New Zealand. This had been investigated by the New Zealand Asthma Task Force which undertook a large case series of asthma deaths over a two-year period. While it provided valuable information on the circumstances in which patients died from asthma, it did not identify the cause of the epidemic. In particular, it did not address the issue of the potential role of specific beta agonist drug therapy which was disappointing, as this was the strongest a priori issue to consider, in view of the established role of isoprenaline forte in the first asthma mortality epidemic in New Zealand and other countries including Australia in the 1960’s. I teamed up with Julian Crane, Carl Burgess and Neil Pearce to undertake a rigorous epidemiological investigation of the mortality epidemic, utilising case-control methodology, allowing us to determine whether there were any differences in medication use in patients who died from asthma from those who experienced a life-threatening attack resulting in hospital admission, but survived. Extensive review of the literature led to a strong a priori probability that the high dose preparation of the poorly selective but potent beta agonist fenoterol may have been the culprit, based on the greater acute and long term adverse effects of fenoterol compared with other beta agonist drugs, the close correlation between the introduction and increasing sales of fenoterol and mortality in New Zealand, the disproportionately greater use of fenoterol by patients who died than was expected from national sales in New Zealand, its marketing as a high dose forte preparation with the strong analogy with isoprenaline forte, and New Zealand having the highest per capital sales of fenoterol in the world. The case-control study which was published in the Lancet showed that the only medication associated with a significant increased risk of mortality was fenoterol and that this finding could not be attributed to the possibility of confounding by severity. Regrettably many of the critical responses to the Lancet publication were ill informed, creating more heat than light. We responded by undertaking further case-control studies, modifying the basic design in response to criticisms received. These studies provided substantive further evidence that fenoterol increases the risk of death compared with other beta agonist drugs and was the major cause of the New Zealand asthma mortality epidemic.

The New Zealand Minister of Health, Helen Clark (who later became one of New Zealand’s longest serving Prime Ministers and now holds the positions of Administrator of the United Nations)
Development Programme and Chair of the United Nations Development Group), withdrew fenoterol in New Zealand, and mortality fell by more than half within the next 12 months. Subsequently there were epidemiological studies from four other countries which confirmed that fenoterol increased the risk of mortality in asthma. Boehringer Ingelheim, the manufacturer of fenoterol, took the ethical step of withdrawing the high dose fenoterol preparation internationally.

So here we had a series of appropriately designed epidemiological studies that required few resources, strongly built on an historical understanding of the medical literature, and a firm commitment to respond to criticisms by undertaking further research to resolve uncertainty. The experience also showed the importance of working as a team and I have no doubt that we would not have been able to succeed in our endeavour to solve the riddle of the second New Zealand asthma mortality epidemic, and achieve its resolution, without the combined experience and expertise of the team.

The third example I would like to mention is that of the use of oxygen therapy in clinical practice. It arose from my concern that most patients who were admitted to hospital with an acute medical illness routinely received high concentration oxygen therapy, regardless of the presence of hypoxaemia. When medical staff were questioned why they administered this treatment, they would usually reply that they wanted to make sure they kept the patient away from the slippery slope of the haemoglobin oxygen dissociation curve. This led me to critically review the haemoglobin oxygen dissociation curve from a clinical perspective and realised that the curve had evolved to protect individuals from tissue hypoxia through two main physiological processes. The first is the flat portion of the curve which means that even in the setting of significant respiratory disease resulting in a marked reduction in PaO2, the haemoglobin can still achieve almost full saturation. The second feature is the steep portion of the curve, which means that the oxygen tension is preserved despite falling saturations as oxygen is delivered down a pressure gradient to the tissue. We proposed in a commentary in the Lancet that for clinicians it would be preferable to realign the haemoglobin oxygen dissociation curve with the axes swapped, thereby allowing the two key features of the curve to be demonstrated without the distraction of the ‘slippery slope’. We hope that in clinical teaching this alternative ‘clinicians’ haemoglobin oxygen dissociation curve will be presented and discussed, to highlight the key physiological properties of the curve as a basis for the rational administration of oxygen therapy.

Finally, I would like to conclude by commenting that there is plenty left to do. We are all aware of the inadequate evidence base for the management of many of the diseases that we treat. Many of these could be addressed in clinical trials, involving a collaborative approach within the TSANZ and I hope that as a Society, we foster these opportunities.”

References:
The Society Medal was conceived as an acknowledgment of excellence in fields other than research and for the advancement of the practice of thoracic medicine in its widest sense by outstanding work in areas such as teaching or advocacy.

The inaugural Society Medal was presented at the annual dinner in Canberra in 1992 to Dr Maurice Joseph, who ably embodied the qualities envisaged by this senior prestigious award.

Martin Phillips is the Director of Lung Cancer Service, Interventional Pulmonology and General Respiratory Medicine at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and a Clinical Professor at the University of WA.

Below is an excerpt of the acceptance speech by Clinical Professor Phillips:

"Thank you for those exceptionally kind words, and thank you for this unexpected honour – it really was a surprise to me, and left me quite speechless – which is probably how I should remain...

I am very pleased and honoured that I have been given the Society Medal, for I think that the TSANZ is distinguished by its friendliness and civility. Not all Societies are that way.

Of course there is a utility to any Society: the TSANZ provides the basis for training for those who wish to become Respiratory Physicians, and, in conjunction with the ASA, for those who wish to practice Sleep Medicine. It is through this Society that sites are accredited for Training, the curriculum set and educational opportunities provided.

That is just an entrée to a broader, richer world that, whilst diverse in interests, retains a collegiality reflected in this meeting. That collegiality, which encompasses physicians, scientists, nurses, allied health professionals is, I think, a hallmark of this Society. I have been very fortunate in the colleagues I have worked with, the collaborations that have developed, and the support that I have received.

I also thank my family for their support and great forbearance in putting up with my absences.

The TSANZ has been a very welcoming Society, for, within months of my arrival in Perth I was taken into the fold and I found myself engaged in Thoracic Society matters, initially at the State level, later at the Federal level. I have enjoyed that engagement which has broadened my horizons, led to new friends, and brought rewards from the sense that one is contributing to and shaping the Society that impacts on us all.

My interests have ranged from research into protein malnutrition in children at an MRC unit in Jamaica to occupational asthma in St Bartholomew’s Hospital in London, to exploring potential mediators of asthma and the function of mast cells at the CVRI in San Francisco, to an increasing involvement in lung cancer and in interventional pulmonology since I have been in Perth.

Interventional pulmonology is a term only recently coined and was not even a sub-speciality when I started down that track. I learnt along the way, as this area developed, from the time I first used a laser having watched an interventional gastroenterologist, to teaching myself rigid bronchoscopy and thoracoscopy, to using the first tracheobronchial stents and, in recent years to EBUS bronchoscopy, lung volume reduction techniques and bronchial thermoplasty.

I would like to finish by misappropriating a verse from a poem by Robert Frost:

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference
I often didn’t know where I was going, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the journey."
50th Anniversary Medal:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HUBERTUS JERSMANN AND DOCTOR NICHOLAS SALTONS

The 50th Anniversary Medal is awarded each year in recognition of outstanding contributions to respiratory education and training in New Zealand or Australia. The award recognises an individual who has demonstrated sustained excellence in education and training.

This year, the TSANZ Board received two outstanding nominations for this medal; both were considered worthy recipients therefore the Board decided to award this medal to both nominees.

Associate Professor Hubertus Jersmann

Hubertus Jersmann is an Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide, Senior Consultant at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and a VMO at Respiratory and Sleep Medicine, Alice Springs Hospital, NT.

Below is an excerpt of the acceptance speech by Associate Professor Jersmann:

“I feel both, deeply humbled, but also extremely honoured, by receiving this award. The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand is a great organization, which I have been a proud member of since 1992. The society is actually younger than me, the society was founded the same year Yuri Gargarin conducted man’s first space flight, where as I was born when Sputnik was launched as the first ever satellite.

Most of my teaching had occurred outside the TSANZ until several years ago when my friend and ex-president...”

“It is our job to motivate them and guide their learning, ignite the fire and the passion, enshrining curiosity and life-long learning.”

Paul Nigel Reynolds suggested it was time I got off my bottom and pulled my weight. Since then I have been serving on the STC Respiratory and Sleep and also the Education and Training Subcommittee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tara MacKenzie, who has been an absolute inspiration to me and others on these committees. Another note of thanks goes to Ratomir Antic, who has built a healthy and well-resourced Department of Thoracic Medicine in the Royal Adelaide Hospital, which provides the supportive environment for myself and many others to be able to serve the Society and conduct our research and teaching in addition to our busy clinical work.

My passion for teaching was sparked by my German education, Jesuit schooling and a University education in the tradition of Alexander von Humboldt.

Teaching in 2015 is not easy. We may have computers, the internet and very smart mobile devices but we are also dealing with a new generation of learners. These young people are absolutely flooded with information and erroneously believe they can truly multi-task. It is our job to motivate them and guide their learning, ignite the fire and the passion, enshrining curiosity and life-long learning.

Us teachers must help our learners to prioritise amidst this information inflation and one area, where we have all let down our trainees is clinical examination. In each new edition the chapters “Respiratory Examination” in the text books are getting bigger, although most of the
information is either for rare occasions or probably of no value or occasionally outright false. When will we subject aspects of the clinical examination to the rigour of evidence based research? Thus far the task has been put on the back burner, in the too hard basket and we all seem too busy. However, my dream is to attempt a start on this. I can’t see why this could not be done as research projects for our advanced trainees.

Finally a word on the Lung School. The real pillars of the Lung School, however, are the trainee driven state based sessions, ideally with a repeating curriculum over a two yearly cycle. Last year’s winner of this medal, the now ‘young mother’ Chien-Li Holmes Liew, over many years, has perfected this to a fine art in South Australia, a model of a State-based Lung School worth copying.

Every year the Education and Training Committee is working hard to produce an impressive and relevant Advanced Trainee Course on the Friday and Saturday morning before each ASM. This includes a professional development session and time for networking with the STC and the TSANZ Board afterwards. This year’s course was made a success by the hard work of Claire Ellender and Ben Kwan and others. We will continue to make sure that this flagship of the Lung School is maintained well into the future.

In closing, embrace your trainees. They keep you on your toes, they keep you young, they are even better than anti-wrinkle cream!”

Doctor Nicholas Saltos

Nicholas Saltos is a Senior Staff Specialist in Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at John Hunter Hospital, Senior Clinical Lecturer at Faculty of Medicine, University of Newcastle, Senior Staff Specialist in Medical Lung Oncology at Mater Misericordiae Hospital, VMO Respiratory Medicine at Cessnock Base Hospital and Mater Misericordiae Hospital.

Below is an excerpt of the acceptance speech by Dr Saltos:

“I wish to thank both the Newcastle Chest Physicians especially Shyamala Pradeepan, Peter Gibson the incoming Society president and Michael Hensley, for nominating me for this prestigious award and the Society Board for selecting me as a joint awardee.

There are, I have little doubt, other Society members that are equally if not more worthy recipients than me but as I said to the immediate past President he did make an offer that was very hard to refuse.

“Medical teaching lastly should be not only enjoyable, but also educational for both the student and the teacher and that is, I think, what the wise Rabbi meant when He said to one of his pupils - My son, more than the calf wishes to suck does the cow yearn to suckle.”

On a more serious note, medical teaching, be it undergraduate, graduate, or postgraduate, should be an important job description requirement for all working in Hospitals more so teaching Hospitals.

Hospital and University responsibilities aside, I have over the years enjoyed being engaged with teaching of both undergraduates and postgraduates, and I would like to think I have contributed in the training of several Respiratory Physicians, some of whom are attending this conference.

Medical teaching lastly should be not only enjoyable, but also educational for both the student and the teacher and that is, I think, what the wise Rabbi meant when He said to one of his pupils - ‘My son, more than the calf wishes to suck does the cow yearn to suckle.’"
Professor Matthew Peters
Matthew Peters is the Head of Respiratory Medicine at Concord Hospital. After completing Advanced Training and being awarded the TSANZ Young Investigator Award, he was the inaugural recipient of the Allen and Hanbury’s Travelling Fellowship and spent three years at the (then) National Heart and Lung Institute in London with Prof Peter Barnes. He has previously been President of the TSANZ NSW Branch and Honorary Secretary of TSANZ. He has a particular interest in advocacy for improved public health, and has made notable contributions in the area of Tobacco Control. His other interest is the better care of patients with lung cancer. He is Chair of the Global Lung Cancer Coalition and was instrumental in the creation of Lung Cancer Network Australia, an important component of the patient support activities of Lung Foundation Australia.

Below is an excerpt of the acceptance speech by Professor Peters:

“When I took over from Professor Paul Reynolds as President of TSANZ in 2013, I said that I took on the role in a spirit of service rather than reward.

Several years ago, I was at the annual St Joseph’s College Rugby training camp at Coffs Harbour. Joeys is a very well-known rugby school. John Mitchell, former All Blacks coach and at the time the coach of the Western Force, attended and coached the first and second XV for several sessions. Mitchell is a very calm, well-spoken man with the worst cauliflowered ears I have ever seen. At the close of the camp, John addressed the teams. He told these young men that no-one owned the jersey that he played in, whether an All Blacks jersey or that of St Joseph’s College First XV. They were only afforded the privilege of borrowing it for a short time. His message to the young men was that the jersey was not an adornment but a transitory opportunity and the task was to make the most of that opportunity. I have tried to do this.

There certainly have been some difficult times and, as always, some aims were not fully achieved. Such is life. The Society is now financially sound and we have a highly capable staff. Our new CEO, Tanya Buchanan, brings both vigour and skill to this key position. That said, I wish to acknowledge the great contribution that Rita Perkins made to this Society particularly in its transition to its new corporate structure.

The young members of this Society are its future and its greatest asset and I want to speak to you now. I encourage you to be ambitious. Nikos Kazantzakis, the writer of Zorba the Greek, a man who perhaps deserved to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, wrote a semi-autobiographical novel called Report to Greco. In this he relates the story of a vigorous Cretan youth who is talking to his grandfather’s ghost. He asks the ghost what he should aspire towards.

“The young members of this Society are its future and its greatest asset and I want to speak to you now. I encourage you to be ambitious.”

I have great confidence that the Society is in very safe hands and will advance under Professor Peter Gibson and the new Board. I thank everyone in this great Society who has helped me so, in so many ways over the two years.

I am a very fortunate person and you have all contributed in your own way to that good fortune.”
Research Awards

Maurice Blackburn Grant-In-Aid for Research on Asbestos Related Disease
This award is given to foster the development of research in the area of occupational and environmental lung disease, with preference being given to studies on asbestos-related diseases.

Recipient: Graeme Zosky (01)
Research title: “The Impact of Iron Oxide Particles on Lung Health”

Robert Pierce Grant-In-Aid for Indigenous Lung Health
This Grant-In-Aid, in honour of the late Professor Rob Pierce, is awarded to a member of the TSANZ for a project focused on understanding and improving the lung health of Indigenous people in Australia and/or New Zealand. This grant supports a project relevant to the lung health of Indigenous people and must contribute to the delivery of better health care and/or to the professional development of the winner.

Recipient: Kristin Carson (02)
Research title: “Training Health Professionals in Smoking Cessation and Tobacco Abuse Prevention for Aboriginal Australians”

TSANZ/AstraZeneca Respiratory Research Fellowship
To foster the development of research in respiratory medicine in Australia & New Zealand. The perceived benefits to health in Australia and New Zealand will be considered by the committee irrespective of where the project is conducted. The fellowship allows researchers to undertake a two year research program under the supervision of an established expert in the field of respiratory medicine.

Recipient: Eugene Roscioli (03)
Research title: “The Regulation of Autophagy in COPD”

Indigenous Respiratory Nurse Career Development Award
This award is given by TSANZ to support applicants who:
- work in respiratory health,
- have demonstrated their interest and commitment to the field,
- aim to strengthen their own respiratory health nursing capacity, and where feasible,
- are contributing to the provision of, or research in, respiratory health nursing in Indigenous communities in New Zealand or Australia.

Recipient: Lesley Versteegh (04)
Lesley Versteegh is a Clinical Research Nurse of the Respiratory Program at the Child Health Division, Menzies School of Health Research. Her research titled “Culturally Appropriate Flip-charts Improve the Knowledge of Common Respiratory Conditions Among Northern Territory Indigenous Families” was published in Health Promotion Journal of Australia

TSANZ and National Asthma Council Australia Asthma and Airways Career Development Fellowship
This award is granted to facilitate the establishment of mid-career investigators as independent, self-directed researchers and to foster the development of high-quality research in respiratory medicine in Australia and New Zealand.

Recipient: Brad Zhang (05)
Research title: “To Compare Genome-Wide Transcriptional And Methylation Profiles In CD4+ Cells in ‘Newly Arrived’ and ‘Long Term’ Chinese Immigrants Living in Western Environments”
VERTEX Cystic Fibrosis Paediatric Clinical Fellowship
The TSANZ Vertex Cystic Fibrosis Paediatric Clinical Fellowship supports an articulated training program for Paediatricians who are members of the TSANZ who are currently or who wish to sub-specialize in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine, specifically the research, diagnosis and management of Cystic Fibrosis in Australia and New Zealand.

**Recipient: Katherine Frayman** (01)
Katherine Frayman is currently employed as the Clinical Research Fellow in the Department of Respiratory Medicine at the Royal Children’s Hospital, Victoria.

VERTEX Cystic Fibrosis Research Awards
This award is granted to foster ongoing original Cystic Fibrosis research and its communication internationally. Two winners will receive an award to support their travel, registration and accommodation to present their research at the European Cystic Fibrosis Society Annual Meeting (1 person) or the North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference (1 person).

**Recipient: Anna Tai** (02)

Research title: “Characterizing the Protease Burden and Mechanisms of Damage in Early Cystic Fibrosis”

Ann Woolcock Young Investigator Award
The Ann Woolcock Young Investigator Award is presented at the TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to acknowledge excellence in the conduct and presentation of scientific research.

The recipient of this award will attend and present their original high-quality research to the next Annual Scientific Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR).

This award furthers one of Professor Ann Woolcock’s goals of fostering research ties between the TSANZ and the APSR.

**Recipient: Rebecca Harper** (04)
Abstract title: “BMPR2 Upregulation Via In Situ Gene Delivery or Via Engineered Endothelial Progenitor Cells Alleviates Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) in a Rat Model”

**Top 5 finalists:** (05)

Finalist: Bernadette Jones
Abstract title: “Epigenetic Changes in HATs and HDACS Drive Pathogenesis That Can be Reversed Using BET Inhibitors in Experimental COPD”

Finalist: Gabrielle McCallum (05)

Finalist: Richard Kim (05)
Abstract title: “Infection-Induced MicroRNA-21 Drives Severe, Steroid-Insensitive Experimental Asthma By Amplifying PI3K-Mediated Suppression of HDAC2”

Finalist: Timothy Sladden (05)
Abstract title: “Hyaluronan - The First New Biomarker of Donor Organ Quality Since PO2?”

Finalist: Vinicius Cavalheri (05)
Travel Awards

The Janet Elder International Travel Awards

These awards will be made to three respiratory scientists or clinicians on the basis of scientific merit of their submitted abstract to the 2015 TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to support their professional development in respiratory research.

There will be two awards for early career researchers and one award for a mid-career researcher.

Recipients of these awards will be able to attend and present an abstract at an international scientific meeting of the recipient’s choice within the following year.

Early Career Researcher
Recipient: Kimberly Wang (01)
Abstract title: “Independent Effects of Airway Smooth Muscle Remodelling and Allergic Inflammation on Airway Responsiveness”

Recipient: Malcolm Starkey
Abstract title: “Interleukin-13 Predisposes Mice to More Severe Influenza Infection and Exacerbated Allergic Airway Disease”

Mid Career Researcher
Recipient: Greg Hodge
(Shane Rix represented Greg Hodge during acceptance) (02)
Abstract title: “Lymphocyte Senescence In COPD Is Associated With Decreased Histone Deacetylase 2 Expression by Pro-Inflammatory Lymphocytes”

Peter Phelan Travel Fellowship (Paediatric)

The grant may be awarded to any member of TSANZ undertaking research in the area of Paediatric Respiratory Medicine.

The grant will support travel nationally or internationally to further develop specific aspects of training (e.g. to undertake a research fellowship, to learn a specific technical skill for a research project) and/or to make a presentation at a major scientific meeting relevant to respiratory medicine.

Recipient: Geshani Jayasuriya (03)
Research title: “Peripheral Airway Abnormalities are Present in Children Post Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT)”

Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) Early Career Development Award

This Early Career Development Award is designed to reward, encourage and provide international exposure to promising recent advanced trainees/higher degree graduates.

The recipient of this award will attend and present at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society (JRS) in the following year.

Recipient: Sukhwinder Singh Sohal (04)
Abstract title: “Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) in Smokers: Large Versus Small Airways: and Relation to Airflow Obstruction”
TSANZ and Asthma Australia Travel Awards

These awards will be made to three people working in the area of Asthma. The person can be a respiratory specialist, nurse, physiotherapist or other health professional, researcher, clinician or scientist.

The grant will support travel nationally or internationally to further develop specific aspects of training (e.g. to undertake a research fellowship, to learn a specific technical skill for a research project) and/or to make a presentation at a major scientific meeting relevant to asthma.

Recipient: Jodie Simpson (01)
Abstract title: "Sputum and Serum Periostin Levels are Associated with, but do not Predict Sputum Eosinophil Proportion in Severe Asthma"

Recipient: Nathan Bartlett (02)
Abstract title: "Preventing Virus-Induced Asthma Exacerbations by Targeting IL-25 and Type-2 Innate Lymphoid Cells"

Recipient: Vanessa Murphy (03)
Abstract title: "Exacerbations Following Step Down and Step up Inhaled Corticosteroid Therapy in the Managing Asthma in Pregnancy (MAP) Study"

Boehringer Ingelheim ACCP Travel Award

This travel award is designed to reward, encourage and provide international exposure for Advanced Trainees in Respiratory Medicine and Junior Respiratory Physicians whose work focus is in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The recipient of this award will attend and present an abstract at the next meeting of the American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) in North America.

Recipient: Eskandarain Shafuddin (04)
Abstract title: "The Time-Course of Cardiac Biomarkers in Acute Exacerbations of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease"
**TSANZ Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Award**

**TSANZ Best Poster Award**
Recipient: Stephanie Byrne  
(This Award was supported by Boehringer Ingelheim)

**Asthma & Allergy SIG**
Recipient: Vanessa Murphy  
Asthma Education or Improving Asthma Management in the Community  
(This Award was supported by Asthma Australia)

**Asthma & Allergy SIG**
Recipient: Zhixuan (Ken) Loh  
Best Student Presentation  
(This Award was supported by National Asthma Council of Australia)

**Cell Biology & Immunology SIG**
Recipient: Chantal Donovan

**COPD SIG**
Recipient: Vanessa Tee  
(This Award was supported by Boehringer Ingelheim)

**COPD SIG**
Recipient: Ivan Bernardo

**Cystic Fibrosis SIG**
Recipient: Daniel Smith  
(This Award was supported by Cystic Fibrosis Australia)

**Evidence Based Medicine SIG**
Recipient: Kristin Carson

**Interventional Pulmonology SIG**
Recipient: Francesco Piccolo  
(This Award was supported by Boston Scientific)

**Lung Cancer SIG**
Recipient: Eve Denton

**OELD/Population Health SIG**
Recipient: Tamara Blake

**OLIV SIG**
Recipient: Stephanie Yerkovich

**Paediatric SIG**
Recipient: Danielle Wurzel

**Physiotherapy SIG**
Recipient: Vinicius Cavalheri

**Primary Care SIG**
Recipient: Amanda Elaro  
(This Award was supported by Boehringer Ingelheim)

**Respiratory Infectious Diseases SIG**
Recipient: Lucy Burr

**Respiratory Nurses SIG - Oral**
Recipient: Teresa Kemp

**Respiratory Nurses SIG - Poster**
Recipient: Natalie Harrop

**Pulmonary Physiology and Sleep SIG**
Recipient: Kirk Kee  
(This Award was supported by Lung Foundation Australia)

**Tobacco Control SIG**
Recipient: Kristin Carson
The TSANZ Board

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Celebrating Member Achievements

New Fellows of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand

The fellow status is granted to members who demonstrate an exceptional contribution to the field of respiratory health in Australia or New Zealand and include advocacy, research, education and clinical contributions. This opportunity is open to members of all professions. The member is required to complete an application against certain criteria which is then assessed by the TSANZ’s Professional Standards Sub-Committee.

The following TSANZ members were admitted as Fellows at the 2015 AGM:

- Professor Adam Jaffe
- Professor Anne Chang
- Professor Graham Hall
- Professor Haydn Walters
- Professor Ian Yang
- Professor Jennifer Alison
- Professor John Upham
- Professor Peter Gibson
- Professor Peter Middleton
- Professor Robyn O’Hehir

Kristin Carson

Congratulations to Kristin Carson for being named SA Young Australian of the Year 2015. Read the rest of the story at Australian of the Year Awards Website.

Professor Bruce Robinson

Congratulations to Professor Bruce Robinson for being named WA Australian of the Year 2014. Read the rest of the story at Australian of the Year Awards Website.

CLICK HERE to read the rest of the story
01. Advanced Trainee Drinks with STC/ETS Members, Friday 27th March 2015

02. TSANZ Welcome Reception, Saturday 28th March 2015

03. LFA Fun Run, Monday 30th March 2015

04. TSANZ Board, guest speakers and medal recipients at the TSANZ Gala Dinner, Tuesday 31st March 2015

05. TSANZ Board, guest speakers and medal recipients at the TSANZ Gala Dinner, Tuesday 31st March 2015

06. ASM International Speakers, Tuesday 31st March 2015

07. Exhibition Break, Saturday 28th March 2015 – Tuesday 30th March 2015

08. With thanks to the superb team from The Conference Company

09. Registration, Saturday 28th March 2015 – Wednesday 1st April 2015

10. Sunday Session, Sunday 29th March 2015
INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO HELP MILLIONS