

Issue 4, 2007 (December)

Important Dates to Remember

OSRC Board Meeting – January 17, 2008
 OSRC Board Meeting – February 21, 2008
 Leaping Forward in Respiratory Care – Feb 28, 2008
 PACT Capitol Hill Day – March 9-11, 2008
 OSRC Board Meeting – March 20, 2008
 OSRC State Seminar – June 11-13, 2008

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OSRC Website Redesigned

The OSRC has launched an updated and redesigned website. Be sure to visit and check out the new features, including:

- Updated new page
- Calendar of events
- Contact information and photos of OSRC officers
- Listing of all Oklahoma RCP schools
- Legislative information
- OSRC Bylaws
- Sign-up for e-mail updates
- And more!

New features are planned for the near future, including job postings, electronic version of the OSRC Newsletter, brochures and registration for upcoming events, and much more. Our website address is the same:

www.okrespiratorycare.org – so take a moment to check us out online, and be sure to sign up to receive regular updates from the OSRC via e-mail.

New Officers Elected

The votes are in, and the new officers for 2008 were announced at the OSRC Fall Seminar held at Integris Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City on October 19:

President-elect:	Betty Fisher
Vice President:	Wendy Lawson
Secretary:	Lester Cash
Treasurer:	Jim Porterfield
Audit Committee Chair:	Kathe Rowe
Delegate:	Lezli Heyland



The new officers were sworn in at the seminar. Be sure to check the OSRC Website for full listing and contact information for all the officers.

RC Week Celebrated

Respiratory Care Week was observed October 21-27. Respiratory therapists across the state celebrated in various ways.

Respiratory Care students at Rose State College gave smoking education to students, staff and Midwest City residents during Respiratory Care Week 2007. Student teams used pig lungs, handouts, American Lung Association bracelets and pamphlets, posters and model stoves to provide smoking cessation education. Free lung function tests were provided to those who signed up. The students were complimented by staff and residents of the fine service they provided.

Hospitals across the state featured games, contests, meals, and educational activities to observe RC Week.

Respiratory Care Week was established in 1982 and is celebrated annually on the last full week in October. In conjunction with this event, Lung Health Day is observed on Wednesday of RC Week in order to bring lung health issues to the attention of the public. So mark your calendars for October 19-25, 2008, for next year's RC Week!

Delegates Report

OSRC Delegates Karen Hart and Karen Gregory attended the House of Delegates meeting, held in Orlando just prior to this year's National Congress. Among the topics discussed was the AARC's Project 2015 and Beyond.

The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) is visionary! The AARC is developing three conferences for the purpose of: 1) identifying future roles for respiratory therapists in 2015 and beyond; 2) the second

conference will address education preparation and competency documentation issues for respiratory therapist 2015 and beyond; 3) the third conference will build upon the previous two meetings focusing primarily on developing a practical transition from the current infrastructure to what will be needed to prepare RTs practicing in 2015 and beyond. Some of the strategic topics include current status of the health care system, respiratory care within the health care system, demand factors impacting responsibility of RTs, special considerations including military and public health, what should RTs be doing in the future, projected required knowledge, skill and attributes for RTs. There are numerous invited stakeholders including the American Lung Association, American Respiratory Care Foundation, Center for Disease Control, and the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

PACT Update

The Political Advocacy Contact Team, or PACT, is a team of more than 80 respiratory therapists from across the nation who are the backbone of the AARC's advocacy efforts. Your PACT representatives from Oklahoma are Jacki McAffrey and Karen Gregory. Please note the following legislative items:



HR3968 Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

needs to become reality! **WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!** The Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative Act of 2007 was introduced in October, 2007 by Congressman Mike Ross of Arkansas. HR3968 will revise the Medicare statute that regulates the medical and other health services benefit. The revision will permit respiratory therapists with the RRT credential and a bachelor's degree to deliver respiratory care services without the physician being physically present while services are administered. The physician would be required to be in close proximity but not present. Medicare currently allows physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists the privilege of working under general physician supervision. This bill will not infringe upon respiratory care practitioners who are currently working in physician offices or other sites and who do not meet credential or educational criteria. If passed, this bill will enhance patient access, patient care and encourage respiratory care practitioners to seek advanced credentials. Please contact your Congressman or Congresswoman to support this bill.

Oklahoma 5 for 5. We need to update our Oklahoma 5 for 5 records. If you are working or want to work on the Oklahoma 5 for 5 Plan, please e-mail your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and the name of your

district legislators (if you do not know it, we can look it up) to Karen Gregory at kgregory@oklahomaallergy.com before Thursday, January 31, 2008. We have 5 respiratory therapists in each of our 5 Oklahoma districts who contact their legislators with information about respiratory care bills and legislative issues. It is a great opportunity to promote respiratory care! It's fun, too!

2008 PACT Capitol Hill Lobby Day is March 9-11, 2008. Oklahoma PACT, Jacki McAffrey, RRT, Ken McAffrey, CRT and Karen Gregory, APRN-BC, RRT, AE-C, will be traveling to Washington, DC, to visit our two Oklahoma Senators and five House Representatives to discuss our respiratory bills and promote our respiratory care profession.

News from the Oklahoma Medical Board

All individuals licensed by the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure & Supervision (including respiratory care practitioners) are required to fill out an Affidavit of Legal Status. Please visit the Board's website, www.okmedicalboard.org to download the form.

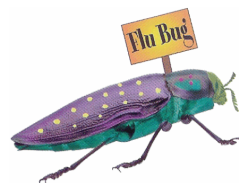
The Respiratory Care Advisory Committee has announced meeting dates for 2008: February 7, May 8, September 4, and October 23. The meetings are open to the public.

“Leaping Forward in Respiratory Care”: A One-Day Seminar at OU Medical Center

A single day RC Seminar will be held on February 28, 2008 at the Vose Auditorium in the Presbyterian Tower of OU Medical Center. The cost will be \$50, and attendees can earn 5 CEUs. For more information, contact Petrina Nesbitt at (405) 271-8001 ext 37789 or petrina.nesbitt@hcahealthcare.com. Additional information will be posted on the OSRC Website when it becomes available.



CDC Recommends Flu Shots



All health care personnel should be vaccinated to protect themselves from getting influenza and to prevent transmission of influenza to their patients, coworkers, family members, and close contacts. Vaccination can also prevent persons at high risk of complications from developing severe influenza-related illness and death.

Recent standards have been published requiring that health care organizations offer influenza vaccination to personnel including volunteers and licensed independent contractors with close patient contact. The level of vaccination among health care personnel is recommended as a measure of quality for quality improvement programs and implementation of policies is recommended to encourage health care personnel vaccination (e.g., obtaining signed statements from personnel who decline influenza vaccination).

For more information on the flu and flu vaccination, visit:

www.health.state.ok.us/program/cdd/flu/index.html
www.cdc.gov/Features/FluPrevention/

Baccalaureate Tract for Respiratory Therapy Students at Rose State College

Rose State College Respiratory Therapy students now have a baccalaureate degree tract. The college signed a transfer agreement with the University of Central Oklahoma for Associate in Applied Science Degree in Respiratory Therapist Science and Bachelor of Science in General Studies. This degree opportunity will be available in the future, current and past graduates of Rose State College Respiratory Therapist Program. This is an exciting opportunity for therapists in the state of Oklahoma.

For more information, contact Wendy Lawson at wlawson@rose.edu or (405) 733-7572.

OSU Campus goes Tobacco-Free

(STILLWATER, OK-NOV. 9, 2007)
 Here's a smoke signal: harmful effects from smoking account for approximately one in five deaths each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

OSU's decision to go tobacco free July 1, 2008, as part of an effort to become the healthiest campus in America has prompted the Seretean Wellness Center to expand cessation assistance to students, faculty and staff. Building on the momentum of recent programs and service enhancements funded with a \$500,000 grant from the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust, the center helped lead the Stillwater campus in observing the 33rd annual Great American Smokeout on Nov. 15.

Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the smokeout is held the third Thursday in November and

encourages smokers to quit for the day and, hopefully, forever, according to Robin Purdie, Seretean Wellness Center director.

"The Great American Smokeout gives smokers a day to quit when they know other people from all over the nation will be joining them," Purdie said. "Support is essential for an individual to quit smoking, and we help provide that here at OSU."

Before the smokeout, a Share the W.E.A.L.T.H. (Wellness Educators Advocating Lifestyles Toward Health) booth was set up Nov. 13 and 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the OSU Student Union. The peer health education team distributed "cold turkey" sandwiches and free "Help You Quit Smoking" packets containing toothpicks, gum, rubber bands, and mints as well as educational information.

Efforts to actively support the 2007 smokeout followed a program the Seretean Wellness Center recently hosted on campus featuring tobacco whistleblower Victor DeNoble.



As a scientist formerly employed by Philip Morris, DeNoble detailed big tobacco's long time deception of the public and efforts to exploit addiction to maintain multi-billion-dollar sales of cigarettes, the world's deadliest consumer product.

Educational programs like DeNoble's eye-opening presentation and support of the smokeout are part of the growing effort to assist tobacco users at OSU, according to Yvon Fils-Aime, tobacco health educator who recently joined the Seretean Wellness Center staff.

"Our goal is to help the maximum number of people who want to quit," Fils-Aime said. "We're here to help fight the habit with education, medical assistance and support."

For more information on smoking cessation assistance, visit www.health.state.ok.us/program/tobacco/ or contact the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

OSRC State Seminar
 June 11-13, 2008
 Plan now to attend!



Season's Greetings
 from the OSRC!



OSRC Officers and Chairpersons (as of January 1, 2008)

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