BECOMING A PART OF THE STS

The Saskatchewan Thoracic Society (STS) is unique among Thoracic Societies in Canada in that we have a strong, multi-disciplinary membership base. Our Mission is to “encourage the provision of optimal respiratory care within the Province of Saskatchewan.” We promote respiratory health through support of educational opportunities for health care professionals and dissemination of information to the public. In addition, as a society, we advise the Lung Association and other agencies or groups on respiratory care issues.

Our membership runs calendar year (January 1 to December 31). A one-year membership is $25.00; a three-year membership is $60.00.

If you would like more information, please contact the Lung Association office at 343-9511 (in Saskatoon) or 1-888-566-LUNG, or find us on the Internet at www.sk.lung.ca

2002-2003 Executive Committee

Ms. C. Thompson  President
Dr. A. Ramall  Past President
Dr. G. Sridhar  President Elect
Dr. T. Hurst  Secretary
Ms. V. Ridsdale  Treasurer
Dr. K. Laframboise  Membership/Recruitment
Dr. D. Cockcroft  Policies/Standards
Ms. T. Franko  Program Committee Chair
Ms. J. Haffner  LA Liaison

STS Administrative Support:

Ms. A. Favel  LA Operations Assistant
Ms. L. Kleiboer  LA Operations Assistant

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The Saskatchewan Thoracic Society executive and I have had an eventful year. Many issues and events have affected the Respiratory world in 2002-03.

SARS, of course had impact across the world, even here in Saskatchewan. I was directly involved as a Respiratory Therapist at Saskatoon City Hospital, as it became the SARS hospital in Saskatoon. All of our Thoracic Society members were directly involved in this process at some point. As of today, Saskatchewan has had no SARS patients, but we are ready should it happen in the future.

In April of this year, I attended the Western Respiratory Disease Symposium in Banff, AB. It was an excellent symposium for all respiratory care practitioners. The conference featured many internationally recognized speakers. I personally would recommend this conference to all of the Thoracic Society members. The Lung Association of Saskatchewan has education monies available for STS members to attend such events. Contact the LAS for more information.

Regina and Saskatoon both became clinical training sites for the SAIT’s Respiratory Therapy program for the first time this year. Each city has 2 students completing their final year of the three-year program. It will aid in the recruitment issues facing Respiratory Therapy. Doug Ellingson, the Clinical Instructor for Saskatoon is submitting an article for the newsletter to further explain the program.

The highlight of the year for our Society is the Education day. The Education Day is coming up on November 15, 2003 at the Western Development Museum. Our featured Ferguson Lecturer is Dr. Thomas Marrie, Professor and
Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta. His lecture topic is “Community Acquired Pneumonia”. The theme of the Education Day is Respiratory Infections. The Education Day is an excellent learning opportunity for our multi-disciplined Society. This newsletter will have information regarding the registration process. In conclusion, I have had an excellent year as President and I encourage all STS members to consider being a part of the Executive in the future. I want to thank all of the executive and the support staff of the Lung Association of Saskatchewan for all of their hard work.

–Candi Thompson BSC RRT

CURRENT FUNDING FROM THE LUNG ASSOCIATION

All funding is for 2003-2004

I am pleased to inform you of the following research, development and professional education funding being provided by the Lung Association of Saskatchewan for 2003-2004. The funding is for the academic year July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 unless otherwise noted.

Research Professorships: $235,000

Dr. Donald Cockcroft, Ferguson Professor, Division of Respiratory Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, $40,000 – research on Asthma.

Dr. Thomas Hurst, Division of Respiratory Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, $25,000 – research on lung injury related in artificial ventilation and heart-lung bypass.

Dr. Darcy Marciniuk, COPD Professorship, Division of Respiratory Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, $50,000 – research on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

Dr. Kumar Ramlall, Merck Frosst Lung Association Professorship, Department of Pediatrics, University of Saskatchewan, $50,000* - research on lung disease in children [This funding is contingent on the renewal of Merck Frosst support after December 31, 2003. If Merck Frosst support is not renewed, the total funding will be $37,500]

Dr. Robert Skomro, Division of Respiratory Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, $35,000 – research on Sleep Apnea.

Dr. Guruswamy Sridhar, Division of Respiratory Medicine, Regina Health District, $35,000 – research and development on lung health in Southern Saskatchewan.

Research Grants: $69,750

Principal Investigator: Dr. Peter Bretscher, Department of Microbiology, University of Saskatchewan.
Title: Core support of the Research Centre for the Elimination of Tuberculosis.
Funding: $15,000 this year Nov 2002- October 2003; 1998-2003: $125,000.

Principal investigator: Donna Rennie, College of Nursing/Institute for Agricultural, Rural and Environmental Health, University of Saskatchewan.
Co-investigators: A Senthilselvan, Department of Public Health U of A; Helen McDuffie, Institute of Agricultural Rural and Environmental Health; Don Cockcroft, Division of Respiratory Medicine; Phillip Willson, Western College of Veterinary Medicine; Shelley Kirychuk, Institute of Agricultural, Rural and Environmental Health.
Title: Assessment of indoor environmental agents associated with damp housing and asthma in school children.
Funding: $30,000 this year; $60,000 over two years.

Principal Investigator: Dr. Baljit Singh, Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.
Title: Lung inflammation induced by multiple
exposures to swine barn air
Funding: $24,750 this year; $52,850 over two years.

National Research Projects: $27,337
Research support contributed to the Canadian Lung Association.

Other support: $56,900
Includes visiting professorships, training grants, support for TB control, seconded staff time, development of patient education programs and support for continuing professional education including the Saskatchewan Thoracic Society Education Day and programs.

The Lung Association of Saskatchewan congratulates all of the recipients and wishes them success in their research work. The Lung Association also commends the applicants who submitted worthy research proposals but who were not funded due to lack of funds.

Please visit www.sk.lung.ca for more information.

-Brian Graham, President and C.E.O.
Lung Association of Saskatchewan

Update:
The Lung Association’s BreathWorks Program™ continues to provide support for people with COPD. If you would like to order materials or refer patients to our Help Line or Website please find the following information:

- **Help Line:** 1-866-717-COPD (2673) in English and 1-866-717-MPOC (6762) in French. The help line is staffed by COPD educators to provide information on managing the disease as well as community resources linking patients and caregivers to local support services in their area. A help line is located at the Lung Association office in Saskatoon.

- **The BreathWorks Plan:** a guidebook that provides practical advice on managing the disease, working with healthcare professionals; a resource for families and friends.

- **BreathWorks fact sheets:** detailed information on topics including exercise, medications and oxygen.

- **Promotional poster and brochure:** available for clinics, hospital departments etc.

- **Website:** www.lung.ca/breathworks/.
Online information source that will expand over time to allow patients and caregivers to order or download information materials and access a national database of local programs and services.
PAEDIATRIC ASTHMA
EDUCATION CENTRE: Project Summary

Asthma is a chronic lung disease affecting 10 to 15 percent of Canadian children, and is the leading cause of hospital admissions in children. According to the Asthma in Canada Survey¹, 57% of those with asthma are poorly controlled. Statistics Canada indicates that the prevalence of Asthma in Saskatchewan is 66,900 individuals or 7.1% of the population. In 1994 Saskatchewan residents spent 11,896 days in hospital due to their asthma at a total estimated cost of $6,423,500². Each year approximately 20 children and 500 adults die of their asthma and it is believed that more than 80% of these deaths could have been prevented with proper patient education. The vast majority of asthma mortality, exacerbations, hospitalizations, and cost are attributable to the proportion of patients who are poorly controlled. The Canadian Asthma Consensus Guidelines³ makes a strong recommendation based on level one evidence that patients receive appropriate education about their disease and that this education, properly done and reinforced, makes a difference to control of asthma. The Asthma in Canada Survey demonstrated the poor state of asthma education in Canadian patients and the overestimation of patient’s asthma knowledge by their physicians.

The Paediatric Asthma Education Centre officially opened in July 2002. It is the goal of the Paediatric Asthma Education Centre to help educate the children and families of Saskatoon Regional Health Authority initially and then by training others in time, the children of Saskatchewan who have asthma, so that while asthma cannot presently be cured, affected children can lead healthier lives with better control.

The centre is accessible to all Saskatchewan children from birth to 18 years and their families. Children with asthma may be referred to the centre by their physician, or the families themselves may contact the clinic directly for an appointment. All children will be taught about the nature of asthma, avoidance of triggers, and the proper use of their medications through age appropriate activities. Children between the ages of 5 and 18 will receive pulmonary function testing in addition to the teaching. The results of the pulmonary function tests will be interpreted by the paediatric respirologist and forwarded to the family physician. It has been demonstrated that pulmonary function testing is important in assisting physicians to assess severity of asthma. Accurate assessment of severity is in turn important in ensuring appropriately aggressive therapy.

At the end of the appointment, each child will receive an action plan to be used for asthma control. Action plans have been demonstrated to improve control and the Asthma in Canada Survey again demonstrated how few patients with asthma have an action plan. Any concerns found during the appointment will be addressed by letter to the family physician along with any recommendations that may help to improve the child’s baseline asthma control. The families will be encouraged to make a follow-up appointment with their family doctor to go over their test results and for routine follow-up appointment with their family doctor to go over their test results and for routine follow-up. Since patients who attend the Education centre only do not see a Paediatric Respirologist or another physician, the recommendations of the Family Physician are followed and patients who present to clinic and are found to be acutely, sick will be seen in the Paediatric Emergency Unit at Royal University Hospital.

We are confident that with proper and necessary education, these children can help reduce symptoms in response to their individual
triggers, and can control their symptoms once they occur. Children with asthma deserve and should be able to live normal, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

Dr. A.K. Ramlall

1 Glaxo Wellcome Inc., Asthma in Canada: A Landmark Survey, 2000

SASKATCHEWAN WELCOMES RESPIRATORY THERAPY STUDENTS

Historically, the Government of Saskatchewan has provided financial aid to certain Saskatchewan residents who have shown the interest, capabilities and potential to attend the Respiratory Therapy training program at either the Northern or Southern Alberta Institutes of Technology (NAIT in Edmonton and SAIT in Calgary). A program has not been available here in Saskatchewan but the need for qualified Registered Respiratory Therapists continues to be a concern in our province. Over the years, Saskatchewan’s bursary program has helped fulfill this need of RRTs by assisting with some of the costs for these individuals to reside in Alberta during their training. In return, graduates agree to work in certain areas of Saskatchewan for a two year period.

Very recently, some of these therapists in training are now able to complete their third and final year of training right here in their home province, thanks to the hard work of, Malcolm Grist and Brent Kitchen, Managers of Cardio-

-Doug Ellingson
The Saskatchewan Thoracic Society presents the

2003 Professional Education Day
& Annual General Meeting

Saturday, November 15, 2003
Western Development Museum
Saskatchewan Hall
Saskatoon, SK

We are pleased to welcome this year’s Ferguson Lecturer:

Dr. Thomas Marrie
Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine
at the University of Alberta.

Ferguson Lecture:
“Community Acquired Pneumonia”

Registration fees are as follows (fee includes light breakfast & lunch):

$20.00 (STS Member)       $40.00 (Non-Member)

Registration with payment will be accepted until November 1, 2003
by the Lung Association office.
For more information or TO REGISTER, please call Angie or Lori at 343-9511
(in Saskatoon), or 1-800-667-LUNG, email to angie.favel@sk.lung.ca
This newsletter has been made possible in part by the support of the following sponsors

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AstraZeneca is also a sponsor of the Saskatchewan Thoracic Society 2003 Professional Education Day & Annual General Meeting

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A continuous flow oxygen concentrator with unlimited ambulatory oxygen supply, promotes:
- Enhanced patient quality of life
- Gives patients control of their own lives
- Patients fill their own portable cylinders according to their own needs (Fill cylinders in about one hour and enjoy greater than five hours of ambulatory time)
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- Light-weight 'Patient Convenient Pack; allows patients to ‘get up and go’ as often as they like (using advanced pneumatic conserving technology, no batteries or cumbersome connection lines)
Who is VitalAire?

- Over 30 years experience helping people with respiratory problems.
- National Accreditation for Respiratory Home Care Standards with the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA), which assures excellence in respiratory assessment and patient care.
- Over 70 offices in Canada, located coast-to-coast.
- Over 200 Respiratory healthcare professionals.
- On call for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- We work closely with the medical community and provide professional programs for Physicians and Respiratory Therapists as well as educational courses for patients using home oxygen.
- We are in partnership with the Lung Association and participate with education, newsletters, therapy updates and lifestyle assistance.
AsthmaTrec® (the Asthma Training and Educator Course) is a professional development program of the Lung Association. It is designed to train health care professionals in the skills and knowledge necessary to become effective asthma educators. AsthmaTrec® has been approved for 19.5 CEUs by CCCEP and 60 Category II Credits by CSRT.

The workshop fee is $650 per participant. Workshop size is limited to 12 participants. It is mandatory to register 6-8 weeks prior to the workshop.

For more information, please contact the Lung Association office at 343-9511 (Saskatoon) or 1-800-667-LUNG for out-of-town callers. You can also visit our website at www.sk.lung.ca/asthmatrec.