



SCT Newsletter

AUGUST 2019

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Job Vacancy

SCT Council Vacancies

If you are interested in joining the council, please send in your nomination form by 18th September.

CSANZ Conference Report

SCT awarded fellowships for the CSANZ conference in Wellington this year. Here is a report from **Sarah McLennan (Dunedin Hospital)**.

CSANZ19 was held in Wellington 13-15 June at TSB Arena. There were some great speakers and I attended many interesting talks over the 3 days. This report will summarise some of what I learnt about rheumatic fever from a national and global perspective during the Indigenous Cardiovascular Health session on day one. Unfortunately the rate of rheumatic fever is actually rising in New Zealand, due to the increasing rates in the Pacific population. Michael Baker from the University of Otago reported that to reduce rheumatic fever in NZ there needs to be an improvement in home environments, an improved population approach to GAS infections, and more integrated community focused management. The importance of echo screening to detect rheumatic heart disease (RHD) was highlighted by Rachel Webb from the University of Auckland. It was reported that Echo can pick up 10 times more rheumatic cases than a stethoscope, as well as picking up many cases of RHD in asymptomatic patients, which emphasises the importance of offering an echo to siblings when one child in the family is diagnosed. Anneka Anderson (University of Auckland) then spoke on whānau experiences associated with RHD. It was a good reminder of the non-clinical aspects that accompany a RHD diagnosis and provide additional stress to the families. When a child is diagnosed, the family financial status and current employment can result in emotional, social and economic stresses. The education of siblings can be affected due to hospital appointments, transport barriers, and work commitments. New Zealand has regional databases for rheumatic fever but currently no national register, which can mean people get lost to follow up. It was disappointing to hear that patients had reported experiencing racism and rough treatment from medical professionals involved in their care. Some education about cultural safety and having whānau advocates may be needed. It was acknowledged that patients being diagnosed with RHD are often young adults at a difficult stage in their life and it was important to find a balance between paediatric and adult services and make sure the patient knew the importance of having their regular injections. Jayme Bennetts (Flinders University) and Tom Wang (Middlemore Hospital) both spoke on the surgical aspects of RHD. There is a lot to think about when it comes to treatment of RHD. Surgery vs repair, single valve vs multiple valves, patient compliance with medications, timing of surgery, and follow up considerations/remoteness of patient location. Both speakers reported that a valve repair is the preferred treatment rather than replacement.

Thank you to SCT for giving me funding to attend CSANZ19.

Current Council Members

Fiona Riddell—Chairperson
Krystle Melliza—Secretary/Newsletter Editor
Blair Sinclair—Treasurer
Gay Noyer—Website Administrator
Ellen Woodcock—Education Committee Representative
Jessica Hannah-Brennan—South Island Representative
Kellie Timmins—Professional Development Group

Contributions to the newsletter

Contributions to the newsletter are very welcome from any discipline.

Please email info@sct.org.nz if you would like to submit anything of interest.

Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Society of Cardiopulmonary Technology (N.Z.) Inc. will be held at 0800 on Wednesday 25 September 2019. SCT members at the ADHB will be hosting a videoconference so you are welcome to join in by videoconference from your centre.



Cardiac Sonographer: full time

The Lakes region is the ideal place to live for families and professional couples that have a passion for the outdoors. Mountain Biking and hiking in the forests, swimming and water sports on the lakes and relaxing in the thermal pools. Less than an hour from the beach

and snow, it's an ideal central NZ adventure playground.

If any of the above sounds like you, then think about joining our small but dynamic team!

The Clinical Physiology service at Lakes DHB provides a diagnostic service for patients requiring Cardiology, Respiratory and Neurological investigation. Tests performed include ECG, ambulatory blood pressure, exercise stress testing, echocardiography, cardiac monitoring (Holter and Event), lung function tests, EEG, Pacemaker and ICD follow up. We are a small, passionate and fun team with close, supportive, working relationships with our SMOs.

Our Echocardiography service includes adult and paediatric TTE, adult TOE, and stress echo and operate within Rotorua Hospital. In addition to this, the Taupo community have been fund raising via the THHS Heart Scanner Appeal, and are very close to reaching the target to enable us to purchase a 'new high end' Echocardiography ultrasound unit for Taupo Hospital.

So we would love you to come and join us to support this new service!

Applications are invited from senior Cardiac Sonographers with experience in signing off reports. The applicant must hold DMU or QUT post grad dip Cardiac Ultrasound and be registered with the MRTB. The applicant must be willing and able to drive to Taupo for scanning lists.

We look forward to your application if you are passionate about patient care; have excellent attention to detail, and great communication skills.

Apply online via our website www.lakesdhb.govt.nz