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INTRODUCING OUR RESEARCH FELLOW

SPINAL CORD INJURY – BY ANNA LEONARD



Spinal cord injury (SCI) involves primary and secondary injury. While the initial primary injury is irreversible, there are a number

of secondary events that significantly contribute to the neurological deficits that occur after the initial trauma; these secondary events can be targeted for therapeutic intervention. For example, inflammation and oedema (tissue swelling) are two very important factors that contribute to this secondary damage. One consequence of oedema is an increase in the pressure within the spinal column, referred to as intrathecal pressure. Such an increase further damages spinal tissue by compressing blood vessels and reducing blood flow and oxygen delivery. As yet, no therapy has been developed to effectively reduce oedema or intraspinal pressure following SCI.

My studies will examine the role of a chemical known as substance P

in oedema formation following SCI. Substance P is known to contribute to the inflammatory processes that lead to the development of oedema. Studies have demonstrated that there is an increase in substance P following SCI but there have been no studies examining the effect of blocking its release. We have demonstrated that following traumatic brain injury (TBI), oedema can be reduced and the outcome improved by inhibiting substance P. Given these exciting results we have now turned our focus to SCI. The aims of the current research are to determine whether substance P plays a role in the development of oedema, and raised intrathecal pressure following SCI, and whether blocking substance P receptors may be a novel therapeutic intervention in SCI.

In order to achieve this, my studies will focus on various aspects of SCI. I will be assessing histological outcome, measuring oedema levels and intrathecal pressure, and ultimately assessing functional outcome to determine if inhibition of substance P can improve functional outcome following SCI. This is an exciting first step to further understand the injury processes following SCI.

SENATOR KIM CARR

Neil and Janyne Sachse were invited by Chairman David Smorgan to the Western Bulldogs Presidents lunch at Etihad Stadium to witness the Dogs take on Brisbane Lions in round 2. It was a day to honour retired players Brad Johnson and Nathan Eagleton and by a stroke of luck Neil found himself seated alongside Senator Kim Carr. Senator Carr is the Minister for Innovations, Industry, Science and Research and he, along with his wife Carole, is an avid Bulldog fan. You just never know your luck in the big city!!

It goes without saying Neil did a fair bit of ear chewing that day!...and bonus for all, the Doggies had a big win.



THE HON. BOB SNEATH



This edition of the Stand Up is part sponsored by the Hon. Bob Sneath.

Bob is a long term supporter of the foundation ever since his days as state secretary of the AWU and we thank him for his continued dedication to the

foundation's work. Bob was elected as a member of the legislative council in 2000 and moved into the presidents role in 2006, a position he still holds today.

He was born and raised in the South East of South Australia where he worked as a shearer and an organiser with the AWU. His interests are fishing, family and grandchildren, raising funds for The Neil Sachse Foundation, being a patron for the Down Syndrome Society of SA, helping those less fortunate and supporting legislation that makes life easier for the battlers.

He enjoys discussing issues with people in rural SA and visiting country areas.

stop!
what you
are doing

pause.
don't move
the injured
person

go!
and get an
adult

**back
to
basics**

RIDE FOR SAFETY

ADELAIDE TO MELBOURNE – MARCH 2011

Mount gambier



The Riders reach Mt Gambier. Left to right: Geoff Bockman – Tony Cavallaro – Larry Cavallaro – Grant Huddleston – Simon Whitaker – Cos Cirroco – IKO indo (lower) – Matthew Johns – Peter Larvin – Jo Mamonne – Geoff Tolcher – Roger Pirilli

A bitterly cold, wet and windy morning saw the departure of the inaugural Neil Sachse Foundation Ride For Safety. The ride was undertaken by 12 cyclists to spread the messages and ethos of the Foundations Back To Basics education program. The start could have dampened the spirits but the riders and crew pressed on through, thanks to the well-wishers that turned out at Victoria Square for a 7am BBQ put on by our valued sponsors, the MFS.



Neil & Adelaide Lord Mayor in Victoria Square – Day 1.

Before departure the group enjoyed a farewell speech by Adelaide Lord Mayor Stephen Yarwood. Stephen then signed the Ride for Safety shirt which was to travel across the miles collecting the signatures of all mayors on the way eventually to reach the hands of the Melbourne Lord Mayor at a special reception lunch on arrival.

First stop was the Magill Primary school where the entire school turned out to greet the riders, Neil and the Mayor of Burnside, David Parkin. It was there the Ride For Safety shirt was signed for the second time. Mount Barker and Strathalbyn were next on the agenda as the boys pushed on through the bad weather and with the fifth signature collected from mayor of Coorong DC Roger Strother they eventually took some time to rest overnight in Meningie.

Day two saw the group up early for a gruelling 144 kilometre stretch and the second school visit at Kingston Community School. The boys then rested up for the afternoon before enjoying the hospitality of the Kingston Football Club for dinner.

With a new morning and the sun peeping through for the first time the crew began their trek to Millicent and a visit to Newbury Park



Kingston Community School.

Primary School to meet the children, Principal Chris Edmunds and Mayor of Wattle Range Peter Gandolfi. From there it was onward to Mt Gambier and a wonderful reception from the MFS followed by a BBQ tea at the Fire Station where Mayor Steve Perryman shouted a round or two...very much appreciated by the boys!



Newbury Park Primary School celebrated the visit with a fee wheels day – students pictured with Rider Geoff

Portland was next on the agenda and the riders were special guests at the assembly of Portland North Primary before they headed for Port Fairy Consolidated School. After sitting in on the Back To Basics safety presentation it was back on the bike and into Warrnambool to rest up for the 165 Kilometres to Apollo Bay the next day.



Riders with students of Port fairy Consolidated.

The final overnight stop before reaching Melbourne was in Torquay. We then headed for Queenscliff to catch the Ferry to Sorrento. Once settled in Melbourne after a gruelling nine days straight on the road the boys rested overnight in readiness for a reception lunch the following day.



Mayor of Apollo Bay Brian Crook signs the shirt Talking safety – Rider Matthew at one of the school visits.

Thanks to the wonderful support from Bruce McAvaney the Friday Night Football Commentary team from Channel Seven were special guests at the ride's Melbourne Lunch. A brilliant show was put on by sponsors Optical Audio Productions and the Ride For Safety shirt collected the all-important final signing by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne the Honourable Robert Doyle.

To cap off 12 days to remember the riders enjoyed being guests of honour at the Bulldogs Presidents lunch at Etihad Stadium and this was followed by inclusion in the pre-game entourage on the oval to see Brad Johnson celebrate his retirement from the game.

The final stop for the Ride For Safety shirt will be the Adelaide Town Hall at a special ceremony to take place in early June.

The awareness value of the ride is something we will never be able to put a price on. We have certainly opened a lot of doors in Melbourne for the Foundation, its quest for continued research funding and for the Back To Basics education program. All in all the Ride For Safety has most certainly set the scene for an exciting future of the Education program both here in SA and across the border into Victoria. Talks are already underway to develop a program for high schools and the Ride For Safety will most certainly ride again!

LAUNCH OF NEW DVD

The Foundation is pleased to introduce you to their new promotional DVD.

Hosted by Susie Cardwell the presentation steps you through the Foundation office, talks about the education program and offers a comprehensive coverage on the all-important area of Research. The DVD was launched at the Ride For Safety Melbourne reception lunch on April 1st and was warmly received.



With the Foundations quest to increase its profile amongst women we welcome Susie (Pictured) as the face of the new DVD and would like to take this opportunity to thank her for time donated in producing the footage. We invite you all to log onto www.nsf.org.au to view it. You will find the prompt just under the Neil Sachse logo on the Home page.



Community way of life!



Our gratitude goes to the AWU for their undying support of the Foundation. Each year, for 4 years they have been kind enough to make us the recipient charity for their annual delegate's lunch and we again look forward to that honour in 2011. Their interest doesn't end there with the fact that the Ride For Safety 2011 would not have been possible without their generous donation as one of the major sponsors.