

Preliminary Program

HTNA's 24th Annual Scientific Conference on Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine



Hamilton Island - August 10th to 13th - 2016

Guest Speakers

Dr Ken Thistlethwaite

Dr Ken Thistlethwaite BSc(Hons) MBBS FRACGP(JCCA) is a GP Anaesthetist who has worked in Hyperbaric Medicine at the Wesley Centre for Hyperbaric Medicine and The Royal Brisbane Hospital since 2004. He is the principal investigator in a multi-centred double blinded, randomised, control trial examining the use and effectiveness of Hyperbaric Oxygen in the management of venous leg ulcers.

Medicare item number 13015, funding for the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy in the treatment of problem wounds and ulcers in non-diabetic patients was withdrawn on the 1/11/2012. Systematic reviews of HBOT have found evidence supports its use for adjunctive treatment of diabetic foot ulcers, however, insufficient evidence exist for other types of leg ulcers. Around 70% of chronic leg ulcers are caused by venous disease and evidence shows compression therapy is an effective treatment. Despite the application of effective compression, 15-30% of venous leg ulcers do not heal and remain unhealed at 1 year. Only one small trial has looked at the impact of HBOT on healing of venous leg ulcers. This trial was under powered but suggested increased healing trajectory rates at the early time points of 2 and 4 weeks. The Wound Management Innovation CRC project 3-02, 'The Effectiveness of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Healing of Chronic Venous Leg Ulcers' has been completed. The project is a randomised, double blinded, placebo controlled trial. The results and implications for management including when and how to use Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy with this condition will be discussed.

Dr Tracey Symmons

Clinical Director Rehabilitation Services, The Townsville Hospital

Tracey Symmons is a Rehabilitation Physician, and has been based at The Townsville Hospital for the last 10 years. In Townsville, the hyperbaric service and the rehabilitation service are not only close geographically – across the corridor actually - but also share a substantial number of patients and work very well together to get the best results for our patients.

Tracey has a special interest in amputee rehabilitation and runs a busy interim and definitive amputee service. She is passionate about providing excellent services for our indigenous patients, and also works closely with the North Queensland spinal cord injury service and the stroke services.

Prior to Townsville, she was the Deputy Director of a 100 bed Hospital in a remote part of the PNG highlands. Her work included doing many anaesthetics, education, and primary health care including wound care in a resource poor setting.

Tracey is the Chair of the Queensland Branch of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. She has completed a Masters of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and now helps coordinate two Masters of Public Health subjects. She strongly believes that to get excellent outcomes, disciplines need to work together and value and understand each others role.



Guest Speakers

Susan Doherty

Occupational Therapist – Advanced Skills Vascular Outpatients, The Townsville Hospital

Sue graduated from Queensland University in 1984 after receiving her bachelor degree in occupational therapy. She has worked as an occupational therapist for the past 31 years, 25 of these years here in Townsville at The Townsville Hospital.

In 1997 she was employed in the role of Occupational Therapist working in the vascular outpatient caseload. For the past 18 years she has developed a leg ulcer clinic which operates, with the support from vascular surgeons, to assist with the healing of patients with venous leg ulcers. Her role also covers the measuring and fitting of compression garments to manage lower limb oedema, DVT management and to prevent ulcer recurrence.

She enjoys sharing her knowledge on leg ulcer management with any health professional who is keen to learn more about wound care and compression bandaging and works collaboratively with many community health professionals to increase their knowledge and confidence with compression bandaging.

Outside her professional career she enjoys family life raising her three children and tandem cycling with her husband.

Hugh Sweatman

Research Scientist, Australian Institute of Marine Science, Townsville

Hugh Sweatman came to Australia from the UK to study coral reef fishes for his PHD. He has worked on reefs in Australia, the Caribbean, and the Arabian Gulf, studying reef fishes and the crown-of-thorns starfish. Based at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) Townsville, for the past 20 years he has been involved with one of the largest and longest-running reef monitoring programs in the world; tracking changes in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR).

The Great Barrier Reef is an Australian Icon, and the condition of the Reef is a matter of great interest to the Australian public. Hugh is able to provide an overview of the dynamics and the long-term changes in the GBR coral reefs, and also an update on current research in this area.



Preliminary Program

Wednesday 10th August

Time	Session / Presentation	Speaker
1500 to 1830	Wound Care Workshop / Hyperbaric Chamber Maintenance Workshop	
1830	Drinks	

Thursday 11th August

07:30 to 09:00	Registration	
09:00 to 12:00	HTNA / ANZHMG Annual General Meetings	
SESSION 1 "SETTLING IN - THE VIEW IN FNQ"		
13:00 to 14:30	Opening Address <i>The Great Barrier Reef in the 21st Century – The Present</i> - Free Papers	Hugh Sweatman
14:30 to 14:50	Afternoon Tea	
SESSION 2 REPAIRING THE INJURED DIVER		
15:00 to 16:30	<i>Spinal Decompression Illness – Rehabilitation, what is the role, and how early to refer?</i> - Free Papers	Tracey Symmons
	<i>The Great Barrier Reef in the 21st Century – What does the future bring?</i>	Hugh Sweatman
1900 - 22:00	Welcome Cocktail Party – Catseye Beach	



Friday 12th August

07:30 to 08:30	Registration	
SESSION 3 CHRONIC HYPOXIC WOUNDS AND HBOT		
08:30 to 10:00	<i>The Effectiveness of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Healing of Chronic Venous Leg Ulcers – A multi-centred double blinded, randomised, control trial.</i> - Free Papers	Dr Ken Thistlethwaite
10:00 to 10:20	Morning Tea	
SESSION 4 THE ROLE OF TISSUE MEASUREMENT IN SELECTING PATIENTS FOR HBOT		
10:20 to 12:00	Free Papers	
12:00 to 13:00	Lunch	
SESSION 5 TO TREAT OR NOT TO TREAT, THAT IS THE QUESTION		
13:00 to 14:30	Free Papers Expert Panel Discussion	
14:30 to 14:50	Afternoon Tea	
SESSION 6 MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE – WHERE DOES HBOT FIT IN		
14:50 to 16:30	<i>Hyperbaric Medicine and Rehabilitation Services: How do we get the best outcome for our patients?</i> - Free Papers	Tracey Symmons
16:30 to 18:00	Clinical Trials Meeting	

Saturday 13th August

Time	Session / Presentation	Speaker
SESSION 7	CHAMBER SAFETY	
08:00 to 10:00	Free Papers	
10:00 to 10:20	Morning Tea	
SESSION 8	COMPLICATIONS & INCIDENT MONITORING	
10:20 to 12:00	Free Papers	
12:00 to 13:00	Lunch	
SESSION 9	DIVING CASE STUDIES	
13:00 to 14:15	Free Papers	
14:15 to 14:35	Afternoon Tea	
SESSION 10	REPORTS FROM HYPERBARIC FACILITIES	
14:35 to 16:30	A series of 5 minute reports from clinical hyperbaric facilities across Australia & New Zealand	
1900 to 23:00	Gala Dinner – Outrigger Marquee	



Hamilton Island - Outrigger Marquee