

## Letter to the Editor

### *Surgia* – inspiring future surgeons and anaesthetists at Griffith University Medical School

The Surgical Interest Association (*Surgia*) is a newly founded organisation at Griffith University Medical School, Queensland, and it is our pleasure to introduce ourselves to the diving and hyperbaric medicine community. *Surgia* aims to provide information, resources and potential networking opportunities to Griffith University students, staff and alumni to enhance essential operating room knowledge and skills. This includes holding events and providing opportunities for students in both surgery and anaesthesia.

*Surgia* has a diverse number of portfolios, including an academic domain that encourages educational endeavours and research opportunities for medical students and graduates who are in the early stages of their career. Uniquely, we look beyond the disciplines that are classically associated with surgery, and, in line with this vision, we were proud to present *Surgia*'s Inaugural Patron's Seminar on hyperbaric medicine earlier this year (sponsored by Hoylands Medical). The keynote speaker for this event was Dr Robert Webb from the Hyperbaric Medicine Service at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. Dr Webb introduced the theory underpinning hyperbaric medicine, discussed the primary mechanisms of hyperbaric oxygen and elucidated a number of associated treatment applications, including problem wound healing, osteoradionecrosis, decompression illness

and cerebral arterial gas embolism. His presentation was well received by an audience of keen medical students.

The evening also included a case study presented by Jane Leadbeater, the hyperbaric oxygen management of a pilonidal sinus. Miss Leadbeater worked on this case with Dr Webb and Professor Errol Maguire (Professor of Surgery, Griffith University and *Surgia*'s Patron). The management of this case included an extended course of hyperbaric oxygen that resulted in the successful healing of a problematic wound that had persisted for over three years.

These presentations showcased the potential applications of hyperbaric medicine in surgical practice, a topic that was of great interest to our members. We were proud to present *Surgia*'s Inaugural Patron's Seminar on hyperbaric medicine, yet another success for our young and ambitious association. This followed on from the Association winning Griffith University's prestigious 2012 Business Innovation Challenge and surpassing a membership base of 300 students and professional members, all less than five months after incorporation. Future plans include the delivery of research-based bursaries and helping to run a medical student surgical conference on acute injury recognition for 600 delegates.

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#### **Key words**

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The database of randomised controlled trials in hyperbaric medicine maintained by Michael Bennett and his colleagues at the Prince of Wales Hospital Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine Unit, Sydney is now at:

<<http://hboevidence.unsw.wikispaces.net/>>

Assistance from interested physicians in preparing critical appraisals is welcomed.  
Contact Associate Professor Michael Bennett: <[M.Bennett@unsw.edu.au](mailto:M.Bennett@unsw.edu.au)>

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The  
Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine  
journal website is at

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