Difficult Breast Seminar in SA

GAYNOR JAMES ON ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

The Robson Theatre at the Royal Adelaide Hospital was the venue for The Difficult Breast seminar on 6th November. This half-day seminar was organised by Gaynor James, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Renate Koncina (RAH) and Natalia Cikorska from the AIR.

Support from the delegates was overwhelming with 100 registrations, the vast majority from private practices. Twelve interstate delegates travelled from NSW, Vic, WA and Qld. The Robson Theatre was a sea of pink thanks to Carestream who supported us with the delegate bags. Other sponsors included The Rainwater Tank Centre, GEM Planning, GEM General, Hologic and Siemens. Siemens helped fund our very special morning tea, which received much praise from our feedback sheets. It seems homemade cooking is still appreciated.

Presentations included The Difficult Mammogram by Gaynor James. Her talk covered some of the challenges hospital site mammographers deal with. This included the post surgical breast, the dense lactating breast and various mobility limitations.

A discussion forum to cover some of the difficult breast ultrasound issues followed. Breast ultrasound is such an integral part of a breast imaging service it could not be excluded when discussing the difficult breast. The panel included a sonographer new to breast work, experienced sonographers from both public and private practice a university ultrasound lecturer and a radiologist.

Our next speaker was Melissa Chabluk from Seimens who brought the group up to date with the latest technology from Siemens digital mammography units. The RAH is still analogue so I looked on in awe.

We planned a longer tea break to allow the group valuable network (gossip) time. After refreshments Bronwyn Knight from Breast Screen SA presented a 30-minute talk from research work BSSA has compiled addressing good ergonomics at the work place in an effort to reduce workplace injuries. A quote from Bronwyn's talk “all mammograms are difficult if the mammographer is injured”.

The final speaker was a slight diversion from the Difficult Breast. Jacqui Armstrong is a genetic councillor from the Familial Cancer Unit based at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital in Adelaide. She presented some family tree case studies following the prevalence of BRCA 1 and BRCA 2. The RAH is a high risk site and Jacqui as a genetic councillor works with the multidisciplinary team on High Risk Clinic days.

The feedback sheets showed support for the half-day conference format. It was an opportunity to gain CPD points without losing the whole weekend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Renate Koncina for her invaluable support preparing this seminar and also the committee members of the SA Branch, the mammographers from the RAH and finally friends and family who pitched in to help make the day a success.

As a first time organiser of a conference I am sincerely grateful to the delegates and sponsors for their support.

SA year ends at the Garage

The SA AIR Christmas party on 26th November was a great way to celebrate the end of 2010. The Garage Bar provided a great spot for radiographers and radiologists from practices and hospitals all over South Australia to mingle into the early hours.

The sausage sizzle was a favourite and the DJ only stopped for the announcement of door prizes! A big thankyou to the organisers and sponsors of the event. Also thanks to all for making it a fun filled night – see you next Christmas!