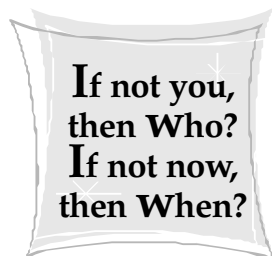


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The PSNews is the official newsletter of the PSRC, an affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care.

Co-Editors/Fall 2008

Tom Lamphere, BS, RRT, RPFT
Ann Cusano, MEd, RRT, CPFT

Editorial Policy

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Sellersville, PA 18960

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PSRC Calendar of Events

September	24	PSRC 3rd Quarter Board Meeting (Monroeville, PA)
	25 & 26	PSRC Western Regional Conference (Monroeville, PA)
<hr/>		
October	10	PSRC Conference In the Capital (Harrisburg, PA)
	11 & 12	AARC Asthma Educator Certification Prep Course (Harrisburg)
	21	PSRC/Thomas Jefferson University Hospital RC Week Seminar (Philadelphia)

Visit the PSRC website at www.PSRC.net for more information on these and other events!

The PSNews

Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

ISSUE 2

FALL 2008

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New Mission

Represent Respiratory
Therapists in
Pennsylvania

Greetings from the President



Hello fellow LICENSED Respiratory Therapist, Remember "If not you, then who? If not now, then when?" Some might feel that alone they cannot make a difference. I'm here to tell you that is not true.

I recently saw a short video about the power of one. There was a young man named Joe, who was mentally challenged but worked in the local supermarket as a food bagger. Everyday he would write little notes before he came to work and after he bagged their groceries, he would drop in one of his notes. Some would say, "Have a great day," "Come visit me again," or "Have a great night or weekend" on little pieces of paper. The paper was not fancy nor was the handwriting. On the piece of paper was one line. This one line created such an impact on the grocery store. One day, the store manager couldn't understand why there were so many people waiting in line at the register. He then saw that it was only Joe's line. He went over and said, "You need to hurry up. The line is backing up." The manager started to tell people to go to other registers that were open. The customers said, "No, we are waiting for Joe." Customers started to tell the manager that Joe is the reason that they shop at that store. Some said Joe has made such an impact on them by just loving his job and thinking of others.

The Power of One Can be Earth Shattering.

Think about what you can do when you go to work today, tomorrow, or even next week. Think about what you can do and who you can touch with just the power of one. Respiratory therapists make a difference in the lives of patients, doctors, and nurses every day. Be that exception and make a difference!

Since the last edition of the PSNews, respiratory therapists have become licensed in the state of Pennsylvania! I'm sure there are many people reading this article that thought they were already licensed to work as a therapist and have been since the law was passed in 1993. The truth is that we never were "licensed" by the state. The law stated that therapists were "certified" by the state, not "licensed." In mid-2007, the PSRC Board and numerous PSRC

members from throughout the state contacted Pennsylvania legislators to convince them that respiratory therapists are professionals and, as such, should be licensed by the state, not certified. Thanks to these therapists and the 100+ members and students who visited Harrisburg for the 2007 PSRC Legislative Day last October, we succeeded in gaining professional recognition and we are finally licensed by the State. Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell signed the bill into law on July 4, 2008 and we have now joined with the rest of the country as licensed therapists!

Professional recognition, however, doesn't always come easy! As part of his "Prescription for Pennsylvania," Governor Rendell wants all health professionals in the Commonwealth to be required to complete a minimum of thirty hours of continuing education every two years. Most Pennsylvania licensed health professions already require thirty hours or more including physicians, pharmacists, nurses, paramedics, and athletic trainers. Therefore, the continuing education requirement for respiratory therapists has been increased to thirty hours every two years.

The PSRC understands there are some therapists who may not be happy about the increased continuing education requirement. However, we believe that if our profession wants to be viewed as professionals alongside other major licensed healthcare professions in the state, we should be held to the same standard. The increased continuing education requirement simply brings our profession up to the standards set by the other professionals in the state.

I'd like to point out that in 2007, the PSRC offered over 115 hours of accredited continuing education throughout the state. This is more than ANY other state in the AARC! We've continued to sponsor and co-sponsor more and more events in 2008 and we'll continue doing so in the future! In addition, we've sponsored a lot of fun activities so far this year with more to come! Check this newsletter and our website for more information.

Remember, respiratory therapy is not a job... it's a passion!!

Sincerely,

Eileen M. Censullo

A Remarkable Journey...

by Cathy Hurley, RRT
PSRC Immediate Past President

"Every day brings a new experience as we work to improve quality of care and offer the best and safest experience for our patients."



Twenty-six years have passed since my graduation from respiratory school and at times I still wonder where the time went. My career followed the path of many therapists who began their journey in a community hospital. I became part of the day shift team as a therapist at Grand View Hospital. At Grand View, you rotated throughout the hospital in ICCU, PACU, ER, and general floor care. We put in arterial lines, intubated, extubated, managed ventilators and the list goes on.

Eventually, I took on more responsibilities handling the blood gas lab, department education, CPR training and clinical instructor for the respiratory care students from Gwynedd Mercy College. Around that same time, I became actively involved with the

PSRC and a whole new world of respiratory opened up for me. Prior to this, I was unaware of the goals and work of the PSRC. Bottom line, the PSRC works to protect and enhance our profession, and twelve years later I am still actively involved with the PSRC.

My travels continued as I became Day Shift Coordinator and Department Manager. These positions afforded me the opportunity to become involved in many hospital committees and quality initiatives, working on patient safety, core measures, rapid response teams and ventilator bundles and protocols.

Three years ago I moved into a whole new arena when I became the Manager of Quality Management and the Joint Commission Coordinator for the hospital. I feel like a world traveler now! Every day brings a new experience as we work to improve quality of care and offer the best and safest experience for our patients.

When I began my respiratory journey twenty-six years ago, I never imagined the exciting and fulfilling experiences that would come my way.

News & Views in Respiratory Care Seminar Held in Reading

On July 26, 2008, sixty dedicated respiratory therapists used a summer Saturday to attend an education seminar at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center in Reading, Pennsylvania. The seminar, co-sponsored by the hospital and the PSRC, featured a variety of speakers and topics including Dr. Cecilia Smith who presented an interesting lecture on "Pulmonary Hypertension" and Dr. Forrest Fernandez who presented a lecture on "The Challenges of Ventilating a Pediatric Trauma Patient."

Other speakers included the PSRC's own Garry Kauffman, RRT, MPA, who gave a presentation on the "Ethical Considerations in

Respiratory Care" and Tom Lamphere, BS, RRT, RPFT, who provided attendees with an update on "Respiratory Credentialing in Pennsylvania: What You Need To Know!"

Everyone had a splendid day and received a terrific educational experience. Attendees also enjoyed a continental breakfast and lunch thanks to support from the following companies:

Astra Zeneca
Boehringer Ingelheim
Cardinal Health
Covidian
Drager

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Olympus
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Sepracor
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The **PSNews**
Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

Deadlines for 2008:
Spring 2008 — March 1
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Email: officeman@psrc.net

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2008 PSRC Student Seminar & Sputum Bowl

by Tom Lamphere, BS, RRT, RPFT
Tom's title??

The PSRC Student Seminar was a smash hit again this year as students and program directors from respiratory therapy programs across the state gathered together for some fun, career exploration, networking, learning, and, did I say FUN? The festivities kicked off in the early evening with the preliminary rounds of the 2008 PSRC Student Sputum Bowl as a dozen teams from schools throughout the state competed for a berth in the Final Four to be held the following day.

The second day began with a seminar that featured both local and nationally known speakers including Dana Oakes, Bruce Toben, William Malley, William Galvin, Tom Lamphere, and Dr. Michael Detorree. Topics included "Get Involved and Make a Difference," "Alternative Careers for RTs: Beyond Acute Care," "What Your Employer Wants & Needs From You As An Employee," "Test Taking Skills," "Heroes: The Past, Present, and Future of Respiratory Therapy," and "The Pennsylvania Vent Camp." The event also included a job

Fair where the students got a chance to network with representatives from some of the best hospitals in the state.

All of this was just a prelude to the feature event, the Student Sputum Bowl Final Four competition. The winning team would earn the right (and financial assistance from the PSRC) to represent Pennsylvania at the AARC National Sputum Bowl competition to be held in Anaheim, California in conjunction with the AARC's International Congress. The teams played exciting matches, and in



the end, the team consisting of Jody Murtaugh, Brandon Gracey and Hilary Smart, from West Chester University, won the event! West Chester Program Director, Brian Kellar MSEd, RRT, RPFT,



(left to right) Hilary Smart, Brandon Gracey and Jody Murtaugh from West Chester University—winners of the Student Sputum Bowl.

beamed with pride as his students displayed not only a firm grasp of respiratory related knowledge, but tremendous poise under pressure in winning the event!

Someone much wiser than me once said, "Believe in your children and they will learn to believe in themselves." The purpose of the Student Seminar is about instilling that belief in our "RT children." They are the ones that are following in our footsteps, who will take our profession to the next level, and may very well be taking care of us when we grow old.

AARC Sponsors President's Workshop

by Ann Wilson, RRT, RPFT
PSRC President-Elect



On March 30-31, 2008, I traveled to Dallas to attend the AARC President's workshop as your President-Elect.

I was fortunate enough to hear speakers such as AARC President, Toni Rodriguez, and AARC Chief Operating Officer, Thomas Kallstrom, just to name two. I came away more proud than ever to be an AARC member and a respiratory therapist. I wanted to provide a few cliff notes from one of the presentations that I thought were too awesome not to share.

President Rodriquez was an incredible and dynamic speaker who talked to the attendees about the power of unity. She called for all respiratory therapists in the United States to have a "Unity of Purpose." Respiratory therapists are called to provide patient advocacy in the area of maintaining and restoring normal function of the respiratory system. We fulfill a need for implementation and operation of complex medical equipment to manage our patient's respiratory needs, and we monitor those same critically ill patients. She spoke about how the respiratory care of the future will change from the respiratory care of the past, quoting Abraham Lincoln: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion.

As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew."

She spoke about the trust we must have individually and the trust we must have in each other to move forward as a profession. The key to our future will be to trust ourselves, knowing we are the best people to provide respiratory care to our patients; to trust each other, promoting intra-professional links between ourselves and other health care professionals, educators, managers, and clinicians; and trust in our future.

I look forward to serving as your PSRC president in 2009. I will do my best to represent the 7,000 respiratory therapists in our state and ensure that we are recognized as the leading organization for respiratory therapists in Pennsylvania.

2006-08 Legislative Session In Review

by *The Winter Group*

The Winter Group continues its advocacy on all items important to the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care. These items include: language change for respiratory care therapists from certified to licensed; asthma inhaler legislation; Clean Indoor Air; continuing education regulations; and sleep lab legislation. These items are expanded upon below. We also monitor all legislation introduced and amended for potential impact on respiratory therapists in Pennsylvania. We regularly attend meetings of the State Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine and report back any items of interest. We conduct regular strategy sessions with the PSRC leadership to discuss the PSRC legislative agenda. The following issues represent a sample of the numerous areas that we are working on to support the PSRC and the respiratory therapists in Pennsylvania.

Licensure of Respiratory Therapists in Pennsylvania

Governor Rendell signed into law legislation to improve the quality of care of Pennsylvania patients who receive respiratory therapy. The legislation required respiratory therapists to be licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Before, respiratory therapists were only certified by the state, despite a statewide effort in the 1990s by the therapists to make respiratory therapy a licensed profession. The legislation also requires that respiratory therapists receive thirty hours of continuing education every two years. The thirty hours of continuing education ensures that continuing education for respiratory therapists is consistent with Governor Rendell's "Prescription of Pennsylvania," which is seeking to increase continuing education hours for healthcare workers.

"This legislation will ensure that those patients who receive respiratory therapy have access to the best quality of care," said Representative Adolph, who, along with Representative Yudichak, sponsored the legislation. "We are ensuring that these health care providers are properly licensed by the state and that they are

receiving adequate continuing education on treatment options, patient safety, and the latest advances in the profession. I am very pleased that this legislation received the overwhelming approval of the legislature and the support of Governor Rendell." The Winter Group is now working with the State Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine to draft regulations to implement the changes outlined in the legislation.

Clean Indoor Air

Governor Ed Rendell signed into law SB 246—legislation banning indoor smoking in most places in Pennsylvania. The ban will eliminate cigarette, cigar, and pipe smoking in all office buildings, restaurants and places, such as train and bus stations and some sports arenas. Smoking will be allowed at bars that make less than twenty percent of their sales from food and a quarter of the gaming floors of Pennsylvania casinos. The ban goes into effect in September. The Winter Group was at the forefront of the negotiations on the Clean Indoor Air law and kept the PSRC involved throughout the process. Respiratory therapists across the state weighed in at key moments with calls and letters to their Senators and Representatives urging them to pass a strong Clean Indoor Air bill.

Asthma Inhaler/Epi Pen Legislation

SB 731, introduced by Senator Orie, amends the Public School Code further providing for possession and use of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors. PSRC has weighed in on this issue at various times throughout the session on the final language of this bill. In part because of the PSRC's communication with legislators, we were able to defeat a PA School Board Association sponsored amendment that would have severely compromised the bill. The bill passed the Senate unanimously and is now awaiting consideration in the House.

Sleep Center Legislation

HB 1264 introduced by Representative Solobay amends the Health Care Facilities Act to further define "health care facility"

to include a sleep center, regardless of whether the sleep center is operated for profit. "Sleep center" is defined as any sleep disorder center, sleep laboratory or other facility, which provides testing and treatment for sleep disorders or which otherwise focuses on sleep-related breathing disorders.

The Winter Group and PSRC leaders met with Representative Solobay, the Research Project Manager of the House Legislative Research Office, and the Executive Director of the House Health and Human Services Committee on this bill. We explained PSRC's concerns that the bill does not go far enough to ensure patient safety. After listening to our concerns Representative Solobay agreed to make a statement on the House floor explicitly stating the intent of his legislation. The bill is currently in the House Appropriations Committee. We will continue to monitor it and any other attempts to introduce legislation dealing with sleep centers in Pennsylvania.

Chronic Care Management Commission

Governor Rendell has created this task force to look at chronic care health issues. The Winter Group is attempting to get a PSRC representative appointed to this commission or to a subcommittee on respiratory issues.

PSRC Announces 2009 Budget

The PSRC Board of Directors has approved the 2009 budget. In accordance with the PSRC bylaws, the budget is now available for members to review on the PSRC website (<http://www.psrc.net/2009budget.htm>).

Comments on the budget should be sent by September 30, 2008 via email to 2008Treasurer@psrc.net or by mail to PSRC, c/o 225 Hampshire Drive, Sellersville, PA 18960.

PSRC Northwest District Update

by Ken Kraut, RRT, NW District Director

Greetings from the Great Northwest! The PSRC's NW district spring seminar held on Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at the Ambassador Convention Center in Erie, Pennsylvania was a huge success. We had over one hundred attendees and twenty vendors. The opening lecture on "The Ethics of Disaster" was presented by Randy Solly, BS, RRT, CPFT. Joe Lawarski, RRT, then gave a presentation entitled "Current Issues in Home Care" which enlightened the attendees on why the current legislative bills in Washington are important to all respiratory therapists. Garry Kauffman, MPA, RRT, gave an entertaining and educational lecture on

reading chest Xrays.

Lunch was a delightful repast and received rave reviews by lecturers, vendors and attendees. The afternoon lectures began with a thought provoking, interactive lecture entitled "Magic, Miracles and Modern Medicine" by Steven Levy, MD. Other lectures followed by Kenneth Chinsky, MD and Cathy Myers, MS, RRT. The day-long event concluded by updating the attendees on the PSRC and the AARC.

Watch for the 2009 PSRC NW District Seminar scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2009! In addition, we are in the process of developing several educational and fun events for the remainder of 2008 and into 2009! Keep an eye on the PSRC website (www.psrc.net) for information on all of

these events!

Congratulations to the graduates of the respiratory care programs at Gannon University and Clarion University-Venango Campus! We welcome you into the exciting and rewarding world of respiratory care.

WANTED: A Few Good RTs!!

We are looking for practitioners from the eastern and southern areas of the NW district to get involved in planning of educational and fun events for our district. If you'd like to join us and help out, we'd like to hear from you! Please contact Ken Kraut via email at 2008NWDistrict@psrc.net.

AARC International Fellow: *Who is this and what does it mean?*

by Eileen Censullo, BS, RRT, PSRC President

The AARC has a mission regarding international relations. The AARC seeks to "promote communication and fellowship among respiratory care professionals in the United States and their counterparts through cooperation, dialogue, and educational exchanges." The AARC International Fellowship Program, sponsored by the American Respiratory Care Foundation (ARCF), has been established to assist health care professionals from other countries to visit the United States to observe the practice of respiratory care as it is performed in a variety of settings including our educational programs that teach it.

In 2007, Pennsylvania was fortunate to be selected to participate in this

unique program and hosted a Fellow from Portugal. I'm happy to announce that in 2008, we will once again have the unique opportunity to showcase our profession to an International Fellow in hospitals and other facilities in the Philadelphia area. While in Pennsylvania, the Fellow will visit a homecare site, a respiratory program, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and a community hospital to discuss medical techniques and procedures with respiratory therapists and physicians who specialize in respiratory therapy and pulmonary care.

Chip Malloy, BS, RRT, Pulmonary Care Director at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, spent some time with the visiting Fellow in 2007. "We had a clinician from

Portugal who was intelligent and very motivated to learn as much as possible from us. We wanted to learn as much from her as she did from us. Some of the respiratory therapists from my department volunteered to greet her at her hotel and show her around the city so she always had someone with her. She was very interested in PFT's and neonatal care as our equipment is so sophisticated in the United States. It definitely gives our RT's a perspective on how lucky we are to have the advanced technologies and dedicated staff to work with critical patients as most of these countries have never heard of a "respiratory therapist."

Watch for a story on this year's International Fellow visit in the next edition of the PSNews!

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Contact information is available on the PSRC website at <http://www.psrc.net/officiary.htm>

PSRC South Central District Update

by Troy Van Scoyoc, BS, RRT
PSRC SC District Director

Over the past few years, the South Central District of the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care (SC PSRC) and MMC/UPJ Respiratory Care Education Committee have sponsored a number of educational activities that have provided continuing education for hundreds of respiratory therapists in our region. These meetings were free for AARC members and \$5.00 for non-members. Some of the programs offered to date include: James S. Gregory, MD, "Unusual Occurrences in the Chest"; Luis Gonzales III, PharmD, "Show Me the Evidence: The Basics of Evaluating Medical Literature Using Examples from COPD Publications"; Abhisek K. Ramadhin, MD, "Disaster Preparedness: Lessons Learned From Mumbai Bombings"; and most recently, a two-CEU lecture followed by a PSRC Family Fun Night with the Altoona Curve. Approximately forty respiratory therapists and their families attended the continuing education lecture and baseball game that

followed. Although the game was delayed and eventually canceled, great fun was had by all as we watched the Pittsburgh Penguins playoff game on the jumbo television!

We are looking for interested people of the SC PSRC to become a part of this committee. Our goal is to have more respiratory therapists involved in the planning of these meetings. Ultimately, our goal is to create a greater interest and

increased attendance at our current programs while creating new ones as well! The programs to date have been educational, fun and have provided an opportunity to network with many of the therapists throughout our region. If you are interested in helping out with anything in our district, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at 2008SCDistrict@psrc.net or by phone at 814-534-1504.



Governmental Affairs Committee

by Garry W. Kauffman, MPA, FACHE, RRT, FAARC
PSRC Governmental Affairs Committee Chair



The last issue of the PSNews contained an update on numerous state and federal issues. In this issue, I would like to highlight two issues of great importance to RTs,

both of which were the result of countless hundreds of RTs emailing, writing and faxing letters, and visiting their federal and state elected officials in their home offices. Thanks to all of you for your extra efforts on behalf of the patients we serve!

STATE ISSUES

"Certification" to "Licensure"

On the 4th of July (how fitting!), Governor Edward Rendell signed legislation that incorporates several changes to the laws governing respiratory therapists

in the state. The new law changes the name of the state credential issued to respiratory therapists in the state from a "certificate" to a "license." In addition, several other changes are included in the new law including a new requirement for continuing education that increases the total hours of mandatory continuing education from twenty to thirty every two years. Please note that these changes will NOT affect the current credentialing period that ends on December 31, 2008 and the continuing education requirement for this period remains at twenty hours. For more information, go to the following link on the PSRC website: <http://www.psrc.net/GovernmentalAffairsPage.htm>

FEDERAL ISSUES

Medicare Package Becomes Law— Pulmonary Rehab and Home Care Patients are BIG Winners!

Thanks in part to the thousands of emails and letters from respiratory therapists and patients, the US Senate and

House of Representatives passed a bill known as the Medicare Package. Although President Bush vetoed the bill, the Senate and House overturned the veto and the bill became law.

This is a HUGE win for our profession!!!

The bill contains several important provisions relating to our profession including:

- Creation of a national coverage policy for pulmonary and cardiac rehabilitation within the Medicare statute.
- The "rent-to-own provision" that would have required patients to take ownership of their home oxygen equipment was repealed.
- The DME competitive bidding program that began in several areas will now be delayed for eighteen months and reforms to the program must be made. This is an extremely important action for home care companies.

There is more information on this new law, including a history of what has happened over the past few weeks on the AARC website at the following link: http://www.aarc.org/headlines/08/07/medicare_package.cfm

PSRC Southwest District Update

by Gail Varcelotti, RRT
PSRC SW District Director

The PSRC's Southwest District has been rolling along in an attempt to keep local RT's up to date with their credentialing requirements for the state, recruit more volunteers, provide CRCE opportunities for the SW PSRC members and other RT's in the area and have a little fun. Contact Gail Varcelotti at 412-370-1749 if you want to volunteer or have some ideas. We certainly need the help to keep our district moving forward! Many thanks to those who already volunteered!

Some of the SW District events held thus far in 2008 include:

April 12: Two CRCE's in Medical Ethics and Patient Safety were offered compliments of space provided by Jefferson Medical Center.

June 22: PSRC Sunday at the Park (as in PNC Park) was scheduled but unfortunately it must have been a busy day for everyone! We donated our extra tickets through several homecare venues.

August 11: Our annual PSRC SW District Golf Outing was held at Forest River Golf Club. The morning kicked off

with a two CRCE program for anyone interested and was followed by a 10:00 tee off. This annual event raises funds to provide educational activities and support student attendance at the Sputum Bowl and Student Conference.

August 14: PSRC Night at "Pittsburgh Pirates Sky Blast I" included a Pirates game, fireworks and a concert by REO Speedwagon. What more can I say?!

So What's Coming Up?

September 25 & 26: The 35th Annual SW Conference in Respiratory Care and Sleep Medicine will be held at the Monroeville Radisson & Expomart. Information has been mailed to PSRC members and is available on the PSRC website (www.psrc.net), including online registration. We have applied for ten hours of CRCE through the AARC and ten CEC have been applied for through the AAST. This year's conference will also offer both of the state required courses in Medical Ethics and Patient Safety. This will be the last year for this conference in the Monroeville location due to the Expomart closing for exhibits and conferences. Plans are already underway for our 2009 confer-

ence which will be held at the Sheraton North 4 Points Hotel complex in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, in September, 2009.

Other CRCE Opportunities

This fall, we plan to offer the state required Medical Ethics and Patient Safety courses at least one more time to catch those of you that have been putting off the requirement. Keep an eye on the PSRC website for all of the details on this event to be held in Pittsburgh.

Future Interest?

Sputum Bowl: Anyone interested in getting a sputum bowl team or two together for the competition in King of Prussia next spring? The SW District has not had a practitioner or student team go to the state match in several years. Let's get some spirit from the SW going! Who knows? You might go to the San Antonio AARC International Congress as the PSRC representatives. Call Gail Varcelotti for more information!

Pitt Football/Penguin Hockey: Interested in getting a group together to see a game? Contact Gail so we can get it organized!

Renew Your Membership Early...Save Even MORE! PSRC Offers Added Savings Through November 30, 2008.

For the past several years, the PSRC has offered a "Discount AARC/PSRC Membership Program" through which members could renew their AARC/PSRC membership for only \$75—a savings of \$15 off the normal \$90 renewal rate! For a limited time, we're going to make this program an even better value!

Members who renew their AARC/PSRC membership for two years (through 2010) using the PSRC's discount program will receive a \$10 coupon that can be used towards registration at any PSRC sponsored or co-sponsored event in 2009! The coupon can be used with other discounts (i.e. early bird registration, etc.) to save even more!

Here's how it works:

If your membership is about to expire, purchase a two year membership via the PSRC's discount program and receive BOTH years at the discounted rate plus the \$10 coupon!

If you have already renewed your membership in 2008, extend your membership another year through this offer, lock in the discounted rate for an additional year and receive the \$10 coupon!

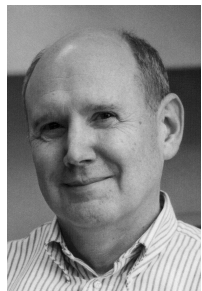
If you have already renewed your membership for two years through the PSRC's discount program, don't worry, we won't leave you out! We'll be sending you a \$10 coupon as our thanks for taking advantage of the two year renewal offer earlier this year! You must hurry as this offer expires 11/30/08. For more

information on this terrific offer, visit the PSRC website at <http://www.psrc.net/DiscountRenewal.htm>. Questions? Send an email to Officeman@psrc.net or call the PSRC's Membership Committee Chair (Tom Lamphere) at 215-687-2904.

Members who renew their AARC/PSRC membership for two years (through 2010) using the PSRC's discount program will receive a \$10 coupon that can be used towards registration at any PSRC sponsored or co-sponsored event in 2009!

What's Happening in the AARC? Your Delegate's Viewpoint

by John M. Hughes, MEd, RRT, AE-C
PSRC Delegate



The AARC House of Delegates with its one hundred representatives from the fifty chartered affiliates met in Phoenix on July 14–15, 2008. Here are some of the substantive bits of news and developments:

News from the NBRC

The NBRC has completed its quinquennial Respiratory Therapy Job Analysis and has revised its CRT and RRT exam matrices for its future exams. These should phase in for July 2009 for the CRT and early 2010 for the RRT exams.

The NBRC board is also pursuing the development of two new auxiliary credentials for respiratory therapists: a Sleep Disorders Specialist and an Adult Critical Care Specialty credential.

New Medicare Package Includes Pulmonary Rehab Language

While we were convened in the AARC House of Delegates meeting as promised, President Bush vetoed HR 6331. Also as promised, Congress had the votes ready to override that decision. The U.S. Senate was uncertain due to the smaller margin of votes for the measure. The Senate, however, came through and carried the day. As a result, the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 is set to become law.

Section 144 of the measure establishes both cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services as specific Medicare benefit categories, allowing payment for these types of services. This is a BIG win for our profession!

Membership

The AARC currently has over 46,000 members in all membership categories, and anticipates a sizable increase in the fall as new students become student members. Approximately 37,000 of those are active, voting members (this is the number that counts in the House of Delegates). Of those 37,000 active mem-

bers, 3,062 are in the PSRC, making us the largest chartered affiliate in the AARC! The next closest is the New York society at 2,338—a distant second. We can be very proud of our professionalism demonstrated by this level of participation! As the largest voting block in the House, we certainly have the attention of the AARC executive office.

AARC Projects

Peak Performance: The Peak Performance Project has been updated to dovetail with the Expert Panel Report III and is ready to go for those working with school children who deal with asthma.

Reimbursement College II: This recently updated two CRCE course is available on-line for those responsible for billing/coding so they may optimize reimbursement for RC services.

Benchmarking: The AARC Benchmarking Project now has over 123 subscribers who have contributed their data. The system captures metrics that are common to all departments, associated with CPT codes, easily collected, and represent a majority of the work performed in most departments. This system enables department managers to accurately rank their department's performance.

The Respiratory Care Journal: Under the leadership of Editor in Chief, Dean Hess, the journal has automated the submission of manuscripts such that the submission and peer review process are all done on-line. This has reduced the manuscript review process to a median of thirty-five days. The journal has also initiated podcast offerings (June 2008)—see the website for how to subscribe.

2015 & Beyond

Perhaps the most significant and expansive AARC project that is under way is the 2015 & Beyond Initiative. There are three conference/workshops slated for 2008-09 that will chart the future direction of the respiratory care profession. A planning committee with representatives from all aspects of leadership including: managers, administrators, educators, military, a patient, physicians, and a federal government representative, has been selected and convened to plan the three conferences.

Participants were selected from a wide variety of stakeholder groups including: employers, insurers, professional organizations, foundations, state and government agencies, educators, patients/consumers, credentialing and accrediting agencies, state and federal government agencies.

The first conference was held last spring to examine how healthcare will be delivered in the future and describe the respiratory services that will be needed. Following each conference a writing committee drafts papers summarizing the findings to submit them to a peer reviewed journal for publication. The first conference analyzed trends to determine and predict the future demands and likely directions of healthcare and reported:

- More patients will be diagnosed with chronic and acute respiratory diseases.
- Health care consumers will pay a greater percentage of costs and will have new options for obtaining care.
- Personal Electronic Health Records will be more widely accepted and used.
- "Retail store healthcare" and other mass-marketed care will stimulate consumer-driven cost competition.
- The continuum of care will be further defined and sectorized to efficiently move patients from acute care to home.
- "Health" rather than diagnosis and treatment of illness will become the goal of care.
- Medical care treatment will undergo increasing scrutiny for quality and this will be linked to reimbursement with initiatives such as pay for performance.
- There will be a national (and regional) shortage of healthcare providers in all sectors.
- The science of respiratory care will continue to evolve and increase in complexity; clinical decisions will become more data driven.
- Care teams will become the standard for healthcare delivery in and outside the traditional hospital.
- Information management will become an important tool in selecting a therapy and evaluating the effects of treatment decisions.
- Reimbursement changes will be the most important drivers of changes in health and disease management.

What's Happening in the AARC? *(continued from previous page)*

- Public health issues, military and disaster response concerns will continue and require new skill sets for respiratory care providers.

Knowledge, socialization, training, and skills of those providing respiratory care will need to be aligned with the factors and changes detailed above.

What's Next?

The second conference is planned for early 2009 and will build on the first,

looking at which knowledge, skills and abilities are required to provide future respiratory care services. The third follows later next year to determine how to transition from where we are now to where we need to be while minimizing the impact on the existing workforce.

Why is This Such a Significant Undertaking?

Once these conferences have run their course, we will have a good sense of how

to get from where we are to where we are going. We will know better what kind of curricula we need in our programs (AS, BS, MS), what kind of credentials and exams we need from the NBRC (further specialties, CRT - RRT both?), and how to invest our energies and resources so that we are all pulling in the same direction.

I have heard some therapists ask, "What does the AARC do for me?" Here is a small part of the answer. This is what I call effective leadership!

PSRC Announces New Executive Director

On July 2, 2008, the PSRC Board of Directors approved the hiring of Thomas Lamphere, BS, RRT, RPFT as the Executive Director for the association. This new position was created to facilitate the new Strategic Plan and Operating Business Plan implemented by the PSRC Board in 2007 that focuses on Education, Advocacy and Membership.

"The hiring of Mr. Lamphere as our Executive Director will allow the association to continue to offer all of our current programs along with our top notch affiliate website, newsletter and more, while we push to offer even more value to our members and our patients," said Eileen Censullo, the current PSRC President.

Over the past three years, the PSRC has more than tripled its membership to become the largest affiliate in the AARC! We have the largest number of members of any affiliate in the AARC (over 3,000 and counting) and have offered numerous programs to serve our members including:

- In 2007, the PSRC offered over 115

hours of AARC-approved continuing education programs throughout the state and our members received discounted registration at these events. In fact, we also offered several courses that required a deposit only for our members to register and this deposit was returned to the members at the completion of the course! We're already on our way to a higher total for 2008!

- In 2007 and 2008, we offered numerous fun events including discounted tickets to professional sporting events, theater tickets, Hersheypark, and even a day at the circus!

- Our advocacy efforts for our patients and our profession has been extremely successful! PSRC members along with the Winter Group (the PSRC's lobbying firm) made sure members of the state and federal governments knew who we are and what we do. Pennsylvania was the most active state affiliate in contacting members of Congress to help pass the Medicare package this summer which included legislation to establish a

National Coverage program for Pulmonary Rehabilitation and also repealed the law that would require patients on oxygen to own their concentrators after eighteen months of rental.

All of these activities take a lot of time and effort to coordinate. While the PSRC has been, and continues to be, operated by a group of dedicated volunteers including the members of the Board of Directors, our growth has increased the amount of work needed to manage and optimize these programs. The role of the Executive Director will include overseeing these programs and expanding our group of volunteers to help run them.

In addition to serving as the PSRC's part-time Office Manager since 2001, Mr. Lamphere has served in many positions on the PSRC Board of Directors over the past twelve years including Secretary, President, and two terms as Delegate. He has also served as the AARC's Membership Committee chair since 2005.



We Remember...

PATRICK YORIO
March 17, 1953 – May 22, 2008

On May 22, 2008, the PSRC Southwest District, and our profession, lost a dedicated and passionate respiratory therapist to pancreatic cancer. Many had the privilege of working with Pat for over thirteen years and can say that in our fast-paced world he found a way to reach out to all of those around him. Pat was a dedicated husband and father, a loving grandfather, and a mentor and friend to his brothers and sisters. Compassion was one of his greatest attributes and for those of us who knew him, we have lost someone truly special.

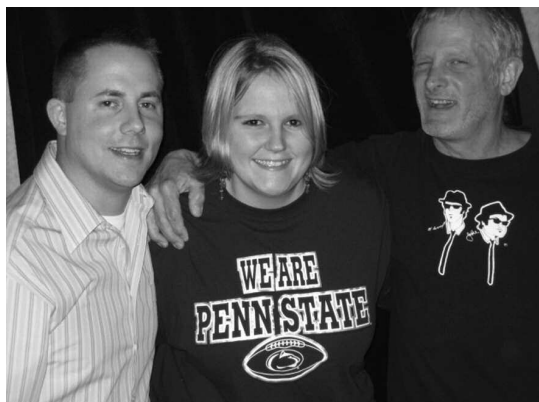
Southeast District Update

by Steve Mosakowski BS, RRT-NPS, CPFT

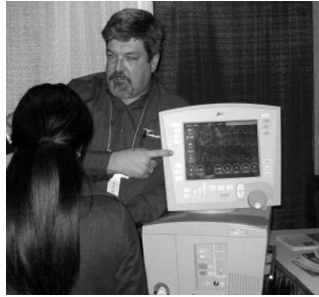
The PSRC Southeast District has been busy these past few months with all kinds of activity! In April, the 11th Annual Eastern Regional Conference was held in Valley Forge with great attendance. The conference was filled with 700 attendees over the course of the two-day event which featured over fifty vendors in the Exhibit Hall. Attendees were presented informative lectures from nationally known speakers including Neil MacIntyre, MD, AARC Chief Operating Officer, Thomas Kallstrom, David Shelley, PhD, RRT, and Pennsylvania's own Garry Kauffman, RRT, MPA, CHE. Topics this year covered Managing Respiratory Failure, 2008 Asthma Update, Weaning Strategies, Patient Safety and Ethics.

Our surprise guest speaker was United States Representative Jim Gerlach (Pennsylvania 6th District). He opened the conference day on Friday with a stirring speech, encouraging one and all to get involved with the world around them.

During the first evening of the conference, the PSRC State Sputum Bowl was held and was a ton of fun! Corky Hisner, Dan Ofak and Kim Beers from the Hershey Medical Center defeated three other teams to win! The team will now represent Pennsylvania in the AARC National Sputum Bowl this December at the AARC International Congress in Anaheim, CA. Thanks to all who participated in this event!



Winners of the State Sputum Bowl (pictured left to right) Dan Ofak, Kim Beers and Corky Hisner, all from the Hershey Medical Center.



Tom Petty, RRT from Cardiac Health, Inc., at the PSRC 11th Annual Eastern Regional Conference.



We've had lots of other educational events in the district including:

- In May, the PSRC co-sponsored the Spring SE District Seminar at Abington Hospital. The hospital has hosted this event twice a year for several years now including another one on September 13th. Thanks to David Wacker, RPFT, Director of Respiratory Care at Abington Hospital, for helping to make these events so successful!

- In June, the PSRC teamed with Maquet, Inc. (www.maquet.com) for the "Advances In Mechanical Ventilation: Empowering Human Effort" seminar in King of Prussia. Over seventy attendees enjoyed a terrific educational offering and earned six hours of AARC-approved CRCEs.

- In July, the PSRC co-sponsored a "News & Views in Respiratory Care" seminar at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center. Attendees enjoyed this terrific event, held on a Saturday to allow them to attend without using a vacation day! Special thanks to Ron Sherman, RRT, FAARC and Michael Trievel, RRT for helping make this event possible.

- In August, the PSRC co-sponsored the SE District Seminar at Grand View Hospital. Four hours of AARC-approved CRCEs were anticipated including lectures on Patient Safety and Ethics. Thanks to Tom Lamphere, BS, RRT, RPFT for coordinating this event!

The PSRC isn't just about education—we're also about FUN and we've had a lot of it so far in 2008! In April, the PSRC went under the "Big Top" as we held a special day of fun at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia. The fun continued this past July as we offered discounted tickets to the musical *Les Miserables* at the Walnut Street Theater. We'll look for another play for next summer, so keep your eyes on the PSRC website for future announcements.

The fun didn't stop there as we held our third annual PSRC Night @ the Philadelphia Phillies game and, when this newsletter went to print, we had already sold nearly 100 tickets to the game on September 12th! The PSRC will be recognized on the stadium scoreboard during the game.

...Take me out to the Ball Game; take me out to the crowd...



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|---|--|
| 1) __ ABG Interpretation (3 CE's) | 51) __ Ethical Issues Facing Healthcare Professionals (3 CE's) |
| 2) __ Artificial Airways (3 CE's) | 52) __ Pneumococcal Meningitis (3 CE's) |
| 3) __ Noninvasive Pressure Support Ventilation (2 CE's) | 53) __ Prion-Caused Human Diseases (2 CE's) |
| 4) __ End-Tidal CO2 Monitoring (3 CE's) | 54) __ West Nile Virus Encephalitis (1 CE) |
| 5) __ Hypoxia: Causes & Symptoms (2 CE's) | 55) __ Nuclear/Biological/Chemical Warfare (5 CE's) |
| 6) __ Mechanical Ventilation: An Overview (3 CE's) | 56) __ Tracheotomy (4 CE's) |
| 7) __ Pressure Support Ventilation (2 CE's) | 57) __ Nitric Oxide (3 CE's) |
| 8) __ Pulmonary Anatomy & Physiology (3 CE's) | 58) __ Antibiotic Resistance And the Staphylococci (5 CE's) |
| 9) __ Resistance & Compliance (2 CE's) | 59) __ Botulism And Tularemia (3 CE's) |
| 10) __ Respiratory Pharmacology (8 CE's) | 60) __ Cystic Fibrosis - Diagnosis And Treatment (2 CE's) |
| 11) __ Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (5 CE's) | 61) __ Pertussis And Legionellosis (3 CE's) |
| 12) __ Asthma (7 CE's) | 62) __ Medical Error Prevention And Patient Safety (2 CE's) |
| 13) __ Bacterial Pneumonia (5 CE's) | 63) __ SARS And Coronaviruses (2 CE's) |
| 14) __ Chest Trauma (3 CE's) | 64) __ The Influenza Viruses (1 CE) |
| 15) __ Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (5 CE's) | 65) __ Hyperinflation And Secretion Clearance (2 CE's) |
| 16) __ Pneumothorax (3 CE's) | 66) __ Surfactant Administration In The Neonate (2 CE's) |
| 17) __ Pulmonary Consequences of HIV/AIDS (2 CE's) | 67) __ Acute Pediatric Respiratory Illnesses (3 CE's) |
| 18) __ Pulmonary Edema (3 CE's) | 68) __ Monkeypox And Related Poxvirus Diseases (2 CE's) |
| 19) __ Pulmonary Tuberculosis (2 CE's) | 69) __ Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (3 CE's) |
| 20) __ Evaluation of the Pulmonary Patient (3 CE's) | 70) __ Health Care Facilities Disaster Planning Guide (3 CE's) |
| 21) __ Extubation: Guidelines & Procedure (2 CE's) | 71) __ The Aspergilloses (2 CE's) |
| 22) __ Fiberoptic Bronchoscopy (2 CE's) | 72) __ Home Care: Home Safety Assessment (2 CE's) Not avail. in NE |
| 23) __ Optimal PEEP Determination (2 CE's) | 73) __ Tuberculosis And Other Bacterial Diseases (4 CE's) |
| 24) __ S.O.A.P. Charting (1 CE) | 74) __ CPAP/ BIPAP- Use In Sleep Disorders (3 CE's) |
| 25) __ Suctioning the Airway (2 CE's) | 75) __ The Human Respiratory Paramyxoviruses (2 CE's) |
| 26) __ Weaning from Mechanical Ventilation (3 CE's) | 76) __ Coccidioidomycosis And Histoplasmosis (3 CE's) |
| 27) __ Neonatal Resp. Care: Essential Care (6 CE's) | 77) __ Home CPAP Machines: New Modes (1 CE) |
| 28) __ Neonatal Resp. Care: Clinical Applications (9 CE's) | 78) __ New Vent Modes: VS, PRVC, PC, PS, Automode (2 CE's) |
| 29) __ Neonatal Resp. Care: Crisis Management (4 CE's) | 79) __ Streptococcal Pathogens - Human Resp. System (3 CE's) |
| 30) __ Continuous Quality Improve (5 CE's) Not avail. in IA, NE | 80) __ Pneumotropic Chlamydia And Mycoplasma Pneum (2 CE's) |
| 31) __ The Human Herpesviruses (4 CE's) Not avail. in IA | 81) __ The Menacing Fungi (5 CE's) |
| 33) __ Anthrax (4 CE's) | 82) __ Pneumocystis Pneumonia And Toxoplasmosis (3 CE's) |
| 34) __ Obstructive Sleep Apnea (3 CE's) | 83) __ Staphylococcus Aureus, Antibiotic Resistance (MRSA)..... (3 CE's) |
| 35) __ Chest Roentgenography (4 CE's) | 84) __ Pulmonary Function Testing (3 CE's) |
| 36) __ Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (2 CE's) | 85) __ Microorganisms And Terrorist Threats (6 CE's) |
| 37) __ Heliox (1 CE) | 86) __ Zoonoses: Impact On The Human Resp System (9 CE's) |
| 38) __ Mandatory (Minimum) Minute Ventilation (1 CE) | 87) __ Guidelines To Optimizing Patient Care (1 CE) |
| 39) __ Pulmonary Rehabilitation (3 CE's) | 88) __ Avian Flu - A Potential Pandemic? (4 CE's) |
| 40) __ Tension Pneumothorax - Pediatric Patient (2 CE's) | 89) __ Hepatitis C: A Major Concern For Health Care (3 CE's) |
| 41) __ Respiratory Care Patient Education Prog (4 CE's) | 90) __ Antibiotic-Resistant Enterococci (3 CE's) |
| 42) __ Persistent Pulm. Hypertension - Newborn (3 CE's) | 91) __ Vaccines, The Human Immune System / Immune Responses (6 CE's) |
| 43) __ Mechanical Ventilation Of The Neonate (3 CE's) | 92) __ Approaches To Nosocomial Infection, Prevention / Control (7 CE's) |
| 44) __ High Frequency Ventilation - Newborn (3 CE's) | 93) __ Severe Causes Of Nosocomial Infections..... (3 CE's) |
| 45) __ The Hepatitis Virus Alphabet (7 CE's) | 94) __ Clostridium Difficile..... (3 CE's) |
| 46) __ HIV Infection/Disease And AIDS (7 CE's) | 95) __ Candidiasis And Cryptococcosis..... (4 CE's) |
| 47) __ Passy-Muir Tracheal / Speaking Valves (1 CE) | 96) __ Emerging And Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (6 CE's) |
| 48) __ Respiratory Home Care: An Overview (3 CE's) | 97) __ Adenovirus And Enterovirus Infections (3 CE's) |
| 49) __ Smallpox - Revisited (2 CE's) | 98) __ Alternative Ventilator Humidity: When And How (1 CE) |
| 50) __ Plague - An Ancient Scourge (2 CE's) | 99) __ Evaluating Laboratory Data Applicable To Pulm Patients (3 CE's) |
| 51) __ Ethical Issues Facing Healthcare Professionals (3 CE's) | 100) __ Neo-Ped Cuffed Endotracheal Tubes: Safety And Use (1 CE) |
| 52) __ Pneumococcal Meningitis (3 CE's) | 101) __ The Super Bugs: Part I (9 CE's) |

All courses approved for PA Licensure Requirements including mandatory Medical Ethics (51) and Patient Safety (62) course

*** Maximum of 10 hours from home study or online is accepted to meet mandatory respiratory CE requirements in PA ***

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(6/1/08)