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NEWS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION
FOR ADVANCED PAEDIATRIC LIFE
SUPPORT INSTRUCTORS

SEPTEMBER 2012

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NEWS TWIN PEEKS



Meet Will and Sam, the stars of a future APLS lecture.

The twins' first moments of life were captured by an APLS camera crew last month to help improve our lecture on neonatal resuscitation.

The family of the twins and the staff of Frankston Hospital maternity unit were the true stars of the first APLS video, delivering the boys without any complications.

"This is a very unique highlight in my career as a filmmaker," said Chris Mitchell, one of two APLS filmmakers – one per baby – in the delivery unit during the birth. "We were very thankful to have the opportunity to capture the first moments of the twins' lives, from first breath to the care given by the nurses during the procedure."

The video will be used as a reference in the neonatal resuscitation lecture on APLS courses. The updated lecture is being developed by the APLS Course Development Committee and will be available from January 2013.

We'll also be looking to update the head injury lecture video and others as APLS develops a virtual learning environment over the next 12 months. Watch this space for more details on our VLE.

Many thanks go to Adrian Hutchinson, Chris Mitchell and Yoav Lester from Floating World Films, Simon Young, all the staff at Frankston maternity unit, and of course the family, whose generosity and co-operation was exceptionally kind.

CONFERENCE PAC 2012

Registration is now open for PAC 2012, Australia's dedicated paediatric acute care conference.

This year's conference will be a one day program, repeated on Fri 16 Nov and Sat 17 Nov at APLS head office in Melbourne. APLS members will present updates from the cutting edge of paediatric care, with extra sessions focused on instructor-specific skills.

The popular conference dinner is open to all delegates and partners, and takes place Friday evening at the Langham Hotel on Melbourne's lively South Bank.

Registration fees for PAC 2012 are:

Conference (one day):

\$100 doctors

\$50 nurses

Dinner:

\$20 delegates

\$50 partners

And as numbers are limited to 80 per day, registration is restricted to APLS instructors only via www.apls.org.au.

So please join us to celebrate another successful year at one of the highlights of the APLS calendar.



PAC 2012 PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Fri 16 & Sat 17 Nov, APLS Melbourne

Clinical sessions

- Failed intubation
- Burns
- Drowning
- Pain and sedation
- The collapsed neonate
- Critical asthma
- Neonatal resuscitation
- Septic shock beyond the first hour
- Acute care in the bush

APLS instructor sessions

- Working in teams
- Advocacy, enquiry, debriefing
- APLS Q&A

Online booking

www.apls.org.au

FEATURES NEW WEBSITE

After six months' hard work behind the scenes, we're proud to launch our new website at www.apls.org.au. Here's a quick overview of some key new features:

Reset your password!

Before you can log into the new site, you'll have to reset your password for security reasons. Follow the instructions on the home page or try to log in using the My APLS tab and your email address. Your old password will not be recognised at first, so you'll be prompted to reset it. You'll receive an email with a temporary login to reset your password. You'll only have to do this once.

Online booking

APLS now only accepts online payment for all our courses and events. This significantly speeds up registration and makes our lives at APLS HQ a whole lot easier.

Course Calendar & PLS

Our new Course Calendar features all of our courses – APLS, PLS and for instructor candidates, GIC – searchable by date and location, so it's now much easier to find a course near to you. For the first time, all of our PLS courses are also included on the calendar. As many PLS courses are administered privately by hospitals, clicking on one of these PLS courses in the calendar will give you the contact details for the local co-ordinator, so now all those spare spots on hospital-based PLS courses can be easily filled.

My APLS

Logging into your APLS account via the orange My APLS tab in the top right hand corner will give you access to a personalised user page. These are different for candidates, co-ordinators, instructors and admin staff. The orange User Panel has everything you need to organise your APLS commitments. There's quick links for My Courses & Bookings; My Payment Receipts; Update my Details;



MCQs; Helpful Formulae; APLS Course Materials; and Choose your Courses.

Choose your Courses

This tab does exactly what it says – allows APLS instructors and directors to choose their course preferences for the coming year. Click the tab and choose from a list of upcoming APLS and PLS courses you'd like to instruct on. Use the green arrow at the bottom of the page to confirm your choices and nominated role. Once you submit your preferences, our admin team will confirm available dates and your courses will appear in the My Courses and Bookings tab.

Resources

You'll find all current course materials for APLS and PLS courses on your User Panel, as well as essential forms and templates. The Resources tab has links to newsletters, all APLS algorithms to

download for distribution around workplaces, helpful formulae and useful links for more on APLS around the world.

PAC 2012

Don't miss out on PAC 2012 – you can register online, download programs and browse accommodation through the Paediatric Acute Care Conference tab.

Meeting Rooms

Hosting a meeting or training event in Melbourne? Looking for an impressive, centrally located venue? The APLS training suite is available for hire with discounts for APLS members – see the Meeting Rooms tab for more.

Technical Support

Having problems? Anything else you'd like to see on our new website? Email feedback@apls.org.au or call the office and we'll respond as quickly as possible.

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NEWS RCH ART EXHIBITIONS

Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne and APLS have co-operated on a unique art project.

Patients at RCH have created the most amazing images and given them to us. The drawings are moving, funny and beautiful, many of them self-portraits.

After framing, the artworks will go on a mini tour back to RCH and finally return to APLS where they will be on permanent display in our training suite.

We will celebrate their arrival with an arts reception here in Little Collins Street. Watch this space for details.

NEWS MATERNITY LEAVE

Kristine Bugeja, our wonderful Relationship Administrator and GIC Course Co-ordinator will be taking one year's maternity leave from APLS from Oct 12.

Already mother to Oscar, 2, and Giselle, 4, Kris is expecting another boy in November. Please address enquiries on GIC courses to Marie Brancatella in the meantime.

The Bugeja family have already brightened up the APLS office – this artwork, hanging in the main APLS lecture room, was painted by little Giselle. We look forward to seeing many more sketches of her new little brother come November.



SEPTEMBER 2012

COMMENT TONI MEDCALF REMEMBERED

CHRISTOPHER WEBBER, APLS DIRECTOR

On 6th August 2012 Toni Medcalf tragically died. Many of you have worked with Toni for more than a decade as she was actively involved with APLS.

Her commitment to the organisation was evident from her rapid progression from provider to instructor and then to Course Director. In addition Toni was a Board member from 2006 to 2011.

She chaired the Course Development Sub-committee and was part of the Australian Editorial group for the 5th Edition. Toni was the lead coordinator of two successful Paediatric Acute Care conferences in Canberra in 2009 and 2010.

Toni first became involved with APLS while working at Dubbo Base Hospital as a Career Medical Officer in the Emergency Department. Her professional career progressed with a short stint in Medical Administration then, having seen the light, on to training with the College for Emergency Medicine.

After moving to Canberra Toni continued her training in Emergency Medicine at The Canberra Hospital. She was highly respected by all who worked with her.

Toni was a passionate educator. Her commitment to improving clinical care for children through education was evidenced by her involvement in APLS and PLS courses, as well as Instructor courses.

Toni's personality was conducive to

learning. She was always supportive, calm and patient but with immense clinical experience. Her happy manner and warm smile were infectious; in addition Toni had a wicked sense of humour.

Many centres were privileged to have Toni as part of the faculty on APLS courses. She taught in towns and cities from Broome to Townsville, Darwin to Hobart.

Having lived and worked in Dubbo for many years, Toni was always supportive of rural clinical staff attending APLS courses. Her commitment to clinicians in rural and isolated areas was also evident by her involvement with the introduction of APLS to Fiji.

The circles of friends and colleagues surrounding Toni were immense. She was involved with her children's school community in addition to being a doctor, a triathlete and a friend, but above all Toni was a wife and mother.

Toni's husband Brian Peadon and their children Matthew, Cariss, Timothy and Lachlan want Toni to be remembered for the wonderful person she was to so many. They have set up a scholarship through APLS. This will support doctors and nurses who are geographically or financially isolated, attending APLS courses.

Thank you Brian, Matthew, Cariss, Timothy and Lachlan for sharing your wife and mum with us and thanking you Toni for being such a wonderful person, fabulous teacher and dear friend. We will miss you immensely but never forget you.

To contribute to the **Medcalf Scholarship Fund**, you can direct transfer to BSB 633000 A/C 145897054 indicating Medcalf Fund and your name. Alternatively send a cheque to APLS made out to "APLS – Medcalf Fund".

UPDATES DEFIBRILLATION TEACHING

APLS BOARD STATEMENT

The decision to make changes to the teaching of defibrillation in APLS courses was taken by the clinical members of the Board of APLS Australia.

These changes were made following significant negative feedback from recent courses regarding the requirement to charge defibrillator pads prior to the initial and every subsequent rhythm check in all paediatric arrests, regardless of the rhythm.

Whilst some of these concerns related to episodes of accidental defibrillation instead of dumping the charge, the major issue was the perceived inappropriate focus on preparation to defibrillate in paediatric arrests given the low frequency of ventricular fibrillation in children.

The Board members agreed that the requirement to apply defibrillator pads and have them charged prior to identifying the rhythm and continuing to charge them prior to every rhythm check in an asystole / PEA arrest did not reflect the rarity of VF in children or the current practice of experts in paediatric cardiac arrest management.

Since the distribution of the email explaining the planned changes, a few instructors have expressed concern and recommended against making this change.

They raise the valid argument that deviation from that recommended by the Australian Resuscitation Council may create confusion.

The counter argument to this is that paediatric cardiac arrest is very different to adult cardiac arrest, a point which the ARC acknowledges in their guideline "Introduction to Paediatric Advanced

Life Support" (Guideline 12.1 December 2010). In this guideline they state:

"The initial cardiac rhythm discovered during early electrocardiographic monitoring is often severe bradycardia or asystole. The incidence of ventricular fibrillation as the initial rhythm is approximately 10%. This may influence the order of resuscitative actions."

It appears that the ARC appreciate that the low likelihood of VF in children is an appropriate reason to modify the sequence of actions in paediatric arrests.

Whilst appreciating that any modification raises challenges for learners it is equally important that techniques taught on a paediatric resuscitation course are those that are most relevant to children. This formed the basis of the Board's decision.

We appreciate that there will be divergent opinion on this matter and encourage feedback from our instructors. The Board, in conjunction with the Course Development Committee will review this feedback and make a final decision.



We currently stand by the recommendation to:

1. Permit confirmation of initial rhythm prior to charging the defibrillator. (Although a candidate would not be penalised for reversing this sequence.)
2. No requirement to charge the defibrillator in an asystole / PEA arrest. (Although a candidate would not be penalised for doing so.)
3. In a VF / pulseless VT arrest, to charge the defibrillator during compressions in preparation for delivery of a further shock.



COMMENT FROM THE CEO

PHILLIP DAVIES, APLS CEO

APLS has been synonymous with striving for excellence in education and training to advance acute paediatric care. Consistent with this theme we have undertaken a number of measures recently to ensure that this is our organisation's continuing goal.

The 5th edition manual has been a significant effort in this regard. The 5th edition manual is specifically tailored for use in Australia and New Zealand, and will be at the forefront of our innovative teaching and learning.

We have fundamentally restructured the APLS website to make it easier for members to register and enrol for courses. See page 3 of this newsletter for more on the new site.

We are now also putting much more emphasis on our one day PLS courses. For example, we are now conducting them here at the Melbourne HQ and will, in September, run a PLS coordinators' day. 27 PLS co-ordinators from all over Australia will attend Melbourne for a few days of learning and 'bonding'. It is a fun day, and after a drink on us, some will head to the MCG for their AFL fix.

As part of this focus on PLS, we are also endeavouring to run

more PLS courses around Australia and in particular in regional centres of Australia.

Our state-of-the-art venue here in Little Collins Street is being used more and more frequently by third-party charities, notably The Cancer Council and Lymphoma Australia. It is great that other people can have the benefit of using our great venue when we are not running our courses here.

APLS now has an Australian educator to assist us with our courses, course development and teaching and learning strategies. Jane Stanford has a background in critical care nursing with a graduate diploma in adult education and has extensive experience in clinical and non clinical adult education.

Jane will be part of the four Generic Instructor Courses we will be running next year, but will also attend provider courses on a regular basis to mentor people and to seek to ensure that our teaching standards are of the highest quality. Please make Jane feel welcome when you see her.

Finally, APLS is the best organisation of its kind in Australia. This is largely because of the dedication and hard work of our staff and members. So again, thank you for your contribution.

MEET THE STAFF

Meet the faces behind the scenes at APLS HQ.



Karen Glahn
Operations Manager

Karen came to Australia from Denmark with her husband Peter for adventure and planned to stay for just a few years. Those few years turned into more than 30 with three children all born in Australia. A journalist by profession Karen was a Foreign Correspondent for Scandinavian media for about 25 years, then went into employment services and mainly worked with international students. Regarding APLS – she loves it. It is like a beautiful cake which can be decorated and enhanced. Unfortunately not Karen's words. This quote was stolen from APLS' new educator, Jane Stanford. Spare time pursuits include op-shops (some stuff at APLS is a result of this passion), silversmithing and a strong opinion about getting better bike tracks in Melbourne.

David Watton
Communications Officer

Originally from the north of England, David manages all of APLS's communications – from newsletters and manuals to graphic design, film and marketing. David works closely with the Editorial and Course Development Committees and is currently developing the new APLS VLE, an APLS app and other web, digital and film projects. He also works as a professional actor, so when not editing Powerpoint presentations for APLS, can be found shooting war movies or appearing in musicals around Melbourne. An avid soccer player and occasional musician, David's favourite things about APLS are the commitment to excellence of its members, the opportunity to make a difference to young lives, and the outstanding flat whites from the cafe downstairs.