



ANZSRS

Australian and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science Ltd
www.anzsrs.org.au

Laboratory accreditation and quality update

Welcome to this update on activities overseen by the Thoracic Society's Laboratory Accreditation and Quality committee. This will be the first in a series of updates over the course of the year keeping members of both TSANZ and ANZSRS informed of the latest information.

We must begin by warmly congratulating Professor John Wheatley, Deputy Chair of the LAQC for being awarded the 2022 TSANZ Society Medal. The TSANZ Society Medal acknowledges excellence in advancing of the practice of thoracic medicine in its widest sense. John's clinical and research achievements are known to all. However, it was his enduring contribution to the development, maintenance, and support of the laboratory accreditation programs for both Sleep and Respiratory Function Laboratories and his overall drive to improve the quality of the diagnostic services, physiology teaching and professional standing of this arm of respiratory medicine that he was conferred this award.

John pioneered the development and implementation of the accreditation standards for both Sleep and Respiratory Laboratories and has generously invested his time to upskill members in physiology and accreditation practices. With the TSANZ Laboratory Accreditation program now servicing more than 50 respiratory laboratories and having attracted interest and recognition by professional bodies across the globe, this work has had far-reaching impact in advancing respiratory physiology in Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

Congratulations also go to the respiratory laboratory services that have been accredited or re-accredited in 2021 and to the Gold Coast University Hospital and its branch service at Robina Hospital for having their laboratory services accredited in March. Our thanks also to the panel members for their thoughtful contributions in reviewing the service. We currently have 24 respiratory services in various stages of the laboratory accreditation process with over 52 panel members working to review the details of these laboratories and we look forward to celebrating these future accreditation and re-accreditation successes!

The impact of the pandemic on our ability to manage the accreditation process has been significant and we extend our humble thanks to all those involved for working with the TSANZ Office, the LAQC and the respective panels and services to help the program stay on track. We acknowledge that in some cases the process is well beyond our stated objectives. We have now successfully implemented virtual site visits and we will continue to evolve and refine this option and as we exit from pandemic settings, we hope this will make engaging with laboratory panels more inclusive by limiting the need to travel for some members, particularly those with family responsibilities.

We always welcome expressions of interest from suitably qualified TSANZ and ANZSRS members to register as a laboratory accreditation panel member. Those who are interested can contact [Max Campbell](#) to receive and lodge their applications. For those who have been accepted as panel members and wish to complete their induction training, we now

have virtual training webinars which can be accessed on demand. Please contact [Max Campbell](#) to register and gain access to this training. All panel members must complete this training before they can be assigned to a panel.

For those with an interest in face-to-face accreditation training and the opportunity to get the latest updates in respiratory testing guidelines, the TSANZSRS Educational Hub in October is the perfect opportunity to get the latest physiological updates and to catch up with friends and colleagues. We encourage all members to consider attending the Hub and you can see all the details [here](#).

We are pleased to see the release of the updated TSANZ Standards for the delivery of spirometry for resource sector workers and the Standards for Spirometry Training courses and you can access these documents [here](#). Developed in partnership with Resources Safety & Health Queensland these companion standards apply to the resources sector in both Australia and New Zealand but are of critical importance in Queensland with its legislated mine health safety program.

Finally, we are excited to announce that TSANZ is recruiting a [Clinical Quality Officer](#). This role will be responsible for developing and implementing a community spirometry clinical quality program that includes the accreditation of community spirometry services, endorsement of community spirometry training programs and certification of spirometry competency. This will represent the next evolution of the laboratory accreditation program and be a joint initiative of TSANZ and ANZSRS. We encourage members to consider applying or to share with their networks. If you are interested in this role please contact the TSANZ CEO, [Dr Graham Hall](#)

Warm regards
Dr Sonya Johnston
Chair, TSANZ LAQC

12 May 2022