

THE RESPIRATORY TRACT



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2011 VOL. 31 ISSUE 62



HOLIDAY EDITION



Give the Gift...

To those that give the most of themselves to others!

AARC
Membership Voucher

The ISRC has Purchased Discount AARC Membership Vouchers for Therapists in Illinois. Join the AARC for just \$70.00 (a savings of \$32.50 off the regular price of \$102.50)

To renew your membership for just \$70.00 go to:
www.isrc.org/membership.html

Visit ISRC
Online: isrc.org

The current legislative report has been posted to the ISRC Forum at:
www.isrc.org/isrcbb/viewforum.php?f=8

ISRC Main Office: www.isrc.org Update your address online at www.idfpr.com

INSIDE:

President's Desk	p. 2
Healthcare in Transition	p. 4
Respiratory Care Week	p. 5
"Breath of Life"	p. 6

THE INSIDE TRACT:

News and Upcoming Events

Chapter 2: SAVE-THE-DATES:

Adult Critical Care Seminar

Saturday, March, 31, 2012

Pulmonary Diagnostics Seminar

August 2012 specific date TBD.

Neonatal / Pediatric Seminar

Saturday, October 20, 2012

Please watch the ISRC web page for more information regarding our 2012 seminars in Chapter 2.

The State of Illinois has issued the Respiratory Care Week Proclamation.

It can be viewed and downloaded at isrc.org/isrcbb/viewtopic.php?f=8&t=240

If you have any events or news...

Please consider posting at:

isrc.org/isrcbb/viewforum.php?f=26

Reminder: You must be registered to post information to the forum. Forward to Craig Leonard at cleonard@isrc.org

Student "Corner"

Students: Begin to prepare for the Betty Pendgraft Poster Contest to be held at the Annual ISRC Convention in June, 2012. If you have questions, please e-mail k Crawford Jones@icc.edu

Visit aarc.org and isrc.org for the latest information on upcoming events and educational offerings.

Visit ISRC.org for AARC Membership at Reduced Rates!



Reflections from Tampa

I had, for the first time, the opportunity to attend the AARC conference, and of course represent the State of Illinois

Curtis Kretschmer | BS, RRT-RCP | ckretschmer@isrc.org

This years AARC conference was particularly exciting as I was asked to speak. My lecture was on precepting which I may re-present at our state conference in a few months.

The AARC attracts some of the greatest minds in the field. Certainly, there were the requisite sharings of Dean Hess, Neil MacIntyre and Robert Kacmarek. I listened to many a great speaker of somewhat lesser renown, including Bill Lamb, Jay Johannigman and Bruce Rubin who were accompanied by dozens of other talented and insightful presenters. And then, of course there were many newcomers like me realizing our first offering before the alter of phlegm. Nearly every talk was worthwhile, and I felt that the AARC did a good job of selecting topics that were of current utility. Gratefully, many of the presenters are adopting an audience participation format. They are opening up their time for discussion and questions mid presentation which helped keep the audience involved.

The great minds of the future were on display in the student section of the annual sputum bowl. I made sure to take in a few rounds of our Illinois' student team foray into international competition. I say international as it was an "international congress", but I don't honestly know if there were any out of country teams. The Illinois team did fairly well. They won two and lost two. California swept the student and professional division.

I like to seek out the creative contraptions in the vendor hall. I brought home a couple of items for evaluation.

My favorite was a yankauer suction "holster". Off to the side of the vendor hall (the cheap seats) was a middle aged lady dressed up in a cowboy costume with orange plastic cuplike holsters strapped to each side of her belt. She proceeded to inform me of the product she had developed. It was a suction catheter holder that could be strapped to bedsides as a hygienic receptacle for the ever present tonsil tip suction catheter. Turns out this lady is an anesthesiologist, and saw the need for an invention, and invented it. No longer need we tuck them under pillows, or dangle them from the nearest IV pole. Now don't go thinking that this is an endorsement for her product. I just thought it was great that someone was using their noggin and creative juices to come up with a pretty great product.

My other favorite tool was a little oral device that purports to greatly ease the act of oral tracheal suctioning. It acts as its own bite block and reminded me a little of an LMA with a port for introducing up to a 14 French suction catheter. Again, the "inventor" was the guy in the booth hawking his wares. It made me smile. "Good for you!" I thought, make your millions.

These are just two examples of folks building a better mouse trap. All of us have probably wondered at one point or another if there isn't a better way or a better tool to perform the daily tasks of our profession. I work with a fella that is a legend in St. Louis respiratory care. His name is Willie Moore, and if you attended a respiratory school in the past 30 years, in St Louis MO, chances are you were taught by him at some point.



I recall an emergency situation that arose many years ago, in which a contractor came in on a Saturday morning to get some work done. He misread the blue prints and proceeded to cut through the wrong area of concrete, severing the hospital's main oxygen line. Two hours, and probably a hundred phone calls later, thirty respiratory therapists were either hectically transporting oxygen cylinders from local suppliers and hospitals, while other therapists emergently bagged some 25 intubated babies and pediatric ICU patients for lack of oxygen to use with the ventilators. Willie stepped foot into this chaos, accessed the situation and within moments dismissed himself into the storeroom. He came out with a simple fix. He rigged up an H tank to some high pressure hose with a quick connect. By closing the zone valve to the ICU and plugging the H-tank into the wall he reverse pressurized the entire unit with a single twist of the cylinder. It was a common sense act that most any of us might have thought of if we had taken the time to do so. But experience, creativity and ingenuity made everyone's life a lot easier that day. The facility has since rigged up a piped in bank of H tanks for use if the situation were to ever happen again.

So now Willie has a gotten a patent on a "stethoscope wrap." He has been working on this ever since I have known him. Basically, he took some spiral colored plastic wire wrap, cut it to size and markets it as a means of personalizing your stethoscope with a colorful plastic

enhancement. He claims it is also effective in reducing "stethoscope scoliosis." I see them all over St. Louis. For years he gave them away. I love the fact that Willie is now marketing his product. I hope he sells a million of them. Not because it is going to change the world of respiratory care, but because it is one of our own, using some ingenuity to make a product that some people might really appreciate.

What great idea do you have? Is there a better way of performing respiratory care treatment modalities? There is a lot of room for studies to be done. Have you ever gone to the AARC website to review the evidence based clinical practice guidelines. It is a pretty short read. See for yourself at www.rcjournal.com/cpgs/index.cfm There are only two of them. Everything else is a CPG based on expert opinion and tradition. So go for it! Conduct a study. Create a new device. Use your creativity Illinois. Maybe the next Forrest Bird is among our ranks.

Again, I am not using this article to endorse or imply endorsement of any particular product. But I would never discourage any of the therapists in my state from seeking a better way to do what we do. So keep thinking up new stuff. About the best I can do is T-shirt quotes. How about this one? Pediatric Respiratory Care: *We fix little wheezers*

Curtis Kretschmer
ISRC President and future ingenious creative millionaire



THE RESPIRATORY TRACT

Official Publication of the ISRC
 Published by the
 Illinois Society for Respiratory Care

Affiliate of the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
 FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

Publication Design
 Streamline Communications
 708-334-9227

THE RESPIRATORY TRACT is published bimonthly. The closing date for editorial and advertising printed materials is the tenth day of the preceding month of each issue.

The Respiratory Tract will accept all manuscripts for review. Once published, the article becomes the property of ISRC and may not be published elsewhere without the permission of both author and editor. Opinions expressed by authors are not necessarily those of ISRC. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and space.

Circulation: All members of the ISRC receive the TRACT. It is also circulated to RC department directors in Illinois. Annual subscriptions: \$12.00. Change of address notices should be sent to the ISRC Office, P.O. Box 10261, Springfield, IL 62791. Include name changes as well as both old and new addresses.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Craig Leonard *cleonard@isrc.org*
 Wade Jones *wjones@isrc.org*

MEDICAL ADVISORS:

Sherif Afifi, MD
 Dennis Kellar, MD
 Frank Paul, DO
 Anas Nahhas, MD

Healthcare... *in transition*

By Patti Baltisberger RRT, Director of Cardiopulmonary Pekin Hospital



Patti Baltisberger
RRT

The current healthcare mandates and quality measures make every day in a health care providers life transitional. With the government's plan of "meaningful use" and the electronic health record, the way we chart and charge our therapies changes like a living organism. All of a patient's record must be in one certified electronic record accessible by his care givers for consistent and quality patient care. We all agree that patient care remains our top priority and we compete for the best quality scores and practices. Nationwide a patient can compare hospitals HCAHPS (Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems) scores, core measures and patient satisfaction with a few clicks on the internet.

Quality and Safety Measures

Managers are sent their departments scores and are required to keep Quality studies. Committees are formed to make action plans to improve all these measures. Top performing hospitals are advertising their Joint Commission scores and patient satisfaction by all media sources.

How does this affect Respiratory Therapists daily activities? When an RT pulls a medication from the electronic cabinet the time is recorded, and when it's charted in the Medication Administration record as being given, there is a time recorded there as well. Bar code scanning of medications and patient ID bracelets is a safety measure, as is asking the patient the Joint Commission required two identifiers. There are overrides, and ways to work around the system, but late entries or reasons for not scanning can be noted on reports run from these systems. None of these practices are in place for reduced time or ease of workflow, but as quality and safety measures. These are practices that are reviewed.

We all know that during the best planned day, emergencies are going to come up and there will be hours spent in the Emergency Room, NICU, responding to Rapid Response calls; equipment failure and the dreaded computer downtime!

LESSONS LEARNED:

Lesson 1 Documentation is key. All treatments, therapies and meds given must be documented with the appropriate vital signs and responses. Not giving the treatment must also be documented. If already charting in an electronic chart, have a backup computer downtime process.

Lesson 2 Medication Administration and this documentation must be done according to your hospital's policies. A scheduled medication must be given within a certain timeframe so it is not considered an early or late dose.

Lesson 3 Expect change and accept change. You are not alone; every hospital is in transition of some kind. Make it easier on yourself and your coworkers to learn the new process and teach others.

Lesson 4 Never let the patient know you are frustrated, and always make them feel as if they are the most important part of your day.

Lesson 5 Realize that all of the new electronics come with reports that can be run for quality checks. Any "work arounds" can show up as red flags. Don't let your practices bring your departments quality numbers down.

Be proud of your profession and continue to grow with the changes, it makes you more valuable to your organization.

Respiratory Care Week:

Celebrated in a big way at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital

Respiratory Care Week is always celebrated in a big way at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital. This is a time in which all Respiratory Care Practitioners are recognized for their commitment and dedication to the field of respiratory care. We started the week of festivities with a pot-luck dinner for each shift, followed by games, food, educational inservices, prizes throughout the week, and ending with an ice-cream social on Friday. Teamwork is an important part of working here at Hope and teamwork is also part of the fun.

In preparation for this week, RCPs voted for a Therapist-of-the-Year and a Physician-of-the-Year, to be recognized during the celebrations. These awards are to incorporate and recognize our systemwide mission and values: Compassion, Equality, Excellence, Partnership, and Stewardship. For 2011, the Pediatric RCPs proudly recognized Kathryn O'Callaghan RRT-NPS-AEC-ECMO specialist. Kathy has been an RCP at Advocate Hope Children's Hospital for over 20 years and serves as an active member of our department's Unit Practice Council.

Our Physician of the Year was awarded to Dr. Scott Altman. Dr. Altman received recognition by the respiratory care team for his ongoing support

and contributions in our Pediatric Emergency Department. Both Kathy and Dr. Altman are tremendous assets for not only our patients and families, but also to the entire respiratory care team.

In addition, the Pediatric RCPs collected new and gently used children's books to be used in waiting rooms throughout Advocate Hope Children's Hospital. Also, a military care package was created by the Pediatric RCPs for a coworker's son, who is stationed as in Afghanistan. It is our hope that the care package is delivered to our special Marine in time for Christmas.

Now that the celebrations are completed, it's time to start working on our next year's planning.

We Invite You to...

SHOWCASE YOUR POSTER

You have put in your hard labor, now share the rewards of your work with your colleagues at the 2012 ISRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION. If you have submitted an abstract related to Respiratory Care to a professional organization, we invite you to showcase your poster during the OPEN FORUM professional poster presentation.

THE DATES FOR THE CONFERENCE ARE MAY 30 – JUNE 1, 2012

For more information on how to prepare a professional abstract /poster presentation visit aarc.org and search for poster presentations



Any questions relating to poster submissions and rules for display should be directed to cleonard@isrc.org

“Breath of Life”

Brookfield Zoo Tree Decorating Recognizes ISRC



By Trina Schuch, ISRC Chapter 2 (chair)

Respiratory Care Practitioners from around the greater Chicagoland area met at Brookfield Zoo with families and friends to decorate the “Breath of Life” tree and recognize the Illinois Society for Respiratory Care. Located on the EAST plaza, community tree #146 was adorned by ornaments created and represented by many Chapter 2 hospitals. Several ornaments were actually created using disposable respiratory care supplies.

This event is just one of several to promote and recognize the Respiratory Care Practitioners commitment and dedication in Chapter 2. It is our plan for 2012 to provide not only educational opportunities in Chapter 2, but also some fun social event activities.



2011 Illinois Sputum Bowl Team from Rush University

After winning the ISRC Sputum Bowl Competition in June 2011, four students from the Rush University Respiratory Care Program were chosen to represent the state of Illinois in the **2011 AARC Sputum Bowl Competition** in Tampa Bay, FL. The ISRC and Rush University Respiratory Care Program wished them the best of luck!



Pia Marilim, Shaun Pan, Meg Dubosky, Archana Patel



The American Lung Association's Fight for Air 5k Walk was a great success! On October 2, 2011, Rush University's Respiratory Care students, faculty, and their friends and family volunteered and participated at the event. As a team, they raised over \$2,000. With their help, the event raised over \$62,000 to fund various American Lung Association Programs.

Can't keep it all to yourself?

We don't want you too!

Let others hear what you have to say.

Would you, (or someone you know) like to present a lecture at the 2012 ISRC Annual Conference and Exhibition?

We are now accepting proposals for dynamic presenters to speak at the conference. Conference dates are May 30 to June 1, 2012 at the Drury Lane Conference Center, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois.

The deadline for the speaker proposal is 6:00 pm, Jan 13, 2012

GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

All submissions and questions should be directed to Craig Leonard at cleonard@isrc.org

CARTOONIST WANTED

Can you express yourself in art?

The Editorial board of the ISRC RESPIRATORY TRACT is seeking a cartoonist to add a touch of art expression to the newsletter. The publication is printed 6 times a year. All cartoons will be subject to professional ethics and cultural sensitivity. Sorry but we cannot accept copy written material. Preference is given to originality and its reference to the respiratory care profession

BEST OF ALL... THERE IS A PRIZE!

(In fact there are 3 prizes)

The cartoons accepted will be printed in future publications of Respiratory Tract. All cartoons submitted and printed throughout the year will be entered into a contest at the years end and voted upon by members of the ISRC. The GRAND PRIZE is a single day registration at the 2013 ISRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Two runner-ups will receive a voucher to pay for a full year of membership to the AARC.

Email all inquiries and cartoons to Craig Leonard at cleonard@isrc.org.



THE RESPIRATORY TRACT

PO Box 10261
Springfield, IL 62791

THE RESPIRATORY TRACT WANTS YOU!

Visit the ISRC Web site for education opportunities and news at www.isrc.org



Get on the Inside TRACT

The TRACT reaches a targeted audience of more than 1,800 involved and active readers. To submit your news article or to advertise in the next issue of the TRACT, contact Craig Leonard or Wade Jones.

For More Information email Craig Leonard: cleanard@isrc.org
or Wade Jones: wjones@isrc.org

SUBMISSION DATES News & Advertisements are due 30 days prior to publication.

Jan/Feb 2012 Issue: Submit by December 5, 2011

May/June 2012 Issue: Submit by April 5, 2012

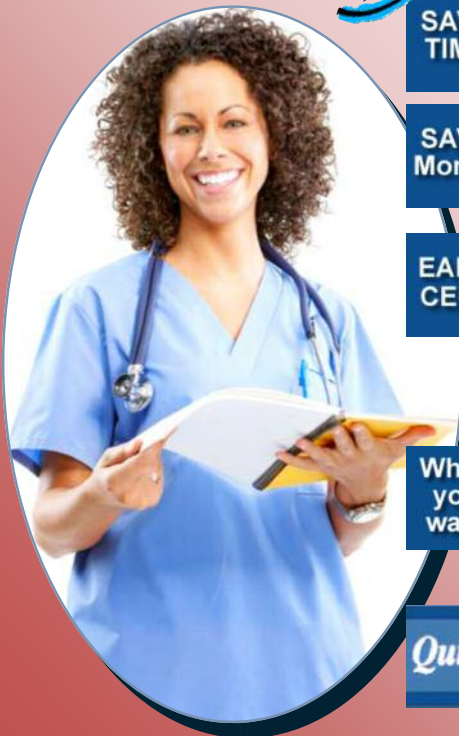
March/April 2012 Issue: Submit by February 5, 2012

July/Aug 2012 Issue: Submit by June 5, 2012



Need CEUs?

You can get **ALL** your requirements from us.



SAVE TIME

Earn CE credits anytime anywhere without travel expenses or hassle.

SAVE Money

Our prices are the best in the industry and have not increased since 1996.

EARN CEUs

Courses are approved for national and Illinois CE credits. National accreditations include



When you want

Take courses at your own pace, any time of the day or night.

Quick

Print your certificate immediately upon successful course completion. A valuable benefit if you're facing an imminent license renewal deadline.

We have the largest selection of home study courses available anywhere!

One stop shopping for continuing education and career advancement exclusively for healthcare professionals

Updated, state-of-the-art courses online, by email or delivered right to your door including:

- ◆ 80 courses in Respiratory Care
- ◆ 52 AAST approved courses in Sleep Studies*
- ◆ 10 courses in Home Care
- ◆ 29 courses in Diversity Issues
- ◆ 34 courses in JCAHO recommended and OSHA required topics
- ◆ Plus courses in Nursing and General Healthcare

NOTICE

* Sleep CECs are no longer limited by category. To recertify you must simply earn 50 CECs over the course of 5 years.



Institute for Continuing Education
8176 Center Street #A
La Mesa, CA 91942

Toll Free (800) 990-2377

inform@ceu.org

www.ceu.org