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7th International Spark of Life Resuscitation Conference - 1-2 May, 2009 Hobart, Australia

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CONFERENCE REVIEW
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7th International Spark of Life Resuscitation Conference

1-2 May, 2009, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia,

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The conference was held over two days with each session having a specific resuscitation theme. The overarching theme for the conference was "***any attempt at resuscitation is better than no attempt***". The free papers were presented between lunch and afternoon tea on the first day with three concurrent free paper sessions. There were eleven posters on display outside the trade display area, where each lead author of the poster was given five minutes to present their poster to the adjudicators and anyone else who was interested in attending the poster sessions during the lunch break on both days.

The official conference welcome was introduced by A/Prof Ian Jacobs, chair of the Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC), prior to the official conference opening by his Excellency, the Governor of Tasmania, who in his address, made reference to the earliest known Australian resuscitation incident being performed in Tasmania, highlighting that *"Tasmania was indeed ahead of the rest of Australia"*.

The first plenary session commenced with the *Don Harrison Perpetual Lecture* on **Evidence Based Medicine, What does it Really Mean?** by Dr Tony Smith from New Zealand. Tony provided an overview of what evidence was actually available and how useful it was, moving on to discuss the importance of meaningful endpoints or outcomes in research, and the avoidance of surrogate endpoints/outcomes.

The second plenary session looked at **Resuscitation during Disasters** by Dr David Zideman from the U.K. followed by **Teaching Resuscitation in High Schools** by Sandra Clarke from Canada.

The sessions drew to a close at the end of day one with the final and interesting presentation on **Decision rules for Termination of Resuscitation** by Dr Laurie Morrison from Canada.

After a few hours relaxing it was off to the conference dinner for more networking and socialisation late into the night. During the evening, presentations were made to the following ARC members for their long standing service to the ARC:

- 20 years service by Prof Ian Jacobs and Mrs Carol Carey;
- 15 years service by MS Jennifer Dennett, Mr John Hall, A/Prof Peter Morley, and A/Prof Jim Tibballs; and
- 10 years service by Dr Malcolm Anderson and Dr Hugh Grantham.

Day two started with three presentations around the theme of "Using evidence in practice". The first presentation was **The Legal Status of Guidelines** by A/Prof Jim Tibballs from the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, who highlighted the issues collating guidelines, the variable quality, and their acceptance in clinical practice.

The second presentation was about **How do People Learn** by Prof Russell Jones from the University of Melbourne. Prof Jones talked about how people learn, some issues associated with teaching and learning styles, and how these affect a person's ability to learn.

The final presentation in the session by A/Prof Peter Morley from the Royal Melbourne Hospital, Victoria was **Learn CPR in 30 minutes**.

In the post morning tea session there were three concurrent sessions; *Paediatric Management, Roles/Teamwork*, and *Education*, each with four presentations. The *Paediatric Management* session started with **The Role of Pulse Palpation in Starting CPR** by A/Prof Jim Tibballs, followed by **Children as Rescuers** by Sandra Clarke, **Resuscitation of Children and Infants** by Dr David Zideman, and **Fluid Resuscitation in Children** by Dr Richard Aickin from New Zealand.

The *Roles/Teamwork* session started with **Airway Management in Trauma** by Dr Tony Smith, followed by A/Prof Tony Walker of Ambulance Victoria, who reported on the recently completed study conducted in Victoria, ***Paramedics RSI after Severe Traumatic Brain Injury***. Compared to a lot of other prehospital RSI studies, A/Prof Walker claimed that this one demonstrated positive outcomes following RSI of traumatic head injured patients.

The third presentation was **Delivering Resuscitation Instructions by Telephone - Challenges for Ambulance Service CPR Delivery** by Dr Charles Deakin from the U.K, with the final presentation **"Code Blue: 222" Standardising in-hospital Resuscitation** by Dr Malcolm Anderson from Hobart, Tasmania.

The *Education* session started with ALS Assessments – **Bang for buck or bad investment** by Dr Judy Currey from Deakin University, Melbourne which was followed by a presentation on **Effective Facilitation** by Prof Russell Jones from Monash University, Melbourne. Prof Ian Jacobs led a session on the **ARC / ILS / ALS / Instructors Course** which preceded the final session, **eLearning & Resuscitation Training** by Shane Lenson from the ACT.

In the after lunch session there were three concurrent sessions; *Trauma, Resuscitation Evidence*, and *Clinical Updates*, each with three presentations. The *Trauma* session started with **Trauma Medicine Shock: How Much have we Forgotten** by Dr Hugh Grantham. Dr Grantham highlighted that some of the issues associated with shock were first described far back in history. It was especially interesting to note the lack of understanding about shock leading up to the First World War, compared to what had been learned in the four years following commencement of the war. However, it took until the mid 1990s to progress this information further.

The next presentation was **Cutting Edge Developments in Trauma** by Dr Michael Parr from Liverpool Hospital in Sydney. Dr Parr covered some of the newer management regimes for the bleeding and "shocked" patient including the understanding of coagulopathy and transfusion of these patients. The final presentation was **Trauma in Tarin Kowt – Afghanistan** by Dr David Scott from the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve. Dr Scott discussed some of the facilities and processes that the Australian contingent had access to. Of interest was some of the equipment and processes that Dr Scott described, for example, the

storage and use of frozen blood products and the oxygen generator relevant for rural, remote, and third world communities.

The *Resuscitation Evidence* session commenced with **International Process** by A/Prof Peter Morley, followed by **Quality CPR** by Prof Ian Jacobs, and finally, **Mechanical CPR adjuncts: Is There Any Evidence They Work?** by Dr Laurie Morrison.

The *Clinical Updates* session started with **A Systems Approach to Reperfusion in ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction** by A/Prof Darren Walters from The Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane, and was followed by a session on **Anaphylaxis** by Dr Jane Peake from the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane. The final clinical updates session was on **Evidence Based Approach to Stroke Care** by Dr Julie Considine from Deakin University in Melbourne.

The final session of the conference concluded with a panel discussion/debate covering resuscitation controversies, which was moderated by A/Prof Peter Morley. The panel consisted of Dr Laurie Morrison, Dr David Zideman, Sandra Clarke, Dr Charles Deakin, Dr Tony Smith and Prof Ian Jacobs. There were some interesting and differing views from the international panel members on the topics raised.

The conference was closed by Prof Ian Jacobs, who invited all participants to re-convene in two years time for the next Spark of Life conference and to support the New Zealand Resuscitation Council (www.nzrc.org.nz) conference at the end of April 2010.