

Associate Professor David Smart, BMedSci, MBBS(Hons-1), MD(UTas), FACEM, FIFEM, FAICD, FACTM, DipDHM, CertDHM(ANZCA)



Born in Tasmania in 1960, David started scuba diving in 1981. Since graduating, he has always been active in diving and hyperbaric medicine, spending many hours when an intern as 'nurse' attendant in the old Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) hyperbaric chamber, while his more senior colleagues supervised. He completed his DipDHM in 1987 and FACEM in Emergency Medicine in 1991. After time in Adelaide and Fremantle, he returned to Hobart, and in 1995 he was appointed Director of Emergency Medicine, and Chair of the Scientific Committee, as well as working in hyperbaric medicine. In 1998, he became Medical Co-director of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine at RHH, and the following year was appointed Clinical Associate Professor in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, UTas; all this whilst also running a private emergency medicine facility! Whilst in Fremantle, he commenced research on expired carbon monoxide (CO) as a marker for CO poisoning, but because of his clinical commitments, this took many years to complete as a doctoral dissertation. David is heavily involved in diving medicine in numerous roles including medical consultant to various professional diving industry organisations; an examiner in diving and hyperbaric medicine, ANZCA; Chairperson of the ANZHMG; SPUMS Education Officer; he sits on the Australian Standards Committee on Occupational Diving and is an advisor to the Australian Government Medical Services Advisory Committee on hyperbaric medicine. His research interests include: safe diving schedules for bounce-diving in Tasmania's aquaculture industry using Doppler analysis of decompression stress; Doppler validation of sub-2400 m ascent to altitude guidelines; hookah diving safety, HBOT for lower limb trauma and review of the treatment evidence for late soft-tissue radiation injury. He is married with two daughters (both with gills), and pursues many hobbies; carpentry and joinery, swimming, scuba diving, fishing and underwater photography.

(photo taken during a recent SPUMS ASM practical diving workshop)