

Issue 1, 2008 (March)

Important Dates to Remember

Kick Butts Day – April 2, 2008
 OSRC Board Meeting – April 17, 2008
 Heart Walk – April 19, 2008
 World Asthma Day – May 6, 2008
 Asthma Walk – May 10 & 31, 2008
 OSRC Board Meeting – May 15, 2008
 OSRC State Seminar – June 11-13, 2008
 AARC Summer Forum – July 11-13, 2008

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Sputum Bowl Contestants Wanted

The board of Directors has approved the funds to cover hotel and registration for one lucky sputum bowl team to attend the National Seminar. Sputum Bowl tryouts will be held during the Summer Seminar in June. One may enter as a team or as an individual contestant. The individual contestant entries will be placed on a team at random with other individual contestant entries. Team entries must consist of 3-4 contestants. Contestants may be students or therapists, but *must* be members of the AARC. For more information contact Wendy Lawson at wlawson@rose.edu or (405) 733-7572.



OSRC State Seminar set for June

The annual OSRC Conference will be held June 11-13 at the Reed Conference Center, adjacent to the Sheraton Hotel in Midwest City, OK (Oklahoma City area, near Tinker Air Force Base). A great program is in store for those who attend. We will have excellent speakers, vendors exhibit with the latest respiratory technology, nominations for 2009 officers, and much more! Mark your calendars and plan now on attending. Watch your

mailboxes for program and registration info. The brochure and registration form will also be posted on the OSRC website when they become available.

Kick some Butt! Celebrate Kick Butts Day

Sponsored by www.tobaccofreekids.org, April 2, 2008, is Kick Butts Day. It's a day for youth to stand out, speak up, and seize control in the fight against tobacco. How? By raising awareness about tobacco—how it harms our health and how Big Tobacco targets kids—and supporting strong tobacco control policies. Want to learn more? Visit: www.kickbuttsday.org

New Feature Added to OSRC Website

Are you in need of CEUs? A new page on the OSRC Website lists upcoming opportunities for continuing education. Included are events within the state of Oklahoma, surrounding states, and nationwide events such as the AARC Summer Forum and National Congress. Also included on this page are links to sites which provide online and self-study CEUs. To find this page, visit the OSRC website at www.okrespiratorycare.org and click "CEU Opportunities" on the main menu bar on the left side of the page. While you're there, be sure to sign up to receive e-mail news and alerts from the OSRC!



Committee Members Needed

An Event Planning Committee is getting started for the planning of these seminars and educational events for 2008-2009. The committee will meet on one Thursday evening a month at a location TBA. If you are interested in volunteering for the Event Planning Committee please contact Wendy Lawson at wlawson@rose.edu or (405) 733-7572.

Francis Tuttle offers CRT to RRT Online!

The CRT to RRT track is perfect for you if you are looking to transition from a current CRT credential to the RRT Advanced Practitioner credential. Francis Tuttle and Oklahoma City Community College have joined forces to offer CRT to RRT training online. Designed for currently working CRT's, this track offers the opportunity to complete courses in as little as 2 visits

to campus per month. Classes will be in the format of online instructions supplemented with skills performance and testing at Francis Tuttle and clinical rotation sites at area hospitals. Students are eligible for experiential learning credit based upon assessment of current knowledge and job skills. Openings occur monthly. For more information, contact Lezli Heyland at (405) 717-4269 or visit: www.francistuttle.com/oc/classes/ctp/RespCareOL

Blow the Whistle on Asthma!

The month of May this year brings a special opportunity for asthma awareness. Asthma isn't always obvious; you can't see asthma but you can count its devastating effects in the United States. Asthma is responsible for over 12.8 million lost school days in children and more than 10.1 million lost work days for adults. Even more frightening is the fact that asthma can be fatal; nearly 4,000 deaths are attributed to asthma annually. The economic cost of asthma is staggering—over \$19.7 billion dollars is spent annually. We need your help to make an impact in the fight against asthma.

May 6- World Asthma Day

World Asthma Day, first celebrated in 1998, is an annual event organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. World Asthma Day 2008 will take place on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. The theme of this year's event will be "You Can Control Your Asthma." For resources, activity planning, and more information please visit www.ginasthma.com/WADIndex.asp

May 10 & May 31- Asthma Walk

The American Lung Association® can give you 22 million reasons why we need to "Blow the Whistle on Asthma" and why you should help fight the asthma epidemic and make an impact. More than 22 million Americans currently have asthma. You probably know someone who suffers from this chronic disease. It could be a family member, a young child, a co-worker, a neighbor or maybe even you. Asthma Walk is a nationwide effort to bring attention to this devastating illness. We know a lot about asthma, but there is so much we don't know. Your participation will raise the funds necessary to provide lifesaving education, research and advocacy so we can better control asthma and soon find a cure. Asthma Walk gives you the chance to get involved and help your loved ones breathe easier. Dates and locations:

Oklahoma City: Saturday 5/10/08 (Oklahoma City Zoo)

Tulsa: Saturday 5/31/08

For more information or to register, visit:

www.oklung.org

Interested in Becoming an Asthma Educator?



Certified Asthma Educators (AE-C) are credentialed through the National Asthma Educator Certification Board (www.naecb.org). If you are interested

in taking this exam, here are upcoming opportunities to take a review course:

Date & Location; Website for info

May 1: Lake of the Ozarks, MO

www.mosrc.com/conference_info.htm

July 13-14: Phoenix, AZ

www.aarc.org/education/meetings/summer_forum_08

Oct 11-12: Harrisburg, PA

www.aarc.org/education/meetings

Dec 11-12: Anaheim, CA

www.aarc.org/education/meetings/congress_08

2008 Start! Oklahoma City Metro Heart Walk

04/19/2008 8:30am-12:30pm
Location: Bricktown Ballpark
Oklahoma City, OK 73104



The Oklahoma City Metro Heart Walk is an annual noncompetitive, family-oriented walking event that raises critical funds for lifesaving research and education in our community. This event also promotes the benefits of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle to fight heart disease and stroke through Start!, our new walking campaign. Much of the money raised through the Heart Walk stays in our community.

Last year, donors enabled the American Heart Association to fund \$1,510,000 of research in our state, in addition to the many community programs in our area. This year, we anticipate over 100 companies and 10,000 walkers will step out to save lives.

Please join in fighting the number one and number three killers of Americans and Oklahomans—heart disease and stroke. Visit our Oklahoma City Heart Walk website today at www.okcheartwalk.org for more information and to register online.

Sponsors include: Midfirst Bank, Integris Hospital, Cox Communications, and Dell Computers. For more information contact:

Pat Brogan (405) 948-2123 patricia.brogan@heart.org

Or visit www.americanheart.org

Fall Seminar at Cherokee Casino & Resort

This year the Fall Seminar and Business meeting will be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the Cherokee Casino and

Resort on October 16–17, 2008. CEUs will be offered Thursday evening and all day Friday. Plan to attend this exciting event!

Advanced Respiratory Therapy Education Becomes a Reality for NW Oklahoma

Quoting Program Director Deryl Gulliford RRT, MHA, JD-H, “Respiratory Therapy training has been badly needed in Northwest Oklahoma for many years now. Thanks to a partnership of Northern Oklahoma College and Autry Technology Center, it became a reality in 2007.” The new program is referred to by CoARC accreditors as the Northwest Oklahoma Respiratory Consortium, reflecting the combination of clinical training at Autry Tech and formal academic college work at NOC. Students graduate with RRT-eligibility and an Associate of Applied Science degree in Respiratory Care.

Dr. Gulliford’s partner in managing the new advanced level program is Clinical Director Jim Grantz, RRT, who is well known in Oklahoma Respiratory Care circles for his work at St. Mary’s Hospital (Enid), Enid Regional Hospital and several other facilities over the years. Gulliford and Grantz collectively have about 50 years of experience in RT. The Program Medical Director is Brian Whitson, MD, FCCP. Dr. Whitson is a pulmonologist practicing in Enid, serving both Enid hospitals and the LTACH facility there.

The program will remain small, enrolling ten students each year. The first group of students is nearing completion of year one, and will graduate in July 2009. A new group will enter in August 2008 for graduation in 2010. Applications are now being accepted for this second group.

Quoting Clinical Director Jim Grantz, RRT, “a key to the success of our program is the outstanding group of Clinical Affiliate hospitals which have partnered with us for training opportunities. They include St. Mary’s Hospital (Enid), Integris Bass Hospital (Enid), Northwest Oklahoma Specialty Hospital (Enid), Woodward Regional Hospital, Stillwater Medical Center, Logan Medical Center (Guthrie), St. John Medical Center (Tulsa), Hillcrest Medical Center (Tulsa), and Ponca City Medical Center. We also have contract negotiations underway with several other facilities in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Again quoting Deryl, “we owe a huge debt of gratitude to St. Mary’s and Integris Bass hospitals here, who stepped up to the plate with funding for the start-up of our program. RT’s are in severe short-ages throughout

region. Thanks to these hospitals, we will now be able to train our own therapists right here at home. Experience tells me that many of them will stay close to home and practice their professions in NW Oklahoma where they are so badly needed.”

Interested parties can contact either Dr. Gulliford or Mr. Grantz at Autry Tech Center, Enid (580) 242-2750. dgulliford@autrytech.com or jgrantz@autrytech.com.

PACT Representatives Visit Washington, DC

The AARC’s Political Advocacy Contact Team (PACT) is a group of representatives from each state who focus on staying in contact with legislators and staying involved with government affairs which might be of importance to RCPs and our patients.

The AARC’s PACT representatives from 46 states and the District of Columbia, including Karen Gregory, Jacki and Ken McAffrey from Oklahoma, recently attended a gathering in Washington, DC on March 9-11 to meet with lawmakers in person and focus attention on pending bills which affect Respiratory Care. Also at the event were representatives from the AARC, including President Toni Rodriguez, President-elect Tim Myers, Director of Regulatory Affairs Ann Marie Hummel and Director of Government Affairs Cheryl West.

Karen, Jacki, and Ken met with Congresswoman Mary Fallin and Congressmen Dan Boren and Frank Lucas. They also met with legislative assistants to Congressmen Tom Cole and John Sullivan and Senators Tom Coburn and James Inhofe. They ran into the Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett at a local restaurant during their lunch break.

Please contact your legislators regarding Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative Act of 2007, HR 3968 and S 2704 and Pulmonary/Cardiac Rehab bills HR 552 and S 329. Please ask your patients, colleagues, family and friends to contact their legislators. To become a part of the OK 5 for 5 Plan, contact Karen Gregory at (405) 922-1197 or kgregory@oklahomaallergy.com to provide your information. For further information on the PACT



(Pictured L-R: Jacki McAffrey, OK Congressman Dan Boren, Karen Gregory)

trip, along with Sample letters to support legislation by writing your members of Congress, please visit the OSRC Website and click on “Political Advocacy”.

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The OSRC Newsletter is published quarterly. If you have submissions you would like to have published, please contact the Newsletter Editor. To view previous newsletters, please visit <http://www.okrespiratorycare.org> and click on "NEWS". (Adobe Reader required).

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