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NEWS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION
FOR ADVANCED PAEDIATRIC LIFE
SUPPORT INSTRUCTORS

JUNE 2012

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Have any ideas on how
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Got a suggestion for
our committees?

WE'RE LISTENING!

The high standards main-
tained on APLS courses
are only possible thanks to
the dedication and commit-
ment of you, our members.

Please let us know if you've
any feedback, or have a
story you'd like to share
with the APLS community
via our newsletter.

Contact us at:
feedback@apls.org.au

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NEWS APLS eBook

We're proud to announce the long-awaited digital version of our APLS manual – and release dates for our brand new edition.

After 12 months of hard work from our Editorial Committee, the Australia and New Zealand 5th Edition of 'Advanced Paediatric Life Support: The Practical Approach' will be published by Wiley-Blackwell by October 2012.

The manual has been comprehensively updated for use in Australia and New Zealand, taking into account feedback from APLS members and closely aligned with ARC/NZRC guidelines.

The manual will replace the temporary version currently used on APLS courses, and all courses from January 2013 will be taught using the new 5th edition.

As requested by you, the new edition will be available in digital formats – e-pdf for e-readers, e-mobi for Kindle and e-pub for iPad – as well as the traditional book.

APLS will provide all instructors, directors and co-ordinators with a complimentary new manual in your chosen format. Your copies of the temporary 5th edition will be collected by APLS and distributed to our partners in developing countries. Watch this space for more on the transition.

NEWS PLS @ HQ

PLS is no longer the neglected child and will in the future be among the courses being offered at APLS headquarters.

Courses are either hospital exclusive or open to health professionals from workplaces not running PLS training.

APLS has also instigated a standardised fee structure and updated the regulations. Shortly our PLS administrator, Marie, will visit courses Australia-wide for closer ties with you all.

COMMENT PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SIMON YOUNG, PRESIDENT

There are many exciting developments for APLS in the wings that will come to fruition in the latter part of this year.

The Australia and New Zealand Edition of the manual is currently with the publishers and we have been told this will be available in both print and electronic format: great news for the trees and for the hand luggage on those interstate flights.

The manual you are working with at the moment is a bit of a hybrid and this new version will be the first time our own comprehensive manual has been available. All the course teaching material is being updated to coincide with the manual's release.

Another substantial improvement to the course will come from the suggestion at last year's PAC that we re-do the head injury video and create a newborn resuscitation video. This is being planned as we speak.

As has become the norm these videos will most likely feature the children of APLS instructors but we are looking for a pregnant instructor with an imminent delivery and a partner with a handcam – only to video the baby of course. This unique opportunity guarantees the baby stardom and most likely a movie contract later in life.

Our website is being substantially improved with better interactivity and navigation both for candidates and instructors. This will enable instructors to easily download the newest version of the teaching materials before each course and stay abreast of changes. We would encourage instructors to download materials in this fashion as the ones they used last have probably been superseded.



On a sad note it was most unfortunate that we had to postpone the PAC conference this year. A number of factors convinced the Board this was the correct step for the organisation however we remain committed to running one again next year.

Finally I would like to let you all know that I will be stepping down from the Board of APLS later this year. Having been on the Board since our first courses in 1997 it is time to let others take over and guide the organisation.

It has been a great honour to work with many of you on the Board, in committees and to teach with you on APLS instructor and provider courses. I remain greatly impressed by the dedication and willingness of all APLS instructors to voluntarily work to improve the treatment of seriously ill and injured children through educating those "at the front line"

I look forward to teaching with you again soon.

TEACHING BLS AND DEFIB TESTING



We are continuing to improve the testing parts of the course in response to your feedback.

Airway testing:

- The principle of safe and effective airway management has been emphasised, so successful intubation is no longer required.

BLS testing:

- The setting, sequence and descriptions have been revised to make the steps clearer

Defib testing:

- The test is on defibrillation, not all aspects of the ALS sequence, so the test emphasises that chest compressions and ventilations continue at all times except when the shock is being delivered.
- The sequence has been revised to make the requirements and timing of each step more clear.
- The candidate is informed that the assistant is performing effective CPR, so there is no need for a candidate to start at ABC.
- The defibrillator should be charged near the end of each two minute loop. This is consistent with adult CPR teaching and should avoid possible delays if charged during the ROSC & rhythm check yet remain within the time before the defib automatically dumps an unused charge (about 15 seconds with the Philips defibs).
- Pauses for checking ROSC, rhythm, and delivery of shock must be no longer than 10 seconds.
- The candidate should demonstrate safe defibrillation.
- After the second shock the monitor changes to sinus rhythm. The assistant then gives adrenaline, whether prompted by the candidate or not.
- The test ends at the ROSC and rhythm check after the second shock.

All testing sheets, skill stations and demonstrations are aligned with this latest revision for both APLS, and the BLS and defib tests in PLS for immediate use. Please let us know any further improvements that need to be made.

NEWS NEW WEBSITE

Here's a taster of the new APLS website, due to go live very soon.



As well as a fresh, simple design, the new site will streamline processes for APLS members and make administering your APLS commitments much easier.

Accessing all the information you need – whether signing up to teach on a course, downloading the latest version of a lecture or checking your faculty – will be much more user-friendly. We will also accept online payments from APLS and PLS candidates, significantly speeding up the registration process and reducing the admin burden on APLS office staff.

We'd love your thoughts on the new site – email feedback@apls.org.au.

NEWS RACGP POINTS

Did you attend the APLS PAC 2011 conference? Be sure to claim your RACGP points by clicking [here](#) or following the link below.

All GPs can self-record 2 points per hour for PAC 2011, capped at 10 hours (20 points) per triennium – click above or follow the link below and upload a conference program. Contact APLS if you need a copy of this document.

<http://qicpd.racgp.org.au/gps/forms/self-recorded-activities>

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NEW ABC to EOI

Self-nomination of APLS instructors is an intricate issue, both regarding bruised egos and procedure.

However a document is now being developed which will give people a clear course of action in making an expression of interest (EOI). In short this is what will be required:

If a candidate wishes to self-nominate they must do so with an expression of interest within 28 days of completing an APLS course, so the candidate is still fresh in the memory of the course director.

When the office has received the EOI, the course director will be asked to comment. If there are no major problems, the applicant will be sent an application pack, which must be completed and returned to APLS within a further 28 days.

It will include a statement from the applicant addressing key criteria and two structured referee reports supporting the application. It is preferred that both referees be APLS Instructors, and mandatory that at least one is an APLS Instructor.

The hope is to have the key criteria and the structured referee template developed and ready to distribute within the next few months.

COMMITTEES INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

STUART LEWENA, CHAIR

The Instructor Development Committee has been working on clarifying numerous processes within the organisation as they relate to becoming an instructor and subsequent activities as an instructor.

Specifically these include how candidates are chosen to participate in a Generic Instructor Course with a view to becoming an instructor, dealing with applications to become an instructor through alternate pathways, and how to get involved as an instructor on the Generic Instructor Course.

To support the process whereby faculties identify "Instructor Potential" amongst candidates on a course, we are developing a document to guide faculties in this decision. Whilst the current "round table" discussion works well, this document will guide faculties on the occasions where there is disagreement.

In an environment where becoming an APLS Instructor may be competitively sought, it is important that our processes are seen to be robust. The development of a new, more functional APLS website will allow these policies and procedures to be easily available, with links to all the relevant documents. The new website should be functional very soon but in the meantime, anyone interested can request this information by contacting feedback@apls.org.au.

The next major focus for the committee is the development of educational activities, meetings and other resources to promote learning amongst our instructors. We envisage a combination of website based resources and face to face meetings or mini updates to complement the role of the Paediatric Acute Care Conference. The current membership is Sarah Dalton, Chris Webber, Cath Sumsky, David McDonald, Terry Brown and Stuart Lewena.

COMMITTEES PAEDIATRIC LIFE SUPPORT

MALCOLM HIGGINS, CHAIR

The reformed PLS subcommittee has met twice since the PAC Conference last year, a face to face meeting in Melbourne in November and a teleconference in February.

The committee membership besides myself is Adam O'Brien and Andre Kogan from Victoria, Jane Cichero and Setty Ung from NSW, Rachael Teis and Michelle Metzdorf from QLD, Catherin Parsch from SA and Marie and Karen from APLS. Issues in progress include:

- A centralised PLS business model and equipment
- Creation of a PLS website for

registration, payment and course information

- Course costs and accessibility
- Updated and simplified PLS course regulations
- PLS coordinator training and selection
- Review of the 5th edition UK PLS course format and content with a view to updating the Australian PLS course
- PLS faculty availability and training
- Updated PLS scenarios
- Creation of a PLS director/coordinator report form

The committee would welcome feedback and suggestions.

COMMITTEES EDITORIAL

MATT O'MEARA, CHAIR

The ANZ version of the 5th edition manual you currently have was developed from the standard (UK) version.

The Editorial Committee tried hard to make only the most necessary changes, to make the manual more consistent with the Australian and New Zealand Resuscitation Councils, and consistent with local practice and available medications. These 174 pages of changes are replaced by APLS office staff.

This tedious process of inserting pages will no longer be necessary when we have a fully printed ANZ edition, to be published by Wiley-Blackwell later this year. We are now close to signing off this edition. Thanks to detailed feedback from APLS instructors and candidates the Editorial Group has made sure that errors have been corrected, inconsistencies addressed, and unclear statements clarified.

We have also improved our lectures with larger format algorithms and in scenarios the weight and formulae for calculations are provided to allow more time for debriefing. The Course Development Committee will continue the work on updating and improving other aspects of the course.

We expect to have the fully printed ANZ edition available for courses from January 2013. We plan to recycle the ANZ 5th edition manuals with page insert version you currently have by distributing them to APLS courses in developing countries.

Thanks to all instructors who have given feedback on the manual and especially to the Editorial Committee – Jeff Brown, Malcolm Higgins, Stuart Lewena, Toni Medcalf, Ed Oakley, Arjun Rao, Mike Shepherd, Chris Webber and Simon Young.

NEWS 2013 DATES

The course schedule for 2013 is almost finalised and shortly you will all start receiving the tedious emails asking for your choices of course.

We will be running around 60 APLS courses in 2013. Four of these, mainly in rural areas, are still not confirmed.

Of these 60 APLS courses around a third will be conducted at APLS HQ at 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, where we will also run four 'open' PLS courses. 'Open' in the sense that individuals can book into them.

As mentioned in another notice in this newsletter, APLS will also conduct hospital-specific PLS courses.

Instructors and directors will be able to choose and select both APLS and PLS courses online. From our end we will try to select the faculty on the 'one home and one away' principle.



Advanced Paediatric
Life Support

Expressions of Interest Course Development Committee

Are you passionate about the content of APLS courses?

We are currently seeking expressions of interest in membership of our Course Development Committee from dedicated APLS members.

The Course Development Committee's role will be to:

- Synchronise our teaching materials with the new edition of the manual
- Address feedback collected from APLS members over the last 12 months
- Improve the structure of APLS courses.
- Updates will be introduced for courses beginning January 2013

Committee members will review our teaching materials with support from APLS admin and the committee chair, Michelle Williams. Members will also meet regularly via teleconference to review progress.

To ensure the best possible development of APLS courses, it's important that this committee accurately reflects the wide variety of our membership.

Please register your interest at feedback@apls.org.au by Mon 18 June.

COMMENT FROM THE CEO

PHILLIP DAVIES, APLS CEO

It is a transformational and exciting time at APLS with new management, new manuals, new premises, new website and a renewed focus on our members and the interests of members.

Consistent with this, our various committees – Instructor Development, Course Development, PLS, Editorial and International Development – have been recently been reinvigorated and are strongly contributing to both the fabric of the company as well as enhancing the nature of our business and training programs.

As part of this new era, the company will undertake an equipment acquisition program whereby we will acquire the latest equipment to be used in our courses.

In updating the course materials to harmonise the content with the new 5th edition manual, APLS will take the opportunity to ensure we take on board your valuable comments and feedback about the course materials that members have provided after attending our courses.

The great new 5th edition manual, the state of the art training facilities, the new website, together with the new and updated equipment and the continuing good work of the APLS

committees will enable APLS to provide its members with the best contemporary and market-leading courses in acute paediatric care.

Be assured that the quality of our courses remains a critical part of our business in the context of the overarching purpose of APLS of improving the quality of emergency healthcare delivered to children and young people by medical, nurses and other healthcare professionals.

As a new phase of the company's evolution is upon us, it would be remiss not to recognise what has gone on before and whilst he has a few months to go, can I commend and thank Simon Young for his outstanding contribution to APLS as Chairman and Board member. I know he won't be lost to us completely but his contribution in these two capacities has been invaluable. I would also like to thank Toni Medcalf for her time and efforts on the Board, following her retirement from the Board late last year.

I would also like to take the opportunity as the new CEO to thank the continuing contribution of our members to APLS. The members are the company's lifeblood and I am in awe of you all as you fly with the angels every day in your work.

5th at 505

Meeting, conference
and training space

Looking for a meeting space in the heart of Melbourne's CBD?

Our dedicated training facility can cater for everything from board meetings to conferences with a range of APLS member discounts available.

Contact Marie on 03 8672 2800 to discuss your event.

