

Pulmonary Press

Inside this Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Legislative Update
- 2 Board Notes
- 3 Asthma Disparities in Indiana
- 3 Election 2008
- 4 ISRC Calendar

Officers:

Jennifer Brink, President
Mary Todd, Past President
Charity Bowling, Secretary
Craig Traxler, Treasurer
Candy Schladenhauffen, Delegate
Ross Havens, Delegate

Directors:

Laura Graber
Mike Williams
Jackie Hanlon
Julie Myers
Greg Woodsmall
Susan Von Tobel
Jodi Barko
Jeff Hunsucker
Jayne Steed
Sharon Adams
Amy Susott
Janet Sievers
Susan Wynn
Christi Norris

Indiana Society for Respiratory Care
P.O. Box 50987
Indianapolis, IN 46250-0987

www.in-isrc.org
pulmonarypress@yahoo.com

Edited by Ross Havens
Published by Quality Desktop

Message from the President

Hello everyone,

Let me introduce myself, I am Jennifer Brink your ISRC President for 2008 & 2009. I am excited to serve you and would love to have your input and comments on how the ISRC can better serve you.



Currently, the ISRC is involved with many organizations and activities throughout the state and nation. I recently attended the AARC State Leadership Workshop in Dallas, Texas. The meeting was geared for state society presidents and covered topics such as public relations, membership, AARC activity updates, and many more. I am looking forward to collaborating with other state society presidents and AARC leadership on how to better serve the therapist in our state.

Susan VonTobel represented the ISRC at the AARC PACT meeting in Washington DC in March. Thanks to everyone who contacted their senator and representative when the 435 Plan was activated. You can read more about the PACT meeting and the 435 Plan on the AARC web site www.aarc.org

The ISRC Annual Seminar planning is in full gear. This year the meeting will be held at the Purdue University Conference Center in West Lafayette on October 8-10. The seminar will be a full three days with 15CEUs being offered. Just think, by attending the seminar you will meet the IPLA CEU requirement

Indiana
Society for
Respiratory
Care



with one seminar! More information will be coming and you can always get additional information on the ISRC website at www.in-isrc.org.

Speaking of the ISRC website, be sure to checkout the site! Doug Sparks is the webmaster and is doing a great job keeping us updated with activities at the state level as well as national information from the AARC. The ISRC is offering AARC membership renewals for \$75. This is a full membership, and guess what - all the information you need about the discount can be found on the ISRC website! Amazing! There is so much information provided that you have no excuse to not know what is going on!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the ISRC or the activities that we are currently involved with. Also, please accept my personal invitation to attend the ISRC Board of Director meetings. The Board of Directors are all working therapists just like you who are volunteering our time to support our profession at the state and national level. I would love to meet you and talk about our chosen profession. Information about the date, time and location of the board meeting is posted on the ISRC website.

**Check out the ISRC Website,
<http://www.in-isrc.org> for
information about discounted
membership vouchers.**

Legislative Update

By Mark Scherer

The Indiana General Assembly has adjourned for the 2008 Session. As expected, the top priority this past session was property tax relief for homeowners. Due to the large increases in assessments in some Indiana counties last year and the defeat of Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson in the 2007 fall election led, in part, at least, to the reassessments in Marion County, the General Assembly realized that action needed to be taken.

The General Assembly responded by enacting the broadest property tax reform ever in Indiana. Due to the enactment of House Enrolled Act 1001, property taxes are projected to decrease an average of 30% for homeowners next year. To pay for the reductions, the state sales tax was increased by 1% effective April 1 this year and pressure was put on local units of government to increase local income taxes.

In conjunction with the statutory changes, the General Assembly passed Senate Joint Resolution 1. This resolution contains a proposed amendment to the Indiana Constitution that would cap property taxes for homeowners at 1% of assessed value, property taxes for agricultural land and rental property at 2% of assessed value, and property taxes on business at 3% of assessed value. For these provisions to be added to the Constitution, the next General Assembly must also pass the resolution and then Hoosiers voters must ratify the change at the next general election.

The 2008 Session of the General Assembly was not the most active session in recent years for health care issues. Health care measures that were enacted include the following:

- HB 1171 requires autism training for EMS personnel.
- HB 1172 adopts the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act.
- HB 1185 expands indoor air quality inspections to include state agencies.
- SB 28 requires reduced ignition propensity standards for cigarettes.
- SB 156 permits the State Department of Health to adopt emergency rules for communicable diseases.
- SB 249 requires the Emergency Medical Services Commission to adopt rules for the transportation of trauma patients.

Health care bills that were not enacted include:

- HB 1056, which would have banned smoking in vehicles with minors less than 13 years of age.
- HB 1057, which would have banned smoking in most public places.
- SB 221, which would have required vending machines and places selling tobacco to post warnings to pregnant women about the dangers of smoking.

If you would like to read the text of a bill, following is a link to the General Assembly website for bills:

<http://www.in.gov/apps/lisa/session/billwatch/billinfo>

Keep in mind that legislators won't know your opinions unless you make the modest effort necessary to contact them, so let them know what matters to you as a citizen and as a respiratory care practitioner.

If you want to express an opinion on a bill or an issue, the General Assembly has established a web site for you to contact them as follows:

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/contact/index.html>

If you don't know the names of your legislators, you can find them at this web site:

<http://www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/>

BOARD NOTES

ISRC President Jennifer Brink presided over her first Board of Directors meeting on March 7, 2008, in Indianapolis. The Board meeting had been rescheduled because of the inclement weather on February 1.

President Brink presented Past-President Mary Todd with a plaque honoring her dedication, service and leadership to the Society.

The Board approved all Presidential appointments for the year and selected the Nominations and Elections Committee for 2008. The Board also approved the 2008 budget and various financial rates.

Mark Scherer of Beebe, Scherer and Associates reported on the current legislative session, and Ross Havens reported on the most recent (December, 2007) House of Delegates meeting.

The Board approved an amendment to the Policy Manual concerning PayPal, which offers members a payment option utilizing credit or debit cards for seminar registration and purchasing membership vouchers.

Three Board members participated in their first meeting: Julie Myers (Chapter 2), Sharon Adams (Chapter 5) and Christi Norris (Chapter 7). Rejoining the Board was Janet Sievers (Chapter 6)



2006-2007 ISRC President Mary Todd, left, receives a Presidential recognition award from 2008 President, Jennifer Brink

Asthma Disparities in Indiana

*By Trisha Jenkinson Dane
Indiana State Department of Health*

Asthma is a common chronic disease affecting more than half a million Hoosiers. The Indiana State Department of Health's Asthma Program recently released a report on asthma in Indiana and found certain populations had a greater burden of asthma.

The Asthma Program report found Blacks, children, females, and persons with an annual household income less than \$15,000 per year carried a disproportionate amount of the asthma burden with higher prevalence rates, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and deaths. Factors that may contribute to these disparities include genetic differences, poverty, environmental exposures, and lack of patient education.

The Asthma Program report, which analyzed data primarily from 2005, found adult men had an asthma prevalence of 6.0 percent, while adult women had an asthma prevalence of 10.3 percent. Adult women had higher asthma hospitalization and emergency department (ED) visit rates than men; however, hospitalization and ED rates were higher for males 14 years of age or younger when compared to females of the same age. Females also had higher asthma mortality rates than males.

Though the prevalence of current asthma was not significantly different between Blacks and Whites, the asthma ED and hospitalization rates for Blacks were approximately three times higher than Whites. Additionally, the asthma mortality rate for Blacks was nearly five times higher.

Children had the highest asthma ED rates and third highest asthma hospitalization rates when compared to all other age groups. Additionally, asthma prevalence was highest among those with an annual household income of less than \$15,000 per year.

Individuals in the above mentioned demographic groups should receive special care to help them better understand asthma control since they tend to use the health care system for asthma treatment more often. This may include extra time to evaluate environmental triggers, assessing proper inhaler use during each visit, monitoring use of controller and quick-relief medications, and determining barriers to asthma control (i.e. cost, low health literacy, absence of an Asthma Action Plan, etc.).

Most adults and children with asthma should receive an influenza shot every year. Those adults, who also smoke should be referred to the Indiana Tobacco Quitline at 1.800.QUIT-NOW. While these steps are important for all people with asthma, they are critical for populations disproportionately affected.

In August of 2007, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute updated their Guidelines on the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma, which more clearly defined how to assess asthma severity and control.

Asthma severity measures disease intensity when the patient is not on long-term control therapy, and asthma

control measures the extent to which symptoms of disease are minimized and guides decisions on maintaining or adjusting therapy. Severity and control also each involve two domains: current impairment and future risk.

Additionally, the guidelines have tailored disease assessment and treatment plans to three age groups: 4 years of age and younger; 5 to 11 years of age, and 12 years of age and older. These help direct treatment; however, asthma varies widely among patients and does require individualized therapy.

Despite advances in treatment, the guidelines conclude even long-term control medications do not improve the underlying severity of the disease. A copy of the guidelines and a summary can be found at:

<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/asthma/index.htm>.

By following the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute guidelines, Hoosiers can help reduce asthma disparities and the overall burden of asthma in Indiana. Until more research is completed to determine which factors contribute to these disparities, it is important for individuals with asthma to know the disease can be controlled. All people with asthma deserve to lead active, healthy lives.

For more information on asthma or to access the full report on the Burden of Asthma in Indiana, contact the Indiana State Department of Health Asthma Program at 317.233.1325 or www.statehealth.IN.gov/programs/asthma.

ELECTION 2008

The ISRC is soliciting nominations for the 2008 election for the following offices:

- President-Elect (Presidential term 2010-2011)
- Treasurer (term 2009-2010)
- Delegate (term 2009-2012)
- Director for each Chapter (term 2009-2010)

ISRC members may nominate individuals by completing the form below, and mailing it to Jackie Hanlon, Nominations & Elections Chair, PO Box 50987, Indianapolis, IN 46250, or phoning her at 260.373.4360, or by e-mailing her at jhanlon@in-isrc.org.

Nominees must be members of the AARC/ISRC in good standing, and should agree to accept the nomination before it is submitted to the Nominations & Elections Committee.

Your Name: _____
AARC Number: _____

Contact information: phone: _____
e-mail: _____

Name of nominee: _____
Nominee contact information: phone: _____

ISRC Calendar

June 6, 2008 12:00

Noon

IVY Tech Community College
9301 E. 59th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

October 8, 2008 6:00 PM

Purdue University Conf Center
West Lafayette, Indiana

December 5, 2008 12:00

Noon

IVY Tech Community College
9301 E. 59th Street
Indianapolis, Indiana

All Board meetings are open to the public.



**ISRC 34TH ANNUAL FALL SEMINAR
OCTOBER 8-10, 2008
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
CONFERENCE CENTER
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8/9 Gamblin' on Outcomes
Caesar's Hotel and Casino,
Elizabeth, IN
Contact Christi Norris
812.283.2036

June 24 Airway Clearance
Good Samaritan Hospital,
Vincennes
Contact Janet Sievers
812.885.673

.....