

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER



Welcome to the March/April, conference issue of FOCUS Journal. Many thanks to our readers, exhibitors, speakers and other friends in respiratory, sleep and critical care nursing who have given us hundreds of hours of their time and input putting together this year's conference. We have great speakers and an exhibit hall that will be brimming with companies, activities and food. We'll also be injecting a ton of fun along the way, including our receptions and our special evening at the Grand Ol' Opry Music Hall. Registration is running ahead of previous years and we expect a solid 2500-3000 people (we don't count speakers or exhibitor reps in our numbers; nor do we count people for each day they attend). By the way, there's still time to join us; perhaps just for a day if that's all you can get away for, so consider coming down to the Opryland Hotel where you can register on-site. In fact, bring along your "significant other" and make a mini-getaway out of it! The entire program, including info on speakers, topics, hotel arrangements and more, can be found at www.foocus.com.

Meanwhile, in this issue you'll find some excellent articles. We especially want to welcome Jim Harvey RRT RPFT, our new PFT columnist who takes over the column from Gregg Ruppell and David Kissin BS RRT, who takes over our blood gas column from Wes Granger. I wish to take a moment to thank both Gregg and Wes for all of their past contributions. They were pertinent, well-written contributions and we hope to see them both contribute, either to the journal or to the conference, again in the future.

We're also very pleased to begin our new "Student Papers" column in this issue; a column that will be devoted to publishing outstanding written work by our nation's respiratory care students. The first student chosen and featured as such is Ms. Lorna Ringley, a student enrolled in the respiratory care program at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. Her paper on Botulism is found on page 64. Lorna, plus her RC program will now each receive \$100 and Lorna her-

self will also receive a gratis registration to next year's FOCUS conference. Congratulations, Lorna. If you know a student who has written a particularly good paper or case study, encourage them to submit their work to FOCUS. They can send their paper as a simple MS Word file (900-1250 words) to our Craig Baker via e-mail at BakerCT78@yahoo.com.

As I said, this issue is full of excellent articles. Phil Perry, our management guru discusses today's EAP programs and Bill Wojciechowski RRT, (who's from Alabama but will have been to his first Yankee home opener, by the time you read this) provides our readers with a thorough review of Histoplasmosis. Regina Patrick RPSGT contributes an excellent article on Headache and Sleep Disorders in Children and Herb Patrick MD discusses how portable ultrasound can help during the insertion of arterial catheters. Jim Stegmaier RRT, discusses oxygen conserving devices for our readers working in homecare and Leah Curtin PhD(h) RN, discusses what she feels are going to be the top health care issues of 2007. Dave Kissin RRT, in his first article for us writes about capillary blood gases while Paul Mathews over at the University of Kansas, conducts a thorough review of a new asthma education program called Doc Monaghan. In between that article and our favorite curmudgeon, Andy Rooney, we have over twenty more articles for your perusal so, take a good look at them when you have a chance.

Until then, we hope to see as many of you as possible in Nashville. Try to make it if you can, if only for a day or so and if you do, make sure to find me so as to say hello.

Bob Miglino RRT BSRT MPS - Publisher



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