

The PSNews

Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

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Greetings from the President



Respiratory Care Services is such an important profession! The impact that RTs have on patient's lives can be HUGE! We just experienced that first-hand during a high-risk delivery. The RT was part of the resuscitation

team that brought a newborn from dark and dusky with no heartbeat to fully vibrant and alive! THAT is why we do what we do every day! I really do feel honored to be a part of this profession and get to have those types of satisfying events occurring every day. You just never know what you'll get to do today.

Respiratory Care Services encompasses so many doors of opportunity—you can change types of patients and settings every day if you so choose. The profession allows for you to decide what you want to do—from homecare to hospitals, long-term to acute, newborn to geriatric—it's up to you. It's nice to have that kind of flexibility so when you decide you are ready for a change, its right there at your fingertips.

The PSRC works hard to continue to move the profession forward to allow

growth and progress. New strategic goals keep us moving in the right direction and focused on what we need to accomplish. **Education** is always a big part of what we do and as you can see on the website, there are many seminars to choose from.

Advocacy is another big component that has continued on behalf of all RTs. We thank the RTs that gave their time to give testimony before the State Board of Medicine to help all Pennsylvania RTs.

Networking is the third piece in the strategic plan so you will find many fun activities at www.psrc.net. There are also opportunities for RTs to connect with each other via facebook and while attending the numerous events provided.

Respiratory Care needs many involved RTs to keep it moving forward. Pennsylvania has more members than any state but that doesn't mean we don't need your help—we do! When you are ready, please contact us to see how your unique talents and skills could benefit the many Pennsylvania RTs that are members of the AARC/PSRC. I look forward to working with you soon!

Have a great fall!

Steve Mosakowski, MBA, RRT-NPS, CPFT
PSRC President 2010-11



PSRC Announces 2011 Budget

The PSRC Board of Directors has approved a 2011 budget. In accordance with the PSRC bylaws, the budget is now available for members to review on the PSRC website at the following webpage: <http://www.psrc.net/2011budget.htm>

Comments on the budget should be sent by October 15, 2010 to the PSRC Treasurer (Karen Engle) via email to 2010Treasurer@psrc.net or by mail to: PSRC, c/o 225 Hampshire Drive, Sellersville, PA 18960.

Mission

Represent Respiratory
Therapists in
Pennsylvania

East Meets West to Settle Who's the Best

by Joe Camacci and Dave Rubisch

The 2010 Pennsylvania State Sputum Bowl Championship

After watching the Pennsylvania State Student Sputum Bowl Championship on April 8, 2010 at the PSRC Eastern Regional Conference, it's clear that all of the competing students will have a very bright future. The competition differed from previous years in a few key ways and established some important "firsts" in the storied history of the event.

One key change was that many of the questions in the data bank were replaced or rewritten, meaning that teams that had competed in previous years had less of an advantage than they would previously have had.

Even more significant, this was the first year that the competition was bracketed into three separate regional student competitions with the top teams from each region moving on to the state finals. These competitions were held over a period of six weeks—a spectacular build up to the championship! This created an intensely competitive atmosphere as enthusiastic fans cheered on their teams in raucous style.

This year's student sputum bowl competition featured six teams:

- *Mr. Malley's Monkeys*, Indiana University / West Penn Hospital
- *MUcus*, Millersville University
- *Pink Frothy Ladies*, West Chester University
- *SnotShots*, West Chester University
- *The Boomers*, University Pittsburgh at Johnstown
- *The Hackers*, Reading Area Community College

In this double elimination tournament, the team left standing at the end would win a trip to Las Vegas to compete at Nationals, not to mention state bragging rights all year long. The early rounds were lively and spirited and, as is often the case when stakes are high, emotions ran that way as well.

The finals, in a western region rematch, came down to *The Boomers* and *Mr. Malley's Monkeys*. *The Monkeys* entered the finals undefeated but *The Boomers* quickly showed that it was anyone's competition—they earned the first point which turned into a sustained early lead, entering the penalty phase up 7 to IUP's 1 point. At the end of the first final match, the score was *The Boomer's* 5 to *Mr. Malley's Monkeys'* 2.

Since both teams lost one match, the next match was the absolute final



2010 PSRC Student Sputum Bowl Champions: Brittany Campbell, Kelsey Scott and Gwen Sirochman.

with the winner claiming first place. This was a close game, with the teams tied point for point all the way to the entry of the penalty phase where they were tied 5 to 5. The penalty phase was quick and furious, with *The Monkeys* coming out on top 9 to 3.

The win by the team from Indiana University / West Penn Hospital marked another first. This is the first time a student team from the western part of the state will represent Pennsylvania in the National Student Sputum Bowl Competition at the AARC International Congress in Las Vegas this December.

Congratulations to team members: Brittany Campbell, Kelsey Scott, and Gwen Sirochman! The strong play of the Pennsylvania Respiratory programs clearly demonstrated that they will indeed have a very bright future.

A Busy Summer for Hanover Hospital Respiratory Therapists

Vicky Shrader, RRT, director of pulmonary services at Hanover Hospital, is happy to announce that outpatient pulmonary services in Hanover, PA have been consolidated into one convenient location effective this past July. According to Vicky, a 21-year AARC/PSRC member, "...patients coming in for PFT's, sleep clinic appointments, ABC's, Pulmonary Rehab, physician consults, tobacco education, asthma education, COPD education, exercise

studies, etc., don't have to go to the hospital and navigate the parking, registration, elevators, long hallways, etc."

In addition to the excitement of becoming acquainted with the new accommodations, Hanover RT's were simultaneously coaching a new staff Pulmonologist. We all know how much fun that is! The PSRC offers congratulations to the Hanover RT pulmonary department on their very busy yet productive summer.

PSRC Crowns 2010 State Sputum Bowl Champions!

by Tom Lamphere – PSRC Executive Director

Four practitioner teams, including the 2009 PSRC Sputum Bowl champions, squared off in a double elimination match on April 8, 2010 in King of Prussia, PA. Three of the teams were first-time competitors in the practitioner bowl, although several of the team members had participated when they were students. The competing teams included:

- *Still Deciding* from Geisinger Health System with Peter Crochunis, Joe Camacci and John Conrad
- *2 Ezpapas & a Girl* from Hershey Medical Center with Kim Beers, Dan Ofak and Dave Rubisch
- *Rapid Response Team* from Reading Medical Center with Christina Sylvester, Chuck Cates, Matt Pavlichko and Eric Leiby
- *Last Minute Addition* with Dave McDonald, Stephanie Oshinski and Dan Mayo.

Since there were only four teams competing in the event, things moved swiftly but the matches were VERY well played and the victories hard-fought! In the end, the practitioner

competition ended very much the same as the student competition held earlier in the evening—with a team from Geisinger Health System entering the final match without a loss against the defending champions from Hershey Medical Center that had one loss. In order for the Hershey team to repeat as champions, they had to defeat the Geisinger team twice.

When the match began, the teams traded early leads and both times the other team tied it back up. The match ended in a tie which meant a sudden death 2-point overtime was needed. After some intense moments, the 2009 champions prevailed and forced a final game to determine who would represent Pennsylvania in the 2010 National Sputum Bowl.

The final match will go down in PSRC Sputum Bowl history as one of the best ever! The teams traded correct answers throughout the entire match with neither team going ahead by more than two points. With only seconds remaining and the score tied, neither team could answer the final question and once again, the match headed to overtime. After one of the most brilliantly played matches seen



2010 PSRC Practitioner Sputum Bowl Champions: Joe Camacci, Peter Crochunis and John Conrad

in a long time, the team from the Geisinger Health System won the match and became the 2010 PSRC Practitioner Sputum Bowl Champions!

The team is now preparing to represent the PSRC at the AARC National Sputum Bowl at the AARC International Congress in Las Vegas this December.

Congratulations to all of the teams that participated in all of the Sputum Bowl events held across the state and thanks to the PSRC Sputum Bowl Committee including: David Wacker (chair), Dave Rubisch, Tom Lamphere, Matt Van Camp, Renee Dennis, Kristin Sommer and Bill Galvin.

Northeast: Friday the 13th at Camel Beach

by Susan Telmanik-Schwartz – Northeast District Director

Many people consider “Friday the 13th” as unlucky, but for the thirty six individuals that joined the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care on August 13, 2010, it was a **lucky** day. In a summer which has shattered all previous high temperature records, Friday the 13th turned out to be an anomaly, with temperatures in the mid-70’s. The lucky thirty six laughed at Friday the 13th superstitions and did not have to fight lines at any of the rides, plus they got to save \$10.99 per ticket! Imagine being at a water park with no crowds.

No long lines for the



or the



One young man with the group said he has stood in line for up to 75 minutes in the past to get on a ride at Camel Beach. During this trip he was able to walk right up to a ride and never had a wait of longer than five minutes. He said he got to ride a lot more without the crowds.

Watch the PSRC website for future deals on tickets and “fun” activities.

Greetings from the Great Northwest!

by Ken Kraut, District Director



We have had a great summer and are preparing for fall. We had a fun event on July 20, 2010 at the Jerry Uht Ballpark in Erie—a baseball game (Erie lost) and a CEU combined in one event that was **free** to AARC members! We are grateful to Sherri Telenko of Phillips Respironics for presenting and sponsoring the event. A special thanks to Steve Easley of Health Care

Solutions for arranging and coordinating the event.

On Saturday, October 23, 2010 from 8:00 am to 12:15 pm at Hamot Medical Center, Erie, PA, we will have our NW District PSRC Fall Seminar. There will be four CEUs available with one ethics and one safety. Watch www.psrc.net for registration information.

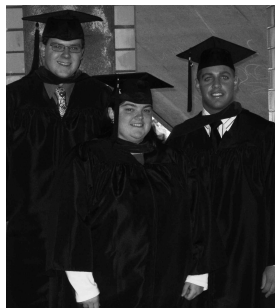
Congratulations to the Respiratory Care Program graduates of the following schools:

Gannon University, Mercyhurst College, Clarion University-Venango Campus and Tri State Business Institute. You are starting a great

career and we welcome you into the respiratory care family.

In our continuing series of the medical facilities of the NW district, this issue is highlighting Hamot Medical Center of Erie, PA. Thanks to Scott Marton of Hamot for the picture and description. If any other respiratory care managers would like your facility in the *PS News*, please contact me at 2010NWDistrict@psrc.net.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist in making the Northwest district better; please notify me at 2010NWDistrict@psrc.net if you are interested in helping.



Gannon University BS, RT graduates (l to r): Bobby Anderson, Lindsey Carll and Joe Taormina. (Missing from photo: Lindsey Trapp).



Pictured here: AS, RT graduates from Mercyhurst College including, Erica Pogson, Nate Kotoski, Jillian Ferri, Ashley Reiger, Travis Morgan and Danielle Cassidy. (Missing from photo: Lyndsey Nestor).



Gannon University AS, RT graduates (l to r): Amanda Yaw, Joshua Henry (PSRC student award recipient), Ana Barajas, Lauren Bafik, Corinne Servidio, Andrea Burkhardt, Charity Norman, Talia Pacley and Sukhjinder Chawla.

Northwest Facility Highlight: Hamot Medical Center

Hamot Medical Center is a 351 bed acute care hospital located in Erie, PA. The Respiratory Care Department at Hamot Medical Center currently has 50 staff members. The respiratory care practitioners are members of the Code Blue Team, Rapid Response Team, and the region's only Trauma Team. Some of the many responsibilities of the RCPs include: the Ventilator

Management Protocol and the Respiratory Care Consult Service. Both programs allow the RCP to immediately treat the patient by using therapist driven protocols. The advanced level respiratory care practitioners are also responsible for performing emergent intubations. The RCPs will be gaining additional responsibilities at the Hamot

Women's Hospital which is scheduled to open in early 2011. The department utilizes some of the most advanced equipment available including: 840 ventilators, Avea ventilators, SiPAP, and 3100A oscillators. For more information on Hamot Medical Center please visit www.hamot.org or call the department at (814) 877-3750.



South Central District Spotlight

by Jackie Oravec, RRT, RPSGT, CPFT –
South Central District Director



For this edition of the *PS News*, I'd like to take time to put the spotlight on a department in the South Central District. The respiratory (and cardiology)

staff at UPMC Bedford Memorial holds a special place in my heart. I'm a little biased since I'm also part of this great group of professionals. Our hospital was once known as Memorial Hospital of Bedford County. It was built in 1951 and replaced two small hospitals in Bedford and Everett. Those hospitals were the Timms Hospital in Bedford and the Sipes Hospital in Everett. In 1998 we merged with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Our Respiratory Care Department is staffed by seven Registered Respiratory Therapists, four Certified Respiratory Therapists, one Certified Cardiology Tech, and one Registered Echo Technologist. One of our therapists is also a Registered Polysomnography Technologist as well as a CPFT.

As a small rural hospital, we are jacks of all trades providing respiratory therapy, EKG's, PFT's, EEG's, ABG's, Echo's, Holter monitoring, Stress testing, and even Breathalyzer testing. In addition, we operate a two bed sleep lab that offers diagnostic sleep studies as well as CPAP studies and MSLT's.

There are many things that make being part of this department special. As a group, we have for the most part been together for many years. I have been part of this group for twenty-five years and not to make some of my co-workers feel old, but some of them have been at the hospital for probably 10 years more than me. We are the envy of many departments in our hospital because of the friendships we share and the commitment we have to

our patients and each other. Yes, we've had some turnover, but once you've been part of the group, you're always part of the group even if you retire or move on for whatever reason.

Another thing that stands out about this department is their commitment to education. When I became part of the staff in 1985 (yes I'm THAT old), I was the first RRT here. Many of the staff were trained on the job or at another employer (keep in mind that this was long before there were many programs offering respiratory therapy). Over the years, every one of those OJT's has passed the CRT and several of them have become RRT's. A few are currently working on obtaining their RRT and CPFT. Many of us are adjunct instructors for the Respiratory Therapy program at UPJ and we are a clinical site for students from Allegheny College of Maryland. We love having students and being able to show them what our profession is all about.

Our commitment to excellence extends beyond our clinical duties. We are currently participating in UPMC Bedford's project for the *Make A Wish* program which is sponsoring a wish for a local child through the *Make A Wish* program. We have spoken at career fairs and health fairs in our area and provided community screenings. We've been CPR instructors and smoking cessation counselors. Our staff loves to volunteer in our communities with many of us being Sunday



School teachers, AYSO volunteers, baseball and softball coaches, PTA parents, Girl Scout and Boy Scout leaders, and whatever else you may think of. One of our therapists teaches

roller skating and is a certified roller skating judge.

Our department is headed by Margie Moran, RRT as lead therapist. Annette Godissart is department manager. Our staff includes: Jane Black, RRT, CCT; Linda Fletcher, RRT; Chris Hollis, CRT; Jim Garner, CRT; Danni Kennedy, RRT; Jessica Snyder, CRT; Denise Lapinski, RRT; Scott Diehl, RRT; Tonya Bennett, CRT; Jackie Oravec, RRT, RPSGT, CPFT; Sharon Hershberger, CCT, and Scott Felix, RCS.

Although I can't list everyone who has been part of the department over the years, I think that our commitment to each other, our patients, community and hospital would not have happened without the leadership, guidance and wisdom of our former manager, Bob Baine. Bob brought us all together as co-workers, but managed to choose



the right combination of people who would all become friends as well.

Many years ago, I came to this group as a high school student on a career shadowing day. A couple of years later, I returned as a young, green therapist thinking I'd stay a couple years and move on. Twenty-five years later (I can't believe it's been that long!), I'm pleased and proud to be part of such a special group of friends.

If you'd like your department or co-worker to be spotlighted in a future edition of the *PS News*, email me at oravecjl@upmc.edu.

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

by John M. Hughes, MEd, RRT, AE-C, FAARC



The AARC House of Delegates with its 100 representatives from the 50 chartered affiliates met in Marco Island, Florida in July. Here are some of the

substantive bits of news and developments:

2010 is the Year of the Lung: A worldwide initiative! Great opportunity to plan outreach and public awareness events.

- AARC reached the 50,000 membership mark, but numbers have since dropped due to some students dropping their membership upon graduation. Let's go educators! encourage graduates to renew while they can for only \$50 (plus a \$40 off coupon for taking an NBRC exam). They can't beat that deal!

- Future Congresses: December 6-9, 2010 Las Vegas; November 5-8, 2011 Tampa

- The AARC leadership encourages us to remember October 14, 2010: World Spirometry Day. It's a great day

to go out and do some public screenings. Contact your district director and volunteer—it's fun and it increases public awareness of who we are as professionals. The AARC has peak flow meters available for screenings. If you would like some, contact me at muprt@comcast.net.

- **Mark your calendar:** RC Week is October 24-30, 2010. Send pictures for the PSRC website to Tom Lamphere ExecutiveDirector@psrc.net.

- The Great American Smoke Out: November 4, 2010 and World COPD Day: November 17, 2010—Organize regional activities now!

I know it seems like a lot of events for public awareness. If you can't do all of these events, start by picking one and try helping out. You may find it quite stimulating professionally

- **Soon to come from AARC:** Web-based Best Practices on Mechanical Ventilation

- The AARC will be offering 3 hour workshops on VAP to train RTs to be experts with the goal of having each hospital have an RT VAP expert. The first workshop will be held right here in Pennsylvania at the PSRC's

Western Regional Conference on September 23, 2010 in Pittsburgh!

- Look for "canned" public service announcement for RC Week to release in your state.

- The AARC (that's us) is launching a National Public Health Campaign through Screening! The program is entitled Drive4COPD and is a great opportunity to serve our patients and promote the profession at the same time! The goal is to screen one million people over the age of 35 in 2010! See page 9 in this edition for more info.

- Hawaii has become the 49th state to institute licensure!!! Yea!

- AARC has its new student website under development. It should be up in September. Also check out Facebook, Twitter and AARConnect platforms.

- Message from President Myers: "These are times of substantial change. Charles Darwin said: 'It's not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one that is most adaptable to change.' We have been, and need to continue to be, adaptable as a profession during this time of great change!"

First In Flight—York Hospital RT Department

by Ann Wilson

York Hospital is a premier community teaching hospital with 558 beds that serves 520,000 people in South Central Pennsylvania. The RT Department is comprised of more than 120 therapists who cover the hospital 24/7 and work in many specialty areas to include the critical care units, pulmonary physiology lab, and neonatal intensive care units, NICU. Therapists that work in the NICU Core have to take additional training specific to care of the infants as well as maintaining the Neonatal Resuscitation Program, NRP, certification. With the recent utilization of therapeutic hypothermia for the treatment of perinatal asphyxia, York Hospital was named a Regional Center for Hypothermia. Therapeutic

hypothermia is initiated within six hours of birth to reduce cerebral injury and improve functional outcomes. To increase service to hospitals in our geographical area, York Hospital combined with Stat MedEvac in a joint venture to provide NICU air transports for babies in need of this treatment. The transport team consists of a physician or nurse practitioner, a registered nurse, and a respiratory therapist. Deb Greenawalt, RRT, a 7-year AARC/PSRC member, was on the helicopter for the first baby to come to York Hospital from Gettysburg Hospital in May 2010. The transport team members have received additional crew resource training specific to the air transport. The demand for air transports has exceeded our initial expectations for service with over a half dozen transports to date.



On the first NICU transport (left to right): Deb Greenawalt, RRT, Steve Shapiro, MD, and Traci Evans, RNC.

Executive Director Report

by Tom Lamphere, BS, RRT, RPFT – PSRC Executive Director



In 2010, the PSRC has once again had a very busy and productive year! As your Executive Director, one of my responsibilities is to work with the PSRC Board to plan and coordinate all of the PSRC education and fun events held throughout the state during the year. Judging by this list, we've been busy and there's more on the way!

2010 Completed Educational Events

PSRC Eastern Regional Conference (King of Prussia) – 14 CRCE
 PSRC/Wellspring Health Sleep Seminar (York) – 5 CRCE
 PSRC NW District Seminar (Erie) – 6 CRCE
 PSRC/Kindred Hospital Spring Pulmonary Conference (Scranton) – 14 CRCE
 PSRC PFT Seminar (Lewisburg) – 5 CRCE
 PSRC SE Seminar #1 at Abington Hospital (Abington) – 4 CRCE
 PSRC/Reading Hospital "News & Views" Seminar (Reading) – 5 CRCE

2010 Completed "Fun" Events

January 1, 2010: PSRC Night at the musical "Wicked" (SOLD OUT)
January 28, 2010: PSRC Night at the Philadelphia Flyers AND
March 9, 2010: PSRC Night at the Philadelphia Flyers
Spring 2010: 2010 Discounted Hersheypark ticket program
August 9, 2010: 2010 SW District Golf Outing
August 13, 2010: 2010 PSRC Day at Camel Beach Waterpark

UPCOMING Educational & "Fun" Events

September 22-24, 2010: PSRC Western Regional Conference, (Pittsburgh)
October 15, 2010: PSRC Conference in the Capital (Harrisburg)
October 21, 2010: PSRC Night at the Flyers with "loaded" food tickets!
October 23, 2010: PSRC NW District Fall Seminar at Hamot Medical Center (Erie)
October 25, 2010: PSRC/Thomas Jefferson University Hospital RC Week Seminar (Philadelphia)

November 6, 2010: PSRC SE Seminar #2 at Abington Hospital (Abington)

November 14, 2010: PSRC Night at the musical "Jersey Boys" (SORRY, SOLD OUT!)

I'd like to once again recognize the efforts of the PSRC Board members who helped organize and run the events listed above. In addition, I'd like to take a minute and thank those special PSRC members who helped behind the scenes to make these events possible. These individuals were a big part of making the events extremely successful and 2010 another extraordinary year for the PSRC. If you know any of these individuals, please take a moment to thank them for their extra efforts!

- Patti Achuff
- Karen Blum
- Charles Cornfield
- Ann Cusano
- Deb Gurnari
- Garry Kauffman
- Doug King
- Chip Malloy
- Georgeann Myers
- Barbara Schuster
- Bob Shellenberger
- Ron Sherman
- David Wacker
- Mary Witmer
- Peggy Ziegler

Mark Your Calendars!

April 14-15, 2011:

2011 PSRC Eastern Regional Conference, (King of Prussia)

September 28-30, 2011:

2011 PSRC Western Regional Conference (Pittsburgh)

April 29, 2011:

PSRC NW District Seminar (Erie)

Other 2011 dates will be posted on the PSRC website as soon as they are available and will be mailed out in early 2011.

What's Happening in the Capital District?



by Tony Ruppert, RRT, CHT – District Director

The Capital District is proud to offer the 5th Annual Conference at the Capital on October 15, 2010. Our committee, led by public relations guru, Mr. Dave Rubish, has assembled another all-star cast of presenters

to both entertain and educate our attendees. A sample of

the program includes Dr. Jim Fink, master of aerosols and William Malley, professor and author. As in the past, Rube and his committee will ensure you have fun with surprises and gifts throughout the conference. Attendees always receive superb value for their education dollar.

Early Bird registration is open, so register soon. See you in Harrisburg on October 15!

PSRC Southwest District Update

by Gail Varcelotti, RRT, FAARC



Well, the spring and early summer went quickly and quietly—board meetings were attended, budgets discussed, names submitted to the AARC and the PSRC nominations and as always, we discussed how to provide education and some fun for our members.

Annual SW District GOLF OUTING: On August 9, 2010, 58 golfers played at the Annual PSRC SW District golf outing hosted at the River Forest Golf Club. The group raised some additional money for the PSRC Education Funds and of course, had a great time on a hot day!

Now the summer is winding down and the district annual educational activities are in their final stages of planning. Thanks to all those who have helped out in the past months and I would like to challenge our members to help with the conference that is coming up in September.

37th Annual Conference in Respiratory Care and Sleep Medicine September 22-23-24, 2010 at the Four Points by Sheraton – Pittsburgh North, Mars/Cranberry, PA

7 CRCE each Day – September 22: Sleep Topics, September 23 and 24: Respiratory Care Topics.

Daily registration rates are available or do two days or all three days. Visit www.psrc.net for agenda and registration information

Need patient safety and medical ethics for your state license requirements?

• **September 22** – 2 CRCE in patient safety and medical ethics is being offered from 6:00 –8:00 p.m. at the Four Points by Sheraton – Pittsburgh North, Mars/Cranberry, PA.

• You can attend only those two hours or combine it with the Sleep Topics that day and earn a total of 9 CRCE at a discounted price.

• **September 23-24** at the 37th Annual Conference in Respiratory Care and Sleep Medicine. Patient safety and medical ethics topics are included during these two days.

• **September 23** - Patient Safety Topic Best Practices in VAP Management

As a respiratory therapist, your role in VAP management is vital to the care of your patients. To help you become the resident expert at your facility, the AARC is implementing a new workshop on the subject. The new 3-hour workshop is being rolled out live this fall in conjunction with the conference on Thursday September 23rd.

• **September 24** - Ethical Decisions for the Respiratory Therapist in Times of Crisis

Tom Lamphere, BS, RRT, PSRC Executive Director, will present some of those tough scenarios we deal with continually and how to handle them ethically.

We want to know what YOU would like to do this fall...a fun event (bowling, sports event, and evening out at a pub) with a 1 hr CRCE attached...contact either Gail Varcelotti at Varcelotti@yahoo.com or Matt VanCamp at vancamp@utwn.org and let them know what your ideas are...we want you to be involved in your professional society! We are looking for volunteers.

PSRC Continues To Recognize Outstanding Students

by Renee Dennis, RRT – PSRC
Education Committee Chair

The PSRC Board has announced that it will once again sponsor the **“PSRC Outstanding Student of the Year Award.”** For many years, the PSRC has offered all fully accredited RT educational programs in the state the chance to recognize one of their outstanding students with this award. This award is available to be given annually to one student from each program who is a current member of the AARC/PSRC and who demonstrated the highest number of the following characteristics throughout the school year:

- Possessed a constant, positive attitude
- Demonstrated that he/she is a team player during clinical rotations

- Possessed leadership qualities in the classroom and during group projects

- Participated in school organizations

- Participated in volunteer functions in professional association (PSRC) or other healthcare related group (ALA, Cystic Fibrosis Association, etc.)

- Demonstrated willingness and ability to make future contributions to the profession of Respiratory Care

Although the PSRC sponsors this program, it is up to each program faculty to choose the award winner for their program.

Student winners receive a free, one year membership in the AARC and PSRC, a plaque recognizing their accomplishment signed by the PSRC President, assorted PSRC merchandise

(pens, calculator, t-shirt, etc.) and free registration to attend either the PSRC Eastern or Western Regional Conference to be recognized publicly for their accomplishment.

Recent winners of this award include:

Matthew Maddy – University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Anne Marie Mace – Gwynedd Mercy College

Tom DePeppe – West Chester University/Bryn Mawr Hospital

Jared Brooks – Millersville University

Joseph Camacci – Harrisburg Area Community College

Trisha Rothenberger – Reading Area Community College

Rachael Murphy – Delaware County Community College

Joshua Henry – Gannon University

Help the AARC & PSRC Drive4COPD!

by Tom Lamphere BS, RRT, RPFT – PSRC Executive Director

Here's your chance to volunteer to help the public and your profession!

The AARC and PSRC have joined the Drive4COPD Campaign, a national public health campaign that aims to find the "missing millions" of people who may have Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and don't even know it. DRIVE4COPD aspires to put the brakes on America's 4th leading cause of death by helping people identify COPD symptoms and encouraging them to talk to their doctor.

The campaign seeks to have 1 million people over the age of 35 complete a 5 question "pop-screener." The questions are quick and easy to answer and identify individuals who have a greater risk of having COPD by assigning a score value to the answer given to each question. Anyone with a score 5 or more is at risk!

The campaign is supported by celebrities including Nascar driver Danica Patrick, country music star Patty Loveless, Olympian Bruce Jenner, former NFL all-pro Michael Strahan and actor/comedian Jim Belushi. For more information on the Drive4COPD campaign, go to the following webpage: <http://www.drive4copd.com>.

How Can YOU Help?

The PSRC is seeking volunteers to ask the pop-screener questions at various events and locations around the state. After all, who better to talk about COPD than respiratory therapists! In addition, this is a great opportunity for RTs to educate the public on who we are and what we do! The more volunteers we have, the more screener questionnaires we can complete.

Where can these be done? Simple – anywhere! However, locations that see a lot of pedestrian traffic like shopping malls, airports, entertainment events (concerts, professional sporting events) and more!

YOU can help make a difference! The PSRC is currently looking for opportunities for "Drive4COPD" screener dates and locations around the state and we need YOUR help! There's no special education or skills necessary (remember, we're simply asking questions; not performing peak flow or spirometry testing). You can help by either volunteering to ask the questions, coordinate an event or both! For more information, contact Tom Lamphere, PSRC Executive Director at 215-687-2904 or send an email to ExecutiveDirector@psrc.net.

The PSRC is on Facebook



In the 1940's in Chicago, Illinois, a group of oxygen-tank technicians began meeting with doctors concerned with lung disease.

In the 1950's, the American Association of Inhalation Therapists was formed. In the 1960's the name was changed to the American Association of Respiratory Care. The Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care (PSRC), originally known as the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Therapy, was created in 1980. In 2010, the PSRC has arrived on FaceBook.

Respiratory therapy has come a long way since the 1940's and we have a long way to go. We can accomplish our goals by utilizing all available resources. We must promote and support ongoing education, networking and community service. We must support each other. Social networking is just one of many vehicles

available to achieve this goal.

We as a profession are ingenious problem solvers, doers and achievers. We relentlessly search for the right answer for each patient entrusted to our care. We are the advocates for the advancement and growth of our profession. We embrace what has been done to date but as we move forward we must grab new tools and technologies.

Where will this take us? Who is to say? All I can say is as we move forward, social media and the connectivity it provides will play a large role.

Just remember, the information shared on this page is available for all to see, so remember to use Social Media Etiquette.

Some things to remember when posting content on Facebook:

- Remember once you post a comment on the internet, it is there forever, so be mindful of what you say.
- Be sure you only post material

that is not obscene, defamatory, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing, hateful or embarrassing to anyone or any entity.

- Conduct yourself with the same decorum and accountability you would use in face-to-face interactions.
- Use the 1st person to indicate you are speaking for yourself and not the PSRC.
- Do not reference any information about an entity inconsistent with that entity's policies and/or practices.
- Never post pictures without the consent of the person/people in the photo.
- Never post any comment that may contain patient information.
- Never post any content that may be considered the intellectual property of the school you attend or your employer.

So, that being said, visit the PSRC on Facebook. Use it as another tool to share information about the profession, upcoming educational opportunities, give kudos to members and share triumphs.

Don't Miss Your Final Chances for CRCE in 2010!!

Continuing Education

by Tom Lamphere BS, RRT, RPFT – PSRC Executive Director

The 2009-2010 licensing period for Respiratory Therapists ends on December 31, 2010. All RTs licensed in the state of Pennsylvania are required to complete 20 hours of continuing education (CRCE) in order to renew their license. In addition, at least 10 of those 20 hours must be completed at "live" events such as seminars, conferences or live webcasts (must be able to interact with speaker). Finally, at least 1 of the 20 hours must be completed in a course related to medical ethics, at least 1 of the 20 hours must be completed in a course related to patient safety and ALL CRCE courses must be approved by either the AMA, AOA or AARC.

The PSRC has FIVE remaining events in 2010 across the state that provide you with the opportunity to complete multiple hours of CRCE. These include:

37th Annual PSRC Western Regional Seminar in Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine
September 22-24, 2010 – Pittsburgh, PA
21 hours of CRCE available – including topics in patient safety and ethics

NEW for 2010! We've added a third day that will feature topics that all relate to sleep medicine! We're also offering a "Safety & Ethics" evening seminar on September 22nd, along with our normal two full days offering 7 hours of AARC-approved continuing education per day. We're also proud to announce that this seminar will feature the first ever offering of the AARC's new "Becoming the 'Resident Expert' in Ventilator Associated Pneumonia" a 3 hour workshop during the afternoon of September 23rd.

Confirmed speakers for this event include Patrick Dunne, MEd, RRT, FAARC; Lewis Kline, MD, William Malley, MEd, RRT, FAARC; Judy Tietsort, RRT, RN, FAARC and more! "Early Bird" discounted registration is now OPEN. Register now for this terrific event and save \$10.00 (per day!) off the normal registration rate! For all the details, go to <http://www.psrc.net/Conferences/2010WesternRegional.htm>

5th Annual PSRC Conference in the Capital
Friday, October 15, 2010 – Harrisburg, PA
7 hours of CRCE available – including topics in patient safety and ethics

Join us as we celebrate our 5th year in Harrisburg! This year's conference includes a Keynote address entitled "RT STAT to Haiti: An Ethical Experience." In addition, the

conference will feature the award winning "Aerosol Guru" Jim Fink, MS, RRT, FAARC and "The Professor" Bill Malley, MS, RRT, CPFT, FAARC both of whom will educate and entertain you in their own unique style!

"Early Bird" discounted registration is now OPEN for this event! Register by September 15th for only \$60! Go to the following webpage for all the details and to register: <http://www.psrc.net/Conferences/2010ConferenceInCapital.htm>

2010 PSRC NW District Fall Seminar at Hamot Medical Center
Saturday, October 23, 2010 – Erie, PA – 8:00am-12:15pm
4 hours of CRCE available – including topics in patient safety and ethics

Do you work Monday to Friday and have a hard time getting off to go to a seminar? Join the PSRC and Hamot Medical Center for a 4 hour fall seminar on a Saturday! This event offers topics including "Lung Protective Strategy" and "Treating Difficult Airways" as well as topics in both patient safety and medical ethics.

For more information, go to <http://www.psrc.net/Conferences/2010NWFallSeminar.htm>

2010 PSRC / Thomas Jefferson University Hospital Annual RC Week Seminar
Monday, October 25, 2010 – Philadelphia, PA
7 hours of CRCE available – including topics in patient safety and ethics

Join us for this popular annual event at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital! Registration is just \$50 for AARC/PSRC members. Registration and the final agenda will be available on the PSRC website at the following webpage: <http://www.psrc.net/Conferences/2010TJUHSeminar.htm>

2010 PSRC SE Seminar #2 at Abington Hospital
Saturday, November 6, 2010 – Abington, PA
4 hours of CRCE available – including topics in patient safety and ethics

The final PSRC educational event in 2010 will feature 4 hours of CRCE at a bargain price of just \$25.00 for AARC/PSRC members! Space is limited. For more information, go to the following webpage: <http://www.psrc.net/Conferences/2010SESeminar2.htm>

AARC/PSRC Membership – A Bargain When You Need It Most!

In this day and age, if you tried to come up with a list of things you can buy for just 21 cents a day chances are the list would be a short one! In fact, it would be difficult to make a list of things that you can buy for less than \$1.50 a week. Go ahead, try it! Newspaper...not anymore! Coffee? Even McDonalds' coffee isn't that cheap! A bottle of water? Yes even water is more than that...a LOT more!

So what CAN you buy for just 21 cents a day? How about another year of membership in the only national professional association for respiratory therapists, the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) and their state affiliate, the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care (PSRC)! That's right, despite these difficult economic times, the cost of AARC membership hasn't changed. In fact, the cost of annual membership dues has remained the same for nearly 10 years! How many other things do you know that cost the same in 2010 as they did in 2001? When you factor in that the AARC and PSRC have greatly expanded the benefits their members receive, membership becomes a bargain that can't be beat.

In addition, thanks to the PSRC's "Discounted AARC Membership Program," existing members who renew their AARC/PSRC membership either prior to or within 30 days after their membership expiration date can do so for just \$75.00, a savings of \$15 off the normal \$90.00 renewal fee! In fact, members can renew for TWO years (for \$150) and

lock in the discount for an additional year!

What's the catch? Simple...there isn't one! The PSRC uses their purchasing power to buy a "bulk" of memberships from the AARC at a discounted price and we pass the savings along to you. The membership is exactly the same as if you renewed directly through the AARC...but at a lower cost to you!

To renew your membership through the discount program, two payment options are available:

1. Credit Card: To renew your membership using a major credit card, visit the PSRC website at <http://www.psrc.net/DiscountRenewal.htm> and scroll down the page until you see the "BUY NOW" button. If you'd like to take advantage of the "Double Your Savings" offer, simply enter in the number "2" in the quantity section on the order page (the default is 1).

2. Check/Money Order: Send your membership renewal form (or a note requesting membership renewal) along with your check or money order for \$75.00 made payable to the PSRC to:

PSRC Discount Membership Program
c/o 225 Hampshire Drive, Sellersville, PA 18960-2876

NOTE: Be sure to make your check payable to the PSRC (not the AARC). If you'd like to renew for 2 years, increase the check amount to \$150.

How Many Continuing Education Hours Do I Need?

The PSRC frequently receives questions about the continuing education requirements for respiratory therapists in the state. Here are a few of the *Frequently Asked Questions* we receive.

- Q:** I just graduated from RT school (or I recently moved here from out of state). When do I need to start earning CRCE (Continuing Respiratory Care Education) hours?
- A:** Respiratory therapists who obtain a license in Pennsylvania for the first time (initial license) are exempt from the CRCE requirement for the duration of that license. What this means is that a therapist does not have to start earning CRCEs until they renew their PA State RT license for the first time.
- Q:** If my license becomes inactive, what do I need to do to reactivate it?
- A:** Therapists are urged to contact either the PA State Board of Medicine (if the license begins with YM) or the PA Board of Osteopathic Medicine (if the license begins with YO) for the most up-to-date information. The requirements to reactivate a license includes completing the prior licensing period's CRCE requirement and may also include retaking an NBRC credentialing exam (the CRT or RRT exam) and/or other requirements determined by the licensing board. To contact the Boards of Medicine:

State Board of Medicine or State Board of Osteopathic Medicine
P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649
717-783-1400 (Board of Medicine)
717-783-4858 (Board of Osteopathic Medicine)

- Q:** How many hours of continuing education are required for licensed RTs in Pennsylvania?
- A:** Legislation was signed into law in July of 2008 that increased the number of required CRCEs for respiratory therapists to 30 hours for each biannual renewal period. The law also requires 1 of the 30 hours to be completed in a course related to patient safety and 1 hour in a course related to ethics.

However, the regulations for this new law have not yet been finalized but are expected to be released in late 2010. This means that the requirement for continuing education for the CURRENT licensing period (2009-2010) remains 20 hours (including 1 hour in patient safety and 1 hour in ethics). The current regulations stipulate that at least 10 of the required 20 hours must be completed at "live" events (seminar, live webcasts, etc.). All courses must be accredited by the AARC, AMA or AOA.

For more info on the continuing education requirement for RTs, please visit the PSRC's *Frequently Asked Questions* page: <http://psrc.net/ContinuingEducationRequirementsFAQ.htm>.

Have a question you'd like answered in our FAQ section? Send an email to ExecutiveDirector@psrc.net

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Editor, Fall 2010

Eileen Censullo, RRT, MBA

Editorial Policy

The *PSNews* will accept all manuscripts, photos, and other items of interest for review. Articles and photos published become the sole property of the PSRC. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and space requirements. Opinions expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the *PSNews* editor, the PSRC, or the AARC.

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2010 PSRC Calendar of Events

September 22	PSRC Board of Directors Meeting - Pittsburgh, PA
September 22-24	PSRC Western Regional Conference - Pittsburgh, PA
October 15	PSRC Conference in the Capital - Harrisburg, PA
October 21	PSRC Night at the Philadelphia Flyers - Philadelphia, PA
October 23	PSRC NW District Fall Seminar - Erie, PA
October 24-30	National Respiratory Care Week
October 25	PSRC/Thomas Jefferson Univ. Hospital RC Week Conference - Philadelphia, PA
November 6	PSRC SE Seminar at Abington Hospital - Abington, PA
November 14	PSRC Night at the musical "Jersey Boys" - Philadelphia, PA (SOLD OUT)
December 4-5	AARC House of Delegates Meeting - Las Vegas, NV
December 6-9	AARC International Congress - Las Vegas, NV
December 17	PSRC 4th Quarter Board of Directors Meeting - Millersville, PA
December 17	PSRC 4th Annual Business Meeting - Millersville, PA

Check the PSRC website (www.PSRC.net) for a list of all 2011 PSRC educational event dates which are posted as soon as they are finalized!