

News from South Oz

SUE MERCHANT, *SPECTRUM REPORTER SA*



Rhiannon Dew



Ashleigh Moore and Peter George

My previous cry for news to report to all South Aussies has finally resulted in an overwhelming response. In fact it meant I spent several hours collating all the valuable information that has come my way.

Scholarship recipient – Rhiannon Dew

Radiation therapist Rhiannon Dew, employed by Adelaide Radiotherapy Centre, is also actively involved with adolescent health and welfare. She is undertaking postgraduate study in Adolescent health and welfare and she is currently half-way through the certificate with two subjects to complete this semester.

At the beginning of the year Rhiannon was granted a \$4000 scholarship to study this course from Canteen. She has been working in conjunction with Rebecca Davis, also a radiation therapist at ARC, to establish an adolescent information and resources folder for all staff to access and utilise when they become involved with an adolescent patient.

Rhiannon also manages to volunteer overnight at Ronald McDonald House one-two times a month to help support families

throughout their stay, helping with everyday chores such as cleaning and cooking as well as being a person with whom they can talk. This involves Rhiannon staying at the house overnight and managing any calls or business that might need to be taken care of out of hours. Congratulations Rhiannon on being awarded the scholarship and on your active involvement with a cohort of the population that are often less supported particularly in the cancer care journey. Your work and current study is inspirational and commendable.

Seminar Day – 11th August

A very special weekend on the SA Branch calendar finally came to fruition. It was a busy but very successful time. On behalf of the committee I would like to say a very big thank you to all of our sponsors. Gold sponsorship: Carestream; Silver sponsorship: GE Healthcare and Covidien; Bronze sponsorship: Philips, Siemens, Elekta, Bayer and Bayer and other supporters: Toshiba, Imaxeon and nl-tec. Without this support the day would not have been nearly as successful. I extend a huge thank you to Diana Pilkington and all the committee members who made it all happen. I also thank all the attendees

because the success of the day relied upon your interest and attendance.

The weekend started with members of the SA Branch Committee dining with the AIR Board members, at a long table on the enclosed verandah of Vasarelli's situated in the main street of McLaren Vale.

The evening provided an opportunity for the board to farewell Chris Pilkington the outgoing member for SA. It also gave many of us time to get to know the board members a little better while indulging in great Italian food and McLaren Vale wine.

Radiation therapy session at Angove's Winery

Angove's winery is a gorgeous setting for a small gathering of around 30 people. The winery is about nine months old, with beautiful stonework and floor to ceiling sliding doors opening up one entire wall to view the vineyards. Paul, the manager, ensured all attendees were well looked after with coffee before the start of the morning. They have a sign at the gate advertising that they have great coffee and they really do have great coffee.

The morning session took the theme of "A



The Board

head and neck of the rest” and was divided into two parts, “Technical aspects of RT” and “Behind and beyond RT”. Before morning tea the technical aspects of radiation therapy were presented by Annette Bradley (senior RT, RAH), Tracey Standen (senior RT, ARC) and Jason Morton (principal physicist, ARC). Presentations centred on IMRT planning with Annette and Tracey sharing their experiences of implementation at the RAH and ARC respectively. Jason provided a very informative presentation about his involvement from a physicist and a national perspective and the last 20 minutes of the session was used for discussion.

This was a unique opportunity for an exchange of ideas and information about the trials and tribulations of implementing IMRT in each centre. As Jason mentioned in his talk, in order to develop and refine practices often it is better to share than be secretive and work in isolation.

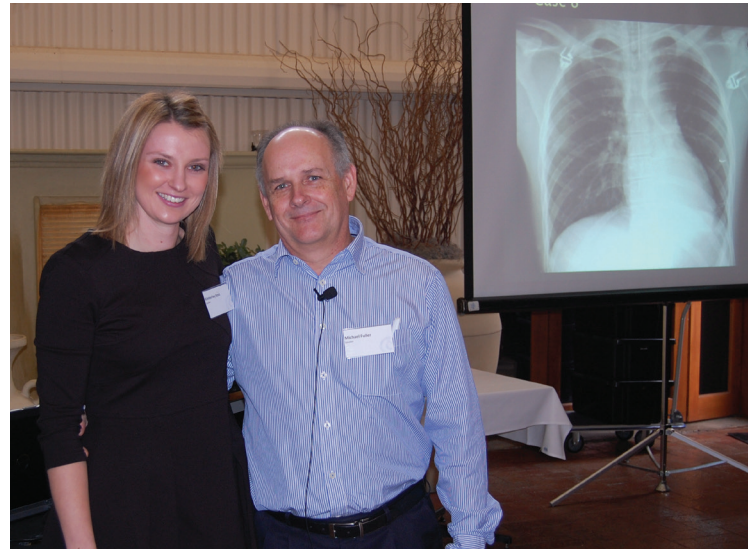
The second half of the morning centred on patient care. Dr Tony Michele (medical oncologist, North Adelaide Oncology) spoke about their Restore program, which offers complementary care workshops for patients undergoing conventional treatments. He also gave a brief overview of current chemotherapy protocols. Claire Wirth (dietitian, Nutrition Professionals Australia) was our second speaker in this half and discussed the “to peg or not to peg” issues and the decision making involved during the patient’s treatment trajectory. Claire certainly had everyone involved when she provided some Sustagen for each of us to taste! I don’t believe too many of the audience enjoyed it.

The last but definitely not the least speaker for the morning was Mr Ashleigh Moore, OAM, Executive of Cancer Voices Australia.

This is an extract from the website: “Cancer Voices Australia provides a national, independent voice for people affected by all types of cancer, linking and collaborating with state Cancer Voices in NSW, Qld, Vic, SA and WA.

“CVA is a respected and integral part of the national cancer control arena, working collaboratively with its member organisations, the Federal Government, State Governments, Cancer Australia, Cancer Councils, the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia, other clinical bodies and key cancer organisations to improve services and care for all people affected by cancer in Australia.”

Ashleigh Moore shared his cancer journey experiences that



Kimberley and Michael

started in 2005. He brought a patient perspective to the session that touched most of those in attendance. It was a timely reminder to us that each person who travels along the treatment path has their own agenda and includes many others that are also affected such as family, work commitments, friends and activities.

Sessions at Middlebrook Winery

Trauma workshop

The Trauma workshop was held at the Middlebrook Winery. Michael Fuller and Kimberly Ross guided us through a great many tips about image interpretation of the cervical spine, pelvis and chest in a trauma situation. There were 43 attendees to this great session. The presentation was well presented and everyone gained a great deal of knowledge that will certainly be applied in their workplace. Kimberley and Michael have inspired us all to go that extra step in searching for pathology.

The morning tea at Middlebrook was sensational and the venue was wonderful, surrounded by beautiful gardens and fields of grape vines. It was definitely well worth visiting.

CT session

The air was crisp, and the enthusiasm high as the delegates arrived for the morning CT session at Middlebrook winery. A punctual start at 9 am saw the 50 or so attendees settle down for a back to basics morning, built around the upcoming CT certification process that the AIR has been working on. Geoffrey Dick, from Eastern Health in Melbourne, and a member of the MIAP 1 Panel (which has been the driving force behind the process) talked for the first 90 minutes. He introduced the proposed process, spoke on the recent pilot study recently completed and its findings. A series of educational lectures, (complete with handouts) on “Principles of CT”, “CT and contrast”, “CT images and artefacts” and “CT tips and tricks” enabled the attendees to acquire knowledge and information on CT that would be required to pass the certification exam. Once of the best morning teas ever seen at a conference anywhere followed, and after this networking and catch-up opportunity, the attendees settled down to another four presentations. Stephanie Hartmann from Flinders Medical Centre spoke on the work of the SA CT Dose Optimisation project, with which she was



Cockwise: Michael Fuller presenting at the Trauma Workshop; Fuller and co; Sue and Tracey; Leigh, Chris Whennan, Lee and Angela

heavily involved in as its Project Officer. The interest and awareness on radiation dose for CT has grown dramatically recently and it is heartening to see the work being done on a state-wide basis to address this. Geoffrey then re-addressed us on the techniques and background behind CT perfusion studies, a growing and increasingly pivotal examination in acute stroke presentation, diagnosis and treatment. To round off the morning programme, Dr Will Thompson, from Dr Jones and Partners talked on Dual Energy CT and its clinical applications, in particular with cardiac studies. The technical concept is novel and, as explained by Will, has some unique features which make it an exciting and comprehensive imaging tool in a variety of clinical conditions.

A wonderful morning of learning about CT MRI at Serafino's Winery

The MRI session began with a focus on body imaging. Speakers from many departments in Adelaide presented on varying topics,

and they blended well to encourage great discussion and sharing of ideas. Many ideas relating to body imaging protocols were sure to be taken back to work and trialled on Monday morning.

Sheree Voda and Mandy Anderson spoke about liver imaging, contrast and diffusion.

Angela Walls took diffusion imaging to other parts of the body.

Mark Sparnon, MRI Fellow from RAH looked at the prostate and how all these techniques complement each other to assist with an accurate diagnosis.

After morning tea we reconvened to hear two talks about MR spectroscopy. Dr Sandy Patel gave us a good look at what our radiologists are looking for in a comprehensive examination of a brain tumour.

Cherie Raven presented her results from the clinical audit she conducted in her workplace FMC. It was great to hear the outcomes of a truly worthwhile study. We then moved onto an interesting case study presented by Jan Neale from the RAH, and finally Paula Ciccozzi from WCH presented

us a very different outlook on clinical MRI imaging, "A virtual autopsy".

We heard from our sponsors, Covidien and GE and thank them for their support.

We had a fantastic morning of learning and sharing, and look forward to doing so again in the near future.

Combined afternoon session at Serafino's Winery

Everyone gathered at Serafino's for a scrumptious lunch before assembling in the seminar room for the afternoon session. The afternoon started with Ashleigh Moore OAM, who shared many of his decision making processes that steered the course of his cancer journey. It contained an important message to all. Ashleigh made us aware that some of the things we might do in the course of providing treatment as medical radiation professionals can also be emotionally not just physically uncomfortable for the patient. He provided some thoughtful reflection for all of us as professionals.

Zachary Munn was the second presenter for the afternoon with his presentation entitled: "Improving the patient experience in a magnetic resonance imaging department: an action research study (initial results)". Zac's study seeks to examine the patient experience in an MRI department and to analyse the process of practice change in a medical imaging department. Specifically, this project aims to: investigate the role of the radiographer in terms of patient care, assess compliance with evidence based guidance regarding patient care, analyse the process of practice change in a medical imaging department, and improve the patient experience of MRI.

Dr Daniel Badger presented "The terrible truth about radiation – are YOU killing your patients?" He provided a very interesting talk about the radiation we all receive and/or give

others as part of our jobs, but he questions what is the actual effect of this radiation dose? He also questions should we be concerned and are dose reduction programs really worth the effort? What is the evidence for low dose effects? What about radiation hormesis? How many people are we killing each year with imaging?

Denise Ogilvie, lecturer at UniSA and committee member of the SA Branch discussed the new online course being delivered for clinical educators by the university. This new initiative is definitely worthy of further investigation if your interests lie within this area of your professional practice.

Member of the AIR Board of Directors, Patrick Eastgate, presented "Industrious MICE building connections between clinical educators in Queensland health medical imaging departments". This has resulted in a number of innovations, developed at single sites, have been shared and trialled across the MICE network, with local variations encouraged. Collectively, the group has worked to develop tools to increase the consistency of clinical education delivered by its members. A key outcome has been the development of a common student assessment form, used to assess undergraduate students from a range of universities and stages of development, used throughout QH. Works in progress include development of agreed standards for clinical placements, and a common clinical placement evaluation tool.

David Collier, Chief Executive of the AIR gave a brief overview of the new learning developments being established by the AIR in his talk "Just around the Corner – e-learning and the AIR". David also alluded to announcements in the very near future so keep eyes and ears open!

"LEADERSHIP – It Starts With YOU" Dean Evans is a Leadership Performance Strategist based in Adelaide and working at Tennyson centre.

Dean talked about a fundamental shift taking place in today's modern workplace.

Our last speaker for the session was Peter Buchanan who provided a presentation about the basics of digital radiography. This was a company presentation with a brief introduction to the Carestream DRX Family of products.

Awards and prize winners

During the afternoon session Katrina Rech was announced as the Allan Braden Medal recipient. The award was presented to Katrina by Caroline Knipe, Vice President of the AIR Board. It was a complete surprise to Katrina but a much deserved reward for the many years of outstanding service Katrina has undertaken for the AIR. The following is a summary of the AIR work where Katrina has played a pivotal role:

- 2001–2007 Chairperson for Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR) SA Branch
- Convenor of yearly scientific meetings in SA for Medical Radiations Professionals
- 2003 Undertook role of Convenor of AIR Annual National Conference and Radiation Therapy Symposium Adelaide • March 2003, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Significant Sponsorship deals negotiated.
- 2005 Co Convenor for Australian Institute of Radiography Annual Scientific meeting for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, Auckland New Zealand.
- 2007–2009 SA Institute of Radiography Representative on the Allied Health Practitioners of South Australia committee

- 2010–April 2011 Joint R T Scientific program Coordinator for the 8th AIR ASMMIRT

Congratulations Katrina for your outstanding contribution to the profession and the AIR.

Grinning winners: Renee Anderson won the GE lunch time prize which was awarded by Leigh Bubb. Angove's Winery also had a lucky draw which was won by Donna Matthews.

Some of us completed the weekend with Sunday breakfast at Bracegirdle's in McLaren Vale before returning home. It was a relaxing end to a great weekend.

October Branch Meeting

A last minute work commitment stepped in the way of Stephen Nicholls Professor of Cardiology, SAHMRI Heart Foundation Heart Disease Theme Leader, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute who was to present on "SAHMRI: SA's New Flagship Health and Medical Research Institute".

However, this presentation has been rescheduled for our October Branch Meeting on the 10th in the Robson Theatre so make sure you put that date in the diary now.

Watch this space each month for further information and updates of the events being organised. If anyone has any newsworthy items, photos or ideas for the committee or for the monthly report please email Michelle, Diana or me. Alternately contact a member of the committee.

Australian Institute of Radiography
South Australian Branch is proud to present

BEYOND THE MAMMOSPHERE

24 November 2012

08:30 - 13:30

Topics such as the Male mammogram, CT viability studies of the TRAM FLAP, Multi sliced Ultrasound, Tomosynthesis, Pathology Slide reading 101 and the diverse role of a Breast Care Nurse are aimed at broad appeal in the Medical Imaging community.

The half day format is designed to attract those with a busy schedule while still providing an opportunity to gain valuable CPD points.

**Robson Theatre
Royal Adelaide Hospital**

To view full program please visit the AIR Events Calendar: <http://www.air.asn.au/events.php#>

