



AUSTRALIAN RESUSCITATION COUNCIL

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- Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
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30th ANNUAL REPORT

Australian Resuscitation Council 1976-2006

The ARC was formed in 1976 following a major conference on resuscitation held in Sydney the previous year. The co-sponsors were the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and its Faculty of Anaesthetists. The Faculty has since become the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists and they remain one of Council's co-sponsors.

The first 10 years of the Council were marked by hard work by a group of dedicated representatives who had little financial backing. During this time the Basic Life Support policy statements were produced. In 1992 Council produced the Advanced Life Support policy statement followed by the Paediatric Advanced Life Support policies in 1995 and in February 2006 the Neonatal Guidelines were released.

In 1993 the inaugural 'Spark of Life' international resuscitation conference was held. This proved to be a landmark event for the ARC as it broadcast the role of the Council widely throughout Australia and overseas. It was a financial success and put the Council in a sound financial position enabling it to broaden its scope of activities. Since that conference the continuing sale of the Council's publications has grown. The Spark of Life conference was initially held every three years however, because these events have been so popular, Council made the decision to only have a two year break and the next conference is scheduled for April 2007

The aims of the ARC are to foster and co-ordinate the practice and teaching of resuscitation, promote uniformity and standardisation of resuscitation techniques and act as a voluntary co-ordinating body. These I believe continue to be important aims of the ARC.

AUSTRALIAN RESUSCITATION COUNCIL INC.

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During my tenure as Chairman I have had the privilege of working with Council to facilitate specific directions on which the ARC has embarked. These being:

- Increasing the ARC's profile internationally through membership of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR)
- Establishing a mechanism on which the ARC guidelines are developed within evidence based medicine framework.
- Initiating a collaborative process by which the highly regarded Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Intermediate Life Support (ILS) course offered by the Resuscitation Council (UK) are co-badged and delivered in Australia.
- Seeking commercial opportunities which are appropriate and enhance the aims and objectives of the ARC.

Without doubt the most significant event for the ARC was the publication of the Consensus on Science and Treatment Recommendations for Resuscitation (CoSTR) in November 2005. This was the culmination of enormous international collaboration in reviewing the resuscitation science and of the 404 evidence based worksheets, 44 were done by Australians. This is an outstanding effort and the ARC acknowledges and thanks those who undertook the task of preparing worksheets.

Following on from this publication the ARC released in March its revised and updated ARC guidelines for basic, advanced and paediatric life support and for the first time neonatal resuscitation guidelines. Contained within the guidelines were some quite significant changes and as such presented a significant challenge for the ARC in managing these changes. At times Council was criticised for not releasing the revised guidelines earlier in a similar way to other international resuscitation councils. However the delay was essential as our guideline process seeks consultation and input from the broader resuscitation community. A unique feature of the ARC guideline process and often envied by other resuscitation councils. In addition, we provided clarification of the guidelines through the FAQ section on the ARC website, reissued a complete new manual to all subscribers, and undertook widespread media coverage and several State Branches of the ARC conducted seminars. In general, while we can always do things better; I am of the view that we successfully managed a complex change across the Australian community.

Our involvement and standing in the international resuscitation community through ILCOR continues to develop, as does our alliance with the New Zealand Resuscitation Council. Of particular note is that ILCOR is now reviewing the process undertaken to develop CoSTR and how this may be further developed.

While the ARC has been highly productive during the past 12 months much work remains in many other areas. In particular, the ARC will need to continue to review and evaluate the resuscitation science to ensure guidelines reflect best evidence. There is also a need to engage the resuscitation industry in a manner that does not compromise the autonomy or integrity of the council but facilitates a common goal saving lives. The ARC also needs to facilitate the administration and role-out of the co-badged ARC / RC(UK) ALS and ILS course.

As with every organisation there are always those who give an enormous amount of time and expertise in undertaking the various roles within the organisation. In particular I would like to thank Dr Peter Morley (Deputy Chair and Convenor ALS committee), Jenny Dennett (Convenor BLS committee), Associate Professor Jim Tibballs (Convenor PLS & NLS committee) and Associate Professor Jeff Wassertheil (Convenor multi – media committee). In addition, I thank and acknowledge all the members of council who had been so incredibly supportive and each contributed in their own way to make the ARC Australia's peak resuscitation body and recognised internationally as such.

Finally, my sincere thanks and appreciation goes to our Executive Officer Carol Carey. Her tireless efforts, commitment and drive to ensure the day to day running of the ARC in all its activities do not go unnoticed. It has been an unqualified honour and privilege to chair such an organisation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Jacobs', with a vertical red line to its right.

Associate Professor Ian Jacobs
Chairman

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

Australian College of Ambulance Professionals

Australian College of Critical Care Nurses Ltd

Australian Defence Force

Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists

Australian New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS)

Australian Red Cross

Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand

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National Heart Foundation of Australia

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