



# Perioperative Nurses Association of Queensland Inc

ADVANCING PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

## President's Report

**Dr Brigid Gillespie**

Dear Colleagues,

Practising strategies that promote patient safety is part of perioperative nurses' core business across all sectors, states/territories, and countries. International evidence suggests that 1 in 10 patients experience an adverse event in hospital (NHS Scottish Patient Safety Program [SPSP], 2010). In Australian hospitals, around 50% of adverse events occur as a result of miscommunications between health practitioners, especially nurses and doctors (AIHW, 2007). In this context, *adverse events* are defined as unintended consequences of care, and may include contracting an infection such as MRSA, experiencing a drug error or a post-surgical complication, or developing a pressure sore. Research indicates that 50% of adverse events can be prevented if stringent patient safety processes are routinely followed (NHS SPSP, 2010).

I recently visited to Dundee, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, Scotland. While visiting, my colleague Dr Eloise Pearson (a perioperative nurse and academic based at the University of Dundee) introduced me to colleagues from three hospital districts around the Dundee and Aberdeen regions. I was more than pleased to learn about the patient safety

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projects and strategies that are being for the most part, driven by perioperative nurses. There were some clear parallels in the patient safety strategies introduced by the SPSP into perioperative departments of the hospitals that I visited while in Scotland and initiatives introduced by Queensland Health (QH) and the private sector hospitals in our part of the world.

The aims of both the Scottish and QH programs are similar with the end result being an increase in the safety culture/safety awareness of the organisation. Targeted strategies centre on the prevention and/or reduction of; surgical complications, pressure sores, and surgical site infections. Perioperative specific initiatives that have been introduced in the NHS Scotland include surgical briefings, team training, body temperature and glucose regulation, DVT prophylaxis, and prevention of surgical site infections to name but a few.

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## President's Report Continued

### Dr Brigid Gillespie

For instance, the Royal Infirmary of Aberdeen has introduced nurse led strategies such as using whiteboards for delineating staff allocations (first names used) and documenting daily debriefings. Data from monthly audits of surgical briefings, surgical site infections, clinical incidents and IV antibiotic administration are put up on a notice board that is accessible to all perioperative staff.

What is the proportion of staff compliance and can this be improved? There is little doubt that perioperative nurses are often the drivers of change (Gillespie *et al.* 2010) and must, at times, necessarily, swim against the "cultural tide". In planning sustainable initiatives that will effect a culture change, there needs to be an understanding of the subculture of the clinical service, and surgeons and anaesthetists who are willing to champion the change. Albeit that this is a major challenge in many facilities, there is a gradual culture shift toward engendering a safety culture.

On another note, I recently attended the 58th AORN Congress March 19-24th which was held at the Philadelphia Convention Centre, Pennsylvania, US. As well as representing PNAQ, I presented a paper based on my research around perioperative competence. The event was attended by over 5000 delegates and with 12 concurrent sessions presented across the scientific

program, offering something for everyone. A full report of the conference proceedings will be published in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

Finally, I encourage members to consider **submitting an abstract** for the 37th PNAQ Annual State Conference which is being held at the Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast on 30th September – 1st October.

As ever,

**Brigid**



#### REFERENCES

Australian Institute of Health & Welfare (AIHW): *Sentinel events in Australian public hospitals 2004-05*. In. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health & Welfare; 2007: 1-35.

Gillespie, BM; Chaboyer, W; Wallis, M & Fen-wick, C. (2010). Why isn't "time out" being implemented? An exploratory study. *Quality and Safety in Healthcare*, 19(2)103-6.

NHS Scottish Patient Safety Program (2010). Accessed 5th April, 2011:

[http://  
www.patientsafetyalliance.scot.nhs.uk/  
programme/](http://www.patientsafetyalliance.scot.nhs.uk/programme/)

# Sunshine Coast Conference Report

**Triathlon of Life** ..... Ailsa Gillett - Conference Convenor

What a grand event, not only for the Mooloolaba Triathlon, but also for the SC PNAQ 8th Biennial Conference held on Saturday 26th March 2011 @ the University of the Sunshine Coast.

“Triathlon of Life” was the theme for our local branch conference. The Saturday chosen to hold the conference was on the same weekend as the Triathlon, so the committee thought it appropriate to incorporate this theme.

A very enthusiastic group of members formed the conference committee and put all their imaginations together to come up with a fantastic program for the day. Testament to this was the overwhelming number of delegates who registered, plus the unfortunate number who missed out due to having to close registrations. With two weeks to go there were already 180 registrants, with the final registration number being 201. On the day 194 delegates enjoyed the program. Delegates came from near and far with some travelling all the way from Cairns, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Gold Coast and Fiji.



*Ailsa Gillett with Fijian delegates Akisi Ravono, Venina Navuta and Senikuba Qolisese*

The trade were well represented with 37 companies registering and 36 present on the day. Not only did the trade provide valuable information and education on the day, but many trade partners supplied satchel fillers in the form of brochures, pads, pens, bags (thanks to David from Austmel), gloves, Mars Bars and bottled water.



*Delegates enjoying the trade display*

Some of the trade also donated prizes for our Prize raffles and enjoyed our Saturday night Mystery dinner with our delegates.

Now to the program; the day started with a written message from our State president, Dr Brigid Gillespie, who wished everyone an educational and enjoyable day, and apologised for not being able to attend.

Nicky Johnson moderated the first session for the day - **“The Swim Leg”** introducing the following speakers:

Dr Brian Lewer, Consultant Anaesthetist:  
**When you breathe you inspire ...  
When you don't you expire!!!**

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## Sunshine Coast Report Continued

### Triathlon of Life

Brian's presentation was certainly informative and engaging. He talked about the many different aspects of respiratory function in the surgical patient, who frequently has diminished respiratory reserve due to effects such as: coexisting disease, surgery, anaesthesia and analgesia. Brian explained how this may be a contributory factor in perioperative cardiovascular events, altered mental state and wound infection. Brian tells us the search for an ideal respiratory monitor continues!

Dr Adam Blond, ENT Surgeon

#### ***Advances in Paediatric ENT Surgery***

Adam gave a fantastic overview of not only advances in Paediatric ENT Surgery but also a wonderful insight into other treatments of rare and not so rare conditions which occur world wide. Adam gave personal accounts of surgical techniques and presented some amazing pictures of surgical and medicinal successes.

Mr Anthony Hartley, RN - ORS - Nambour General Hospital

#### ***Is Your Heart in Nursing?***

Anthony, our final speaker for the first session gave a personal, heart-warming and sensitive presentation on his and his families experience during the difficult time of their third child's very early birth and the hard road to 12 months old.

Anthony's poem, which he wrote for

Josiah was nothing but inspirational. All the audience was spell bound by his story and the photos which accompanied his talk. (see page 7).

After morning tea Session 2 "**The Cycle Leg**" was moderated by Michael Visser. Michael dressed for the occasion in his exercise gear and bike helmet. Michael introduced our 4th speaker Ms Catherine Steel, CNC - ORS - The Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Catherine's presentation ***Perioperative Care of the Bariatric Patient*** gave a very practical and evidenced based presentation. Catherine spoke about from Pre-admission to the Post Anaesthetic Care Unit, all patient care is individualised. Clinicians work with each patient altering the plan of care to suit the patient's needs while cognisant of the proposed procedure. Catherine also spoke from the heart sharing some pertinent personal stories which enlightened the audience.

Dr Michael Donovan, General Surgeon, was our 5th speaker and gave a great presentation about **Updates on Bariatric Surgery**. Michael spoke about the different method for treating obesity from diet and exercise to medication and on to surgery. Michael explained the various types of surgery and their pros and cons.

Our 6th speaker was Dr Gerry Turner, Consultant Anaesthetist - **Multisystem**

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# Sunshine Coast Report continued

## Triathlon of Life

### Break-down in a Triathlete.

Gerry's presentation, pictures and personal account of treating a triathlete with heat stress certainly gave us all (especially those competing in the TRI the next day) something to really think about. Gerry's presentation was both clinically informative and interesting to listen too.

After lunch Ruth Melville, as moderator in the third session "**The Run Leg**", introduced our last three speakers. Firstly Dr John Hansen, General Surgeon **Laparoscopic & Open Colorectal Surgery - Not As Hard As You Think!!!**

John's presentation was both very informative and interesting. He spoke about the different types of surgery and how Laparoscopic and colorectal surgery had evolved. John gave examples of specific cases explaining the rationale and outcomes of the cases.

In the true spirit of the theme of the conference John modelled the 2011 Mooloolaba Triathlon top to a very excited audience.

Following John, our last presenters Dr Paul Frank, Consultant Anaesthetist & Pain Specialist & Mrs Nicole Johnson, Anaesthetic Clinical Coach - ORS - Nambour General Hospital presented **Ultrasound Guided TAP Blocks & Lipid Rescue**

This presentation again was very

practical, informative and certainly evidenced based. Even for the non anaesthetic nurses in the audience this session related to all nursing staff working in the perioperative environment.

Paul and Nicky complimented each other very well in their presentations.

So, what a day! So much learnt, so much to take in. These were some of the sediments of Mrs Catherine Biggs - Chairperson PNAQ Sunshine Coast Branch, in her closing address.

Catherine kindly thanked all the speakers, moderators, committee and especially our trade partners for their time and support.

Catherine acknowledged our delegates from Fiji and hoped they had learnt a great deal and had met some new friends. In finishing Catherine thanked all the delegates and invited everyone to stay and finish off this great day with wine and cheese.

Remember we're doing it all again in 2013, and we hope to see you there.

Until then.

**Ailsa Gillett**  
Sunshine Coast PNAQ  
Conference Convenor

# The Complex Anaesthetic Patient

## Redcliffe Hospital Education Morning

On Saturday 7 May, the Education Team at Redcliffe Hospital presented a workshop on *The Complex Anaesthetic Patient*. Dr Lenert Bruce Consultant Anaesthetist used a case study of an obese patient having a Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy who had a number of comorbid conditions to highlight how these conditions can affect anaesthesia. With 61.4% of the Australian population either overweight or obese we are seeing a growing number of patients with multiple health issues. Obesity presents challenges for the anaesthetist due to anatomic and physiological changes in the body and associated co-morbid conditions. After learning how conditions such as smoking, diabetes and heart disease can affect anaesthetic techniques and care, participants split into groups to rotate through practical workstations.

Participants learnt how to interpret Arterial Blood Gas results. If blood pH varies too far from 7.4 the cells of the body will be unable to function. Dr Catherine Abi-Fares using her 9 easy steps, assisted participants to identify if case examples were in metabolic or respiratory states.

Dr Lenert Bruce and Emma Holden, Acting Clinical Nurse Anaesthetics, manned the Airway Station where participants were able to see how increased fat distribution affected the airway. A neck collar size greater than 43cm at the thyroid cartilage is

associated with an increased risk of difficult airway.



*Participants practice ventilating an obese patient*

Chris Kenny from Proact Medical provided the groups with great tips on using arterial lines. We found out why we use arterial lines and how to zero them, and how you know if you have a good tracing.

PIP programs Nurse Educator showed us how to fit anti-embolic stockings and sleeves, reinforcing why we should be using anti-embolic devices. Obesity and surgery are independent risk factors for Deep Venous Thrombosis formation.

Based on requests from previous workshops, a paediatric airway station was included. Participants were guided by Dr Rajshree Trivedi and Belinda Healy Clinical Nurse Anaesthetics, for airway management of a baby, infant and child,  
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## Complex Anaesthetic Patient continued

### Redcliffe Hospital Education Morning

reinforcing the differences in anatomy and physiology of these age groups and an adult.

For further information see  
Obesity & Anaesthesia 6/10/2006  
[http://www.anaesthesiauk.com/  
documents/obesity.pdf](http://www.anaesthesiauk.com/documents/obesity.pdf)



*Participants practice intubating a child*

Thanks to the Redcliffe Hospital anaesthetic team for sharing their expertise and giving up their time to help enhance our knowledge and skill base.

If you would like to participate in one of these anaesthetic & recovery room workshops contact Simone Ohlin, Caboolture Hospital 5433 8845, for the workshops on 4 June & 5 November or Michele Wyland, Redcliffe Hospital 3883 7384, for the workshop on 20 August.

## A Metaphor of Love, Life & Family

### Anthony Hartley

*Anthony Hartley, a Perioperative Nurse, works at Nambour General Hospital. He recently spoke at the Sunshine Coast conference and presented a poem dedicated to his premature son, Josiah. With the kind permission of Anthony and his family, we publish his poem ....*

#### **A Metaphor of Love, Life and Family**

Perfectly a miniature of Matilda and Gideon.  
His skin is like glass, transparent with neon.  
Longing to hold and nurture the goal,  
Projecting love from mind, body and soul.  
Uncertainty pushed aside to grasp moments,  
I witness resilience to death and its components.  
The arduous journey, the inner strength of desire,  
Castes an aura of family around our Josiah.  
Fragile yet connected, he embrace's my finger,  
As I lean in and whisper... "long may you linger"



*Josiah*

© Anthony Charles Hartley

Reserving all rights of publication and ownership of this sequence of words in poetry

*Emily & Anthony Hartley with their children Matilda, Gideon and baby Josiah*



## Call For Abstracts

2011 PNAQ State Conference

## Call for Abstracts Extended!



The Perioperative Nurses Association Queensland Inc (PNAQ Inc) Organising Committee would like to invite you to attend their Annual Conference to be held from 29 September – 1 October 2011 at the RACV Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, Queensland.

The Organising Committee would also like to advise that the **call for abstracts has been extended until the 31st of May**. Abstracts are to be submitted via the Conference email address.

Please visit <http://www.pnaqconference.net.au> for full abstract submission information and instructions and to view the provisional program.

**We look forward to welcoming you to the Gold Coast!**

Address for communication:

PNAQ Inc Conference Managers

Managed by Arinex Pty Ltd

Postal Address: Level 7, 300 Adelaide Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4000.

### KEY DATES

Registrations Open April 2011

Abstract Deadline 26 May 2011

Author Notification June 2011

Early Registration Closes August 2011

### PROGRAM ENQUIRIES

Ph: +61 7 3226 2800

### REGISTRATION ENQUIRIES

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Fax: +61 2 9267 5443

Email: [gldcoastal2011@arinex.com.au](mailto:gldcoastal2011@arinex.com.au)

# Downs & South West Branch

## Education Calendar

*Remember that participation in meetings of your professional organisation contributes towards CPD hours*

DATE	PACE	MEETING 0900—1000	EDUCATION SESSION 1030—1200
11 Jun	St Andrew's	Meeting	Indemnity Insurance and Legal Issues For Nurses
16 Jul	Toowoomba Base	Meeting	Infection Control MRSA and VRE
13 Aug	St Andrew's	Meeting	Laparoscopic Workshop (Cleaning & maintenance of Laparoscopic Instruments)
10 Sep	St Vincent's	Annual General Meeting	
8 Oct	Toowoomba Base	Meeting	1030—1300 Synthes Workshop Hand, Wrist & Humeral Nail
12 Nov	St Andrew's	Meeting	Wound Management Caring for the wound in recovery and the ward
10 Dec		Christmas Party	

For all DSW Branch Enquiries Contact;

Megan Twine

[dsw@pnaq.net.au](mailto:dsw@pnaq.net.au)

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# Women's Health Forum

## Sunnybank Private Hospital

### *Saturday 19th March, 2011*

Infertility, IVF treatments, urodynamics, urinary incontinence and their treatments as well as treatment for post partum haemorrhage were topics covered at the March PNAQ education forum held at Sunnybank Private Hospital.

Dr Peter Fung, a gynaecological specialist in infertility, urinary incontinence and prolapse surgery gave an excellent talk on his specialities and their treatments. Dr Fung told the group about urodynamics and the pre-operative assessments of patients. Feedback from attendees included comments that they now understand urodynamics much better as it isn't something we as theatre nurses get involved in prior to surgery.

Alisha, a scientist with City Fertility, covered all aspects and types of IVF. This was also very interesting to hear a scientist's view of why they do what they do during an "egg pick up". Alisha gave a really great overview of the topic.

Our final speaker of the day was Julie Martin from Cook Medical. She covered how the Bakari balloon works and its use during post partum haemorrhage.

Feedback from all attendees was very positive.

Thank you to our speakers, Hazel Douglas and the Sunnybank team for hosting this forum.

# Mackay Branch Conference

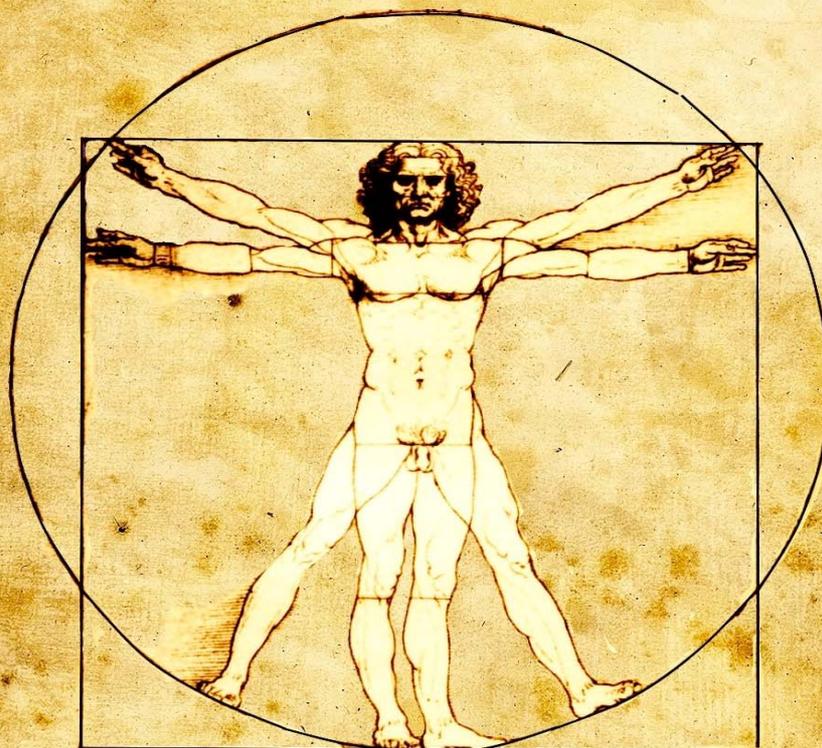
## Date Claimer

### Mackay PNAQ Conference

Friday 22nd & Saturday 23rd July 2011

#### Extreme Physiology

When the body's status quo is out of balance



Venue - Conference Rooms  
Mackay Grande Suites 9 Gregory Street, Mackay

Featuring Keynote Speakers

Patricia Cameron-Hill & Dr Shayne Yates



For online registration go to:  
<http://pnaq.net.au>

CNE Points 10 - Friday - 3  
- Saturday - 7



Contact: Beth Keogh [mackay@pnaq.net.au](mailto:mackay@pnaq.net.au)