

### Expanding ARC's Training Program and Technical Support in the Pacific – through collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Centre for Disease Control (CDC)

In 2010 ARC was approached by the Fiji National TB Program (NTP) to provide expertise to develop and implement medical, nursing and community training programs in Fiji. Professor Guy Marks was engaged to undertake the medical consultancy and Kerrie Shaw provided the nursing review in consultation with Amanda Christensen and Pam Banner. Prior to this in May, ARC had successfully developed and delivered its first TB Contact Tracing Nursing Workshop in Fiji, at the Fifth Pacific Stop -TB meeting.

Once more for the fifth consecutive year, ARC developed and delivered a 2 day TB workshop in Hawaii for Pacific Island TB Nurses and related workers. This ongoing collaboration with the CDC in Atlanta USA attracted thirty-one participants from seven countries to the course. The theme of this year's workshop, If You Can't Measure It, You Can't Manage It, highlighted program management, monitoring and evaluation.

In response to the nurses request for more community information on TB and Stigma, ARC worked alongside the Pacific Island TB Controller's Association (PITCA) nurses to develop two posters concerning TB Stigma. They were distributed at the 2010 PITCA Conference and are available for general use on the ARC website.

The Pacific Island TB Nurses Network have continued throughout 2010 with ARC supporting CDC and the National Tuberculosis Controllers Association (NTCA), USA, to provide technical support to TB nurses and related workers within the Northern Pacific Region through monthly Regional Case Management Teleconferences. These teleconferences play an important role in supporting TB nurses on their home Island states with coordinated practical solutions to TB issues as they arise. In addition, ARC has been successful this year in achieving Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) points recognition for the health worker participants, contributing towards their annual quota of points required for continuing registration.

#### Australia



### Using Talking Posters to educate families on child respiratory health in remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory

In the Northern Territory, respiratory illness is the most frequent reason for hospitalisation of young children under 5 years of age and the most preventable cause of death of Aboriginal infants

(five times that of non-Aboriginal infants). To help address this, ARC has supported the Menzies School of Health Research to develop a series of talking posters on cough, smoking and hygiene targeting five Indigenous languages in Central Australia. Each poster has a button that plays audio in a specific indigenous language and a button in English.

These resources have already received overwhelming positive community feedback. In addition three separate flipcharts on Pneumonia, Bronchiolitis and Bronchiectasis have been produced for use by health workers to help explain these complex diagnoses to their patients and families. The resources are helping to fill an identified gap in culturally appropriate respiratory education materials so badly needed in remote Aboriginal communities.

### Working to reduce smoking in Aboriginal communities in NSW and WA – the completion of two Major Projects



In 2010 the two major Aboriginal Tobacco Cessation Research Projects, the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW, BREATHE Project and the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) Beyond the Big Smoke Project (BtBS) have drawn to a close. ARC made a significant financial commitment to these projects and is delighted to report that both projects with their strong research component

as well as program implementation activities have achieved what they set out to do plus much more. Already they have been able to influence activities, funding and policy decisions that will lead to a long term reduction in tobacco usage among Aboriginal people, contributing to closing the gap. Both Projects have received ongoing funding from government departments to expand their excellent work.

#### TB Resources

Resources developed for use in Australia in 2010 to support TB management include pamphlets about TB and TB screening for use in rural and remote indigenous communities and a tool to assist health workers undertake Tuberculin Skin Test readings.



#### Birthday Celebrations

It is important and significant to congratulate the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) and Australian Lung Foundation (ALF) on their respective 50th and 21st anniversary's this year. Both these outstanding organizations in our field of respiratory medicine share a unique bond and we wish them every success as we all seek to improve people's lives.

Of course our own 100 year celebration will be in 2013.

#### Finances

The consequences of the 2008 global financial crisis (GFC) have continued to challenge ARC's financial performance. Most significantly the impact has been felt in the "value of assets", resulting in the decreased value of property and investment stock (showing a loss of \$354,658) which have not yet fully recovered from the 2008 set back. These have been challenging circumstances for a self funding charity organisation, which does not receive financial support from government. Despite this, the operating loss in 2009 of \$355,058 was reduced to \$55,586 in 2010. Again, this has been achieved by reducing operating costs, constraining project expenditure and focusing on strategic management of the investment portfolio. The diligence and commitment of the Finance committee and staff have been fundamental to achieving this result. ARC has embraced a partnership approach in order to maintain project activity, strengthening relationships with Australian and International partners. These partnerships ensure that ARC continues to have an impact despite challenging economic circumstances.

Fundraising activities too, have a significant role to play in ARC's response to the GFC. A bequest program was implemented in 2009 and has gained much support over the last 12 months. Workplace giving and acquisition appeals have also contributed to ARC's capacity. These programs will continue to be expanded in 2011 in order to enable the pursuit of ARC's mission.

#### Acknowledgements and Thanks

The dedication, expertise and enthusiasm of the Directors is one of ARC's great strengths. Their individual contributions are deeply appreciated, and I offer my personal thanks to them: Paul Seale and Peter Gianoutsos as Vice-Presidents; Robert Horsell as Finance Director; Iven Young as Chair of the Research Committee; Amanda Christensen, Chair of ARC's Project Advisory Group and Ian Ramsay Chair of ARC's Centenary Celebrations Committee.

ARC's dedicated staff have worked tirelessly throughout the year, developing, implementing and supporting all activities of the Council. A big thank you to Kerrie Shaw, Judy Begnell and Helen Smith for their dedication and support.

I would like to pay tribute to Audrey Tonkin, a committed and enthusiastic volunteer. Audrey's continued support and

assistance in ARC's day to day activities is much valued in our organisation.

Special thanks also are extended to Pam Banner and Amanda Christensen whose sustained efforts have enabled ARC to expand its contribution in the Pacific through health worker education and training.

Thank you to the members of the Research Committee, Projects Advisory Group and Centenary Celebrations Committee who have given their valuable time to support and guide ARC on its mission.

Again a sincere thank you to ARC's donors without whose commitment and generosity through bequests and regular giving, this work in respiratory health would not continue. We hope that our Newsletters and Supporter's Briefings have gone some way to demonstrating the impact that your contribution is making and gratitude with which it is received.

The year ahead promises to be another productive and exciting year for ARC. Our Research program continues to support important investigations being undertaken by Australian medical researchers in Tuberculosis and COPD. ARC's involvement in Cambodia continues with a focus on building capacity in local agencies which target marginalised groups. Embracing partnership, the Japanese Anti Tuberculosis Association (JATA) the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) and Eli Lilly Pty Ltd have joined ARC to co-fund the Cambodian Anti Tuberculosis Association (CATA) in their ongoing programs. ARC will continue to give support to the TB programs in the Pacific Nations through PITCA and the Pacific Nurses Forum. Two new projects will be supported in 2011; the MECOR Program in Vietnam, which aims to train local doctors in research skills, will be facilitated by the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research; and the Be our Ally Beat Smoking Study (BOABS), run by the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council, will send two Aboriginal research officers on a cultural exchange to New Zealand to share and learn about indigenous specific tobacco cessation techniques from their Maori counterparts. Educational resources for use in Australian and Pacific TB will be further developed in 2011.

I look forward to another successful and productive year ahead for ARC.

Thank you all for your contribution.

David Macintosh

President