

The Society for Medical &
Biological Engineering S.A.
Incorporated



PO Box 19, Woodville, SA 5011
<http://www.smbe.asn.au>

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2000

President

Adrian Richards, NWAHS
☎ 82226533, adrian.richards@nwahs.sa.gov.au

Immediate Past President

John Robson, FMC
☎ 82045261, john.robson@fmc.sa.gov.au

Vice President

Greg Smith, Helicon Technology
☎ 82232000, helicon@chariot.net.au

Secretary/Newsletter editor

Robin Woolford, RGH
☎ 82751619, Fax 82772306
robin.woolford@rgh.sa.gov.au

Treasurer

John Kirby, NWAHS
☎ 82226218 john.kirby@nwahs.sa.gov.au

Councillors

Chris Jeffs IMVS
☎ 82223283, christopher.jeffs@imvs.sa.gov.au

Kevin O'Brien, Technical Consultant
☎ 0418 820532, kobrien@senet.com.au

Tony Carlisle, FMC
☎ 82235477, tony.carlisle@fmc.sa.gov.au

Daniel Fletcher, NWAHS
☎ 82227330, daniel.fletcher@nwahs.sa.gov.au

Darren Kohlhausen, Drager Australia
☎ 0412 111829, darren.kohlhausen@draeger.com.au

Anu Wijesiriwardina, W&CH
☎ 8204 6789, multimedia@wch.sa.gov.au

Affiliations

*Australian Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering
International Federation for Medical and Biological
Engineering*



Christmas Dinner Wednesday 6 December 2000



**Earl of Leicester Hotel
85 Leicester Street, Parkside**

**Drinks from 6.00 p.m.
Dinner at 7.00 p.m.**

Our major social function for the year is with us again. We have decided to stay with the Earl for another year as it proved to be very popular last year. The Christmas dinner has always been a very enjoyable occasion so mark this date in your diary.

The cost is still \$7.50 per head so it is extremely good value. To assist with the catering arrangements, could you please send the following slip to **Kerry at Helicon Technology** (along with a cheque/money order made out to the SMBE (Inc) SA.)



RSVP - Friday, 1 December 2000

Name _____ No. attending ____

A cheque / money order for \$_____ is enclosed.

Please return as follows:

**Kerry Nelson
Helicon Technology
Unit 6 181 Gilles Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000**

SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Tuesday 21 November 2000

11 Bagot Street, North Adelaide

5-30pm Refreshments

6-00pm Presentation

Dr Joe Dyro
President, Biomedical Resource Group
Setauket, NY

Doctors, Devices and Disasters

In recent times the headlines have brought us news of some amazing "accidents" involving medical staff and equipment.

- Why do these horrific things continue to happen?
- Who is to blame?
- What role does medical device design have to play in causing these disasters?
- Can engineers create safer health delivery systems?

Dr Joe Dyro thinks so.

Dr Dyro is President of the Biomedical Resource Group, Setauket, NY and is an engineering consultant specialising in biomedical engineering, medical device design and safety, human factors, clinical engineering, accident reconstruction, biomechanics and the physiological effects of electricity. He is Associate Professor of Anaesthesiology at State University of New York (SUNY), Adjunct Professor of Biomedical Engineering at SUNY, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Touro College, NY and Editor of the Journal of Clinical Engineering.

Come and hear Dr Dyro talk on this interesting topic and then contribute to the discussion.

This is a joint meeting with IEAUST and ACPSEM.

Council Business

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter we have ceased our association with Science Park. We now have a new mailing address as indicated on the front page but no physical address at this stage (other than my office).

At the recent AGM council elections we had a tied vote between Kevin O'Brien and Anu Wijesiriwardina. The constitution has allowed us to bring both Kevin and Anu onto the Council for 2000/2002. There is always enough work to share around.

Report from Dr Sue McCoy's meeting.

The Cosmetic use of lasers - Medicine, Myth or Moneymaker??

Those members attending the September scientific meeting can now confidently respond to the above question, and indeed their answer may be yes to all! Dr Sue McCoy generously shared here extensive knowledge of the theory and practice relevant to the application of lasers to the practice of cosmetic medicine. The scope of these treatments includes the removal of small venous abnormalities, birthmarks, skin resurfacing, hair removal and the like - basically things which may be unsightly or undesirable but are not actually going to cause the patient any harm.

The correct power, pulse width and wavelength laser, properly applied is ideally suited to the treatment of these problems. Getting the correct combination is most definitely the secret and we clearly evidenced that Dr McCoy's extensive history in doing the clinical research is what is required to be properly equipped to get it right. Unfortunately discrediting the practice currently is the promotion of an absolute plethora of lasers with some rather far-reaching claims. There is currently no requirement for these to be used by medical practitioners and so we are seeing a range of people including "beauty therapists" and businessmen capitalising on the public's fascination and blind faith in the claims that are made.

Dr McCoy detailed the requirements for treating a range of different conditions, illustrated with many examples. She highlighted that at one time her own practice was equipped with seven different types of lasers which has now been rationalised down to four, the others simply not providing significant advantages or producing the required results. Some of the earliest lasers specifically developed for dermatological treatments in fact remain the best suited for their intended application.

All who attended were undoubtedly impressed by the excellent presentation and the knowledge imparted.

OVERSEAS PHARMACEUTICAL AID FOR LIFE (OPAL) PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION & HUMANITARIAN AID PROGRAM

Executive Summary

Overseas Pharmaceutical Aid for Life (OPAL) has two main areas of operation being:

- The sourcing and collection of in-date pharmaceuticals from manufacturers, wholesalers and other producers in order to supply humanitarian pharmaceutical aid consignments for countries in need. This is in compliance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Australian Pharmaceutical Advisory Council (APAC) Guidelines for Drug Donations to Overseas Countries, and through OPAL's aid program or approved aid agencies.
- Provision of a service to the community for the safe collection and destruction of unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals in an environmental friendly manner.

OPAL has a Board of seven (7) Directors including its Chairman Mr. Humphrey George OA and Co-Founders Mr. Geoff Lockyer who is the CEO & Managing Director, and Mrs. Dara Lockyer Executive Director Humanitarian Aid. OPAL also has the access to the services of Mr. Simon Appel who is a Consultant Pharmacist to the project and is well respected by the Australian pharmaceutical industry and the Federal Government.

The national headquarters of OPAL is situated at the Collex Industrial Park, 500 Churchill Road, Kilburn, South Australia. This consists of offices and some 3,000 square metres of warehouse including a pharmaceutical sorting and distribution room. OPAL also employs a registered medical practitioner Dr. Joy O'Hazy as an adviser to the program, and has six (6) voluntary pharmacists that attend on a weekly rotation basis to oversee and assist the project including preparation of aid consignments.

OPAL also has 3 representatives on the Board and is a sub-contractor to the OPAL Return Unwanted Medicines Limited national project that is a Federal Government supported program, for the collection and destruction of unwanted medicines. This Australian national program was commenced in November 1998 and now has 4,700 pharmacies participating as collection points for the return of consumer medicines.

Further information on OPAL and OPAL Return Unwanted Medicines can be obtained by accessing the web site at www.opalrum.com.au and an Annual Report is available upon request.

Background Information

OPAL is a Australian Nationally Registered not-for-profit organisation ACN No. 067 557 500 and holds the following licenses:

- Pharmaceutical Wholesalers Licence No. 38557 for Schedule 2, 3 and 4 poisons and Licence # 38488 for Schedule 8 poisons issued by the South Australian Health Commission.

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Licence No. 2496 as a waste depot and transfer station to receive and dispose of Listed Waste
- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Export Licence No. 01036 to export Controlled Substances.

The organisations premises at Kilburn, South Australia are also licensed by the Health Commission and EPA to operate the project including the preparation of humanitarian pharmaceutical aid consignments for overseas.

OPAL was first established in May 1992 by its Co-Founders and was registered nationally in 1994. During the 2-year period between 1992 and 1994 OPAL mainly concentrated on the collection of pharmaceuticals for aid purposes. As a result of negotiations with Local Government and Councils in South Australia a project was established for the collection and destruction of all unwanted medicines from the community. This part of the OPAL program was officially launched in December of 1994 by the then South Australian Minister for Health the Hon Dr. Michael Armitage MP.

As a result of this highly successful project in South Australia it has now led to an Australian national program with all pharmacies in Australia acting as collection points. The national OPAL Return Unwanted Medicines program is also supported by the Australian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (APMA) and the pharmaceutical industry. Several major pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers regularly donate product to OPAL for use in aid projects and legal agreements have been signed with several of these companies regarding donation of aid medicines.

OPAL has since 1992 shipped overseas in excess of \$8 million of life saving medicines to some 60 countries worldwide and works in conjunction with 52 aid agencies and other organisations for the provision of such aid. Some of these aid agencies include World Vision Australia, Samaritan's Purse, International Gospel Ministries, Mary MacKillop Foundation, Asian Outreach and Christian Blind Mission International and Timor Aid to name a few. Some of the recipient countries that OPAL has assisted include:

Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand, West Timor, North Korea, Zambia, Ukraine, Tonga, Rwanda, Liberia, East Timor, Cambodia, Somalia, Belarus, Kenya, Ethiopia, Kosovo, Vanuatu.

OPAL has also received written support for its program from:

Federal Government of Australia, South Australian Government, Local Government Association (SA), Australian Institute of Environmental Health, World Vision Australia, Samaritan's Purse Australia, United Kingdom and USA, Asian Outreach Australia Inc.,

Christian Blind Mission International, Collex Waste Management Services, Gribbles Pathology, Sigma Company Limited, F H Faulding & Co Limited, Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of South Australia, South Australian Schools.

Statistical Information

Each year Australians dispose of over 200 tonnes of unwanted medicines and until now disposal has been a problem. Many Australians simply pour them down the drain, in the toilet or dump them in their household garbage bin. Whilst these methods may remove the danger from the home they then create environmental damage through land contamination and waterways including ocean pollution.

Hoarding of medicines in the home provides temptation to young children that can lead to ingestion of these dangerous pharmaceuticals. Each year in Australia over 30,000 children are treated or admitted into hospital with 4-5 deaths recorded from ingesting household nasties of which hoarded medicines make up 25% of these figures.

The introduction of the OPAL Return Unwanted Medicines project, of which OPAL is a part of, provides a convenient, safe and environmental friendly manner of collection and destruction.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers also dispose of large quantities of in-date medicines that could potentially be recovered and used for aid programs. These pharmaceuticals include short dated or slightly damaged packaging with the contents intact, superseded or over production of product that will not see it sold before reaching its expiry date. Such destruction of many millions of dollars of useful and life saving medicines costs the industry a large amount to pay for destruction and adds to the large amount of waste that has to be destroyed each year in Australia.

With the recent legal agreements signed between OPAL and some of these major pharmaceutical manufacturers the way is now open for such an agreement to be reached with the majority of the manufacturers and wholesalers. This has been as a result of OPAL's previous "track record" in providing pharmaceutical aid consignments over the years, its licenses that are required to obtain and supply such consignments of medicines and support from many areas for the program including Government.

In the Federal Government agreement signed between OPAL Return Unwanted Medicines Limited and the Federal Department of Health, the inclusion and recognition of OPAL's aid program and the sourcing of such medicines for aid, has realised the support of the industry and release of more product. The reluctance of

manufacturers to donate product previously stemmed from the many recorded instances in recipient countries receiving medicines being donated by agencies or well meaning groups that was expired, part used or totally inappropriate.

OPAL will only provide in-date unused medicines that meet with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines and that have first been requested or approved by the recipient country and aid organisation. OPAL was recently recognised as a contributor to the new revised 1999 WHO guidelines that now sees an amended Section 6 permitting the use of short dated product for aid in certain circumstances. This is a major positive amendment as a large proportion of donated medicines from the pharmaceutical industry includes valuable life saving medicines that have under 12 months expiry dates, and are urgently required and would be used well within such expiry dates.

Aims and Objectives of the OPAL Project

- To assist countries in need with the provision of life saving medicines and medical equipment.
- To establish a Global Program for the safe removal and disposal of unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals in an environmental friendly manner
- To assist in the prevention of pharmaceuticals from being dumped in land fill sites with the potential of leaching into waterways causing environmental damage
- To work in conjunction with Governments, pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers in the recovery of aid medicines to assist countries in need.

OPAL'S MISSION STATEMENT

“The Saving of Lives and Alleviation of Suffering World Wide”.

Advertising rates

Full page\$100.00 ½ page\$50.00
¼ page ...\$25.00 Business card . \$25.00
A full or ½ page ad will now entitle the advertiser to a
www link on the SMBE web site.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

“Northern Territory Perioperative Nurses 4th Conference”
May 3 – 5 2001. Alice Springs

Information on the above is available from the editor or president

E. & O.E.