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### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**



**Jessica  
Christopherson**  
**The Day of Zip  
Drives, E-Mail  
and Automated  
Living**

I have noticed various forms of communication that are occurring throughout the Respiratory community. What I find disturbing is the lack of accurate information. With the advent of the Internet, masses of scientific journals, and abundance of educational seminars to attend, the expectation is that we would all be better informed. I also find it interesting when people tell me they don't have enough time to read articles, or attend any seminars, but yet I continue to see Motor Trend, the Spiegel catalog, and People magazine being read at the workplace. If anyone takes offense at this observation then there probably is some self-reflection that needs to take place. I also see people utilizing the Internet for their own personal interests, but amazingly some practitioners don't seem to think it's important to keep up on their own profession. There have been many recent incredible breakthroughs and updates in the field of Respiratory Care. Don't get me wrong, I definitely think there is a time and place for personal development and enjoyment; We just have to make sure there is balance, and that we are giving the best patient care possible.

In today's standards, physicians are being pushed to the limit and spend about seven minutes per patient. There are many opportunities as a professional RCP to make sure our patients don't fall between the cracks. I realize we also can be overwhelmed with increasing patient workloads. We have to be very smart and efficient in the way we deliver our clinical expertise.

Ways we can improve care is to spend time doing a complete patient assessment. We have to be proactive in the advice and care that we deliver. For example, don't wait until a patient is in respiratory failure before attempting noninvasive ventilation. By being proactive and using good clinical judgment, assess the patient and determine they are going into respiratory failure. You then confer with the healthcare team and initiate noninvasive ventilation; thereby preventing further respiratory failure, nosocomial pneumonia, an expensive, extended stay in the Intensive Care Unit, and most of all an intubation.

This is probably one of the biggest areas of opportunity to showcase our abilities. We are efficient, cost-effective, and overall the best healthcare provider choice to care and treat respiratory patients. We don't tell our patients or the public enough about who we are and what we have to offer. We are the best choice, but you yourself have to believe and market that concept. The MSRC/AARC can't do this alone.

**Time is running out for me to get the message out to you on why you should belong to the MSRC/AARC. Clearly, this is a "no-brainer":**

- United we stand – a team of professionals supporting you.
- Can it be any easier than going to the AARC website to obtain your CEU listing for each year?
- The AARC has two full-time lobbyists that advocate for our profession and watchdog events happening in Washington and the nation that affect our profession. For example, the current concern is (UAP's) Unlicensed Assistive Personnel. These are people who have no educational or clinical training and have been allowed to do the functions of Respiratory Therapists in various settings. Do you think this is detrimental to our profession? Does this personally impact you? Most certainly it does. What are you doing about it? Even more tellingly, were you even aware this was happening?
- The AARC has done many studies such as the most recent Muse Study that documents that respiratory patients in SNF's who were treated by RTs had a 42% lower death rate than those treated by other caregivers and that RT's saved the Medicare system \$97.9 million in one year.
- As of right now the Clinical Practice Guidelines are being updated with some of our very own expert RTs from Minnesota serving on those committees for input.
- The One Million Research Fund-this program provides funding for outcome studies that will demonstrate the value of RTs in the health care system.
- The AARC has also created a Political Advocacy Program Contact Team, which rallied together RTs from every state to push for competency requirements for non-RT providers of respiratory care, and to look at reimbursement issues.

*Automated living.....Continued pg 3*

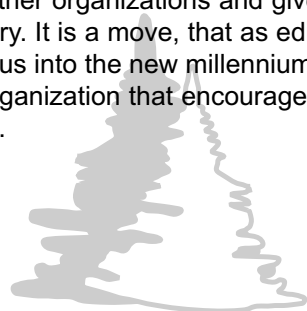
## Editors Note

by: Jane Hagstrom &amp; Shelly Klein

As autumn approaches, you notice a transformation in the scenery. Colors change, the weather becomes crisp and we modify our lifestyles to accommodate a new season. This too, is the way we can all look at the new MSRC. Colors have changed to a subtle orange and forest green. The look of MSRC letters, publications even business cards are crisp and fresh just like the new season. The MSRC board voted in May to hire Industrio to coordinate all MSRC materials to a new style and look that would set us apart from other organizations and give us a professional edge in our industry. It is a move, that as editors, we embrace and value to take us into the new millennium. We are excited to be a part of an organization that encourages change and makes us all look good.

Jane Hagstrom  
Shelly Klein

Co-editors



## Automated Living.....Continued from page 1

I hear frequently from cohorts that we want to be respected and branch out into different areas. All of this can be accomplished, but we need to be knowledgeable, marketable, and have a plan of action in tow. I can't say this enough, "we each have to take personal responsibility for our own clinical practice". You have to be involved, read, and continually upgrade your skills. Sitting and reading People is not going to give you the edge or perspective that is going to take you anywhere unless you plan on going to Hollywood. If that happens, then I commend you on taking the steps forward to follow your dreams and putting a plan in place to have the career you want. For most of us, however; we have chosen Respiratory Care as a profession. I challenge us all to be the true professionals that we strive to be, and to utilize the tools that are freely given to us to be successful in our endeavors. It's such an easy choice, but each person has to commit to it. Technology is there-use it to your best advantage. We can use the benefits of technology to be leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs for a better healthcare system that actually advocates for patients. We are in control of our destiny.

Note: If this message made you uncomfortable, or better yet made you think,... GOOD! Now add action, and not just jaw action.

Clarification: The Summer issue of the BRONCHUS included an article titled "MSRC Chronic Disease Task Force Coalition of Respiratory Therapists for Asthma". Unfortunately the author was not given credit. The author of the article is Deb Haider. We apologize.



The Bronchus is the official newsletter of the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care, and an affiliate of the AARC. Published in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Bronchus welcomes articles from respiratory therapists, physicians, nurses, and other health care personnel interested in pulmonary care.

Co-Editors \_\_\_\_\_ Jane Hagstrom  
\_\_\_\_\_ Shelly Klein  
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Circulation Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Roberta Retting  
Advertising Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Sharon Hansen

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**The Bronchus:**

**Shelly Klein:** sklein1356@aol.com  
**Jane Hagstrom:** mmhags@gateway.net

Deadline for submission of articles for Winter 2000 are: Sept. 29th

**Change of Address?**

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Roberta Retting  
2828 E. 46th St. • Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076 (651) 457-5396

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**PRESIDENT ELECT:**

*Deb Haider CRTT, CPFT, RPFT, RCP*



**Employment:** February 1999 to present: North Memorial Health Care-Chronic Respiratory Disease Coordinator. May 1998 to January 1999: Midwest Medical Services-Marketing and Sales Representative. 1997-1998 North Star Medical Systems. 1994-1997 Medical Graphics Corporation. 1988-1994 Manager, St. Paul Pulmonary Diagnostic Lab, United Hospital. 1986-1988 Coordinator, Cardiopulmonary Lab, Unity Hospital. 1983-1986 Respiratory Care Practitioner, Douglas County Hospital, Alexandria MN.

**MSRC:** 2000 Vice President, 2000 Public Relations committee, 2000 Executive Steering committee ALA-MN Asthma Coalition, 1999-2000 Camp Superkids(ALAM) RCP Co-coordinator, 1999 Board of Directors, 1999-2000 Co-Chair Chronic Disease Task Force/Coalition of Respiratory Therapists for Asthma, 1999 3 Publications in AARC Times on NPPV and CPAP, 1998 Co-Chair Annual Education Committee, 1996-98 Co-Chair MSRC Education Committee, 1997-2000 Annual Education committee, 1996-2000 Education Seminars committee, 1995 MSRC Secretary.

**Education:** Graduate Respiratory Therapy Program, Anoka Technical College, Currently enrolled at Cardinal Stritch University to complete Bachelor's degree. Completed UCLA Medical Marketing certificate course, Completed University of St. Thomas' Mini MBA Program in Health Care Management.

*"So much more is possible when we work together than alone. My goal as President-elect will be to enhance our efforts as a team to promote our profession and to be accountable to our members in all ways-to represent your views, to provide clinical education and to advocate for the future of Respiratory Care".*

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

*Pam Neuenfeldt RRT, RCP*

**Employment:** Pulmonary Rehab Coordinator, Unity Hospital-Allina Hospitals and clinics, Case Manager for Respiratory Disease Management program- Unity

**MSRC:** 1999-2000 Director MN ACVPR, 1999-2000 Metro Education Chair, MN ACVPR, 1999-2000 Legislative Committee, 1998-1999 Audit Committee Chair AARC, 1994-1997 MSRC Delegate to AARC, 1996-1997 Publications Chair AARC HOD.



## The MSRC's 3rd Annual Atomic Bowling Tournament

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*"Reimbursement for Pulmonary and Cardiac rehab has been under scrutiny (or in limbo) for a long time. While discussions with HCFA and Medicare Fiscal Intermediaries are ongoing, there is danger that valuable, "patient-oriented" services will be lost. If quality of care is to be our standard, Respiratory Therapists must be good examples and must advocate for our patients. My goal continues to be politically astute on behalf of all areas of Respiratory Care."*

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Laurie Tomaszewski CRTT, RCP, Perinatal Pediatric Specialist

Employment: Present: HealthEast Med Home. Pediatric Home Respiratory Services, Gillette Specialty Hospital, Children's Hospital, Minneapolis.

MSRC: 2000 Co-Chair Annual Meeting, Co-Chair Education Committee, Asthma Coalition member, Board member, St. Paul Technical Advisory Council

Education: Anoka Technical College-Respiratory Care, BA Business Management, Metropolitan State University

*"As Respiratory Therapists, we should be proactive in our careers. It is each of our responsibilities to nurture and develop our profession. As Vice President, I will work with the MSRC and our membership to foster our roles as Respiratory Therapists."*

**SECRETARY:**

Jeff Anderson: CRTT, RRT, RCP, Pediatric/Perinatal Specialist



Employment: Midwest Companies, Health East Med Home

MSRC: 2000 Secretary, Volunteer for Camp Super Kids

Education: St. Paul Technical College-Respiratory Therapy Program

*"As an officer of the MSRC, my efforts would be to encourage promotion and growth from within our organization and the community."*



Employment: 1999-present Program Director-Alpha 1 Association, 1985-1999 Pulmonary Function Technologist-Fairview Health Systems, 1984-1985 Respiratory Therapist- ANW

MSRC: 1996-present, Education committee, 1996 Secretary, 1993-1996 Education Committee

Education: BS Health Care Management, St. Mary's University 1999, AS- Anoka Ramsey Community College 1997, AAS- Anoka Ramsey Community College 1993, RRT-McKenna Hospital 1971

*"Throughout the years my activities with the MSRC have allowed me to develop personal and professional skills that have been very valuable in my career. I have seen firsthand how volunteer efforts enhance a profession. As our profession changes, I feel the MSRC has something to offer all therapists. It is an exciting time and one that can open new doors if a person so chooses. I welcome the opportunity to serve our profession in yet another capacity."*

No Photo Available

Candidate Profiles... Continued on pg. #6

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**TREASURER:**

*Teresa Miska RRT, RCP*

No Photo  
Available

Employment: Children's Hospitals and Clinics, Education and Quality Specialists for Respiratory Care Services

MSRC: 1999 Elections committee member, 1995-1998 Chair Elections committee, 1995-1996 Board of Directors, 1979-present member of AARC/MSRC, St. Paul Technical College Advisory

Board member, Facilitator of MSRC Officiary/Directory

Education: AS in Respiratory Care

"I have been a member of the MSRC since 1979 and during that time I have served on the Board of Directors and participated on various committees. Being involved in our state society is the best way I know to support our peers, our profession and help shape our future so we can continue to be a valuable asset to our customers and our community. If elected treasurer, I will continue to volunteer my time and energy to support our professional society to the best of my ability."

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Ginger Justesen CRTT, RRT, RCP,  
Pediatric/Perinatal Specialist*

Employment: 1990- present Gillette Children's, Supervisor since 1993. I have a varied background in Respiratory Care having worked in 10 different hospitals in 3 different states. I have also worked in homecare and have some cardiac rehab experience.

MSRC: Current member MSRC Education committee

Education: AS Respiratory Care, North Hennepin Jr. College

"An area I have a special interest in is new student recruitment. I know this is a concern for many of us and is essential for our professional survival. In order to accomplish this I think we need to be better known as a profession. I also think we need to see an overall salary increase to be able to compete with other health care professions like nursing."

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Jane Strub CRTT, RRT, RCP*

Employment: Present, Director Cardiopulmonary- Woodwinds Health Campus, Cardiopulmonary Services Manager- Hudson Medical Center

Education: St. Paul Technical College, Winona State University

"I would like to see our membership grow, improve our professional visibility and maintain our professional excellence through educational opportunities for all areas of the state."

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Jamie Zakula*

Employment: 1990- present Allina Home Oxygen and Medical Equipment, Account Representative.

MSRC: Annual sponsor of the MSRC meetings

Education: AS degree Respiratory Care

"As an elected board member of the MSRC, I will represent the respiratory profession to the best of my ability, drawing upon my clinical and business expertise...."

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Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Civic Center Theater at the MSRC

Who: YOU

Why: For lots of fun and an exceptional good time!



**Midwest Medical Services**



*My main goal if appointed, would be to facilitate communication between the Board and Therapists, addressing concerns that may ultimately endanger our role as health care professionals."*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Lynne Bausman: RRT, RCP*



Employment: Present: Health East Bethesda Rehabilitation Hospital.

MSRC: 1999 Board member, Co-Chair, Chronic Respiratory Disease Management, Co-Coordinator for Camp Superkids

Education: Associate Degree, Mayo School of Health Related Science

*"My goal is to promote the expertise of Respiratory Therapists in all areas, including education. I will continue to work on promoting the Respiratory Therapists role in Asthma Management and community awareness endeavors. I will also work to represent the needs of Respiratory Therapists in all venues of practice."*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Ken Ottum, RRT, RCP*

Employment: HealthEast Med Home, Apria

Education: AAS, St. Mary's, BS, Mankato State

*"My goals are to organize and help move forward the tasks the organization sees as critical issues. I believe enrollment and involvement are key to our society."*



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Nick Kuhnley, CRT, RRT*



Employment: Present: Department Manager of Respiratory Care at North Memorial Health Center

Education: AS, North Hennepin Community College

*"I am answering the President's request to get involved! Jessica can be very convincing, and she is correct. I'm sure it will be fascinating to move from an*

*observer into the realm of a participant. As an observer of 31 years, I have seen the MSRC grow into a truly professional organization, with capabilities well beyond that which the*

*average RTP is familiar. I hope to contribute in a small way by my long experience in the field, and to make other RTs aware of the MSRC's Potential."*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Jan Salo Korby, CRTT, RRT*

Employment: American Lung Association of America (Program Associate, Community Organizer) • St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System (Respiratory Rare Practitioner)

MSRC: Legislative Affairs Committee

Education: Associate of Arts

*"My goals are to increase opportunities for, and visibility of the MSRC statewide. Seek input from members and non-members statewide. Organize and devise an active network for addressing legislative concerns affecting respiratory care on state and local levels. Become a "team" with current and new board members, embracing and furthering current goals of the board. Increase partnerships with other health agencies and professional organizations."*



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## Spring Forum 2000 at Breezy Point Resort

by: Ginger Justesen

Breezy Point Resort in northern Minnesota was the site for the Spring Forum 2000. The annual MSRC event, titled *Rev it up*, was held May 18 & 19 with more than 70 enthusiastic attendees; one of the best turnouts ever for the spring conference.

Thursday, was reserved for the Rev it up fun activities organized by the MSRC "F.U.N. Committee". They provided a chance to go fishing and golf in the morning, followed by a fish fry in the afternoon. The grand finale for Thursday was a dinner/luau sponsored by Allina, and a festive bonfire.

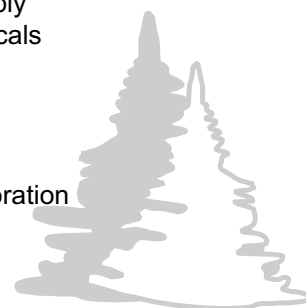
Friday's conference featured four primary speakers and a skills lab rotation, which earned great reviews. During the morning session Paul Hamann M.D. spoke on "Physicians: Why we are the way we are"; Robert Turner RRT presented a current review of asthma disease management; and Pat Soderberg RD discussed nutrition and exercise. After lunch, which was sponsored by HPO Staffing, the skills lab rotation took place. Conference attendees learned about dry powder inhalers from Jessica Christopherson, Deb Haider, and Carolyn Donow; x-ray interpretation from Dr. Hamann; and auto-peep from Jerry Ebert. Brian Kelly and Laurie Tomaszewski offered great

hands-on experience with non-invasive mask fitting, and anyone who wanted, had an opportunity to try on the masks.

The last topic of the day was "New Waves in Aerosol Delivery" by Dominic Coppolo, RRT. We learned not only about new methods of delivering aerosols, but also how to better select devices for patients. The day concluded with closing comments from MSRC President Jessica Christopherson.

The MSRC gratefully acknowledges all the Spring Forum 2000 sponsors, including:

- Arrowhealth Medical Supply
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## F.U.N. Rascals Update

by: Denise Johnson

I think all would agree that the Spring Forum F.U.N Thursday at Breezy Point lived up to its name. It was jam-packed with several F.U.N events. Our First Annual Fishing expedition included a small, but F.U.N. loving group led by a world class fishing guide, Gary Johnson. It was a chilly morning, with rough waters, but fish were caught !!

The 2nd Annual Golf Outing was a "smashing" success with twenty-one participants and gorgeous weather!

Gary "The Walleye Man Johnson", came well prepared with frozen filets to cook up in his famous batter at the fish fry. Delicious! (we did catch fish in the morning but they all got away!)

The evening activities included a Luau sponsored by Allina Home Oxygen & Medical Equipment with a bonfire, lakeside to cap off the evening.

Pictured from left to right: Gary Johnson, Teresa Miska, Denise Johnson & Curt Merriman



As always, with the F.U.N. rascals we were on the look out for spontaneous F.U.N. occurring around us. We gave out the following unofficial awards:

**GARY JOHNSON:** Master Chef and Fishing Guide

**JAMIE ZAKULA:** Supreme Host of the Luau and Birthday Boy

**JANE HAGSTROM:** Hostess with the Mostess of the Luau and Queen of the MSRC for a day

**RITA DECKER:** Newest Graduate and Bonfire Princess

Of course there were many more F.U.N. lovers than those awarded. We will get you next time! Speaking of that, plans are in the works for many unofficial F.U.N. events and awards for the September meeting in Rochester, "Too Hot To Handle". We'll be "lurking" for you!

## 31st Annual MSRC Educational Program Too Hot To Handle!

September 20-22, 2000

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Sputum Bowl  
Helmholtz Award  
Dancing  
Atomic Bowling  
Vendor Exhibits

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### Speakers-

Luis Blanc  
Udaya B.S. Prakash  
David Midthun  
Rich Branson  
Peter Gay  
Myrlah Olson  
Ashtok Patel  
Michael Krowka  
Sam P. Giordano  
Jeffrey Rabatin



## The Students Corner

St. Paul Technical College Graduating Class of 2000



Front row left to right- Nicole Tieman, Debbie Dahlke, Kelly Lillquist, Amie Amenrud. Middle row Helen Billing. Back row left to right - Al Tume. Kyle Oen, Jeff Ruter, Brad Thorn, Zach Foster.

Mayo Graduating Class of 2000



Students: back row left to right Aleisha Kuehne, Sivorn Ouk, Chris Fogarty, Kory Bowe, Lori Ingalls, Becky Fasnacht, Faculty: Jim Prignitz, RRT Dr. Fred Helmholz, Dr. David Plevak, Jeff Ward RRT,

## ATOMIC BOWLING

### Calling All Bowlers!

This years Annual Meeting in Rochester (September 20-22) will feature the ever popular "Atomic Bowling" on Thursday, September 21.

Teams will consist of 6 members

Prizes will be awarded for:

- Best Team Name
- Best Team Bowling Shirt
- Most Strikes, Spares, Gutterballs

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## It's Tee time Golf tee time, that is!

The Annual MSRC Education Conference Golf Tournament will be held at the Willow Creek Golf Course near Rochester on Wednesday, September 20, 2000. This is a 4-person scramble, with tee times beginning at 9:30 a.m. Green fees are \$13.50 per person, payable in advance. Lunch will be provided for golfers followed by an awards ceremony. Space is limited so call now!

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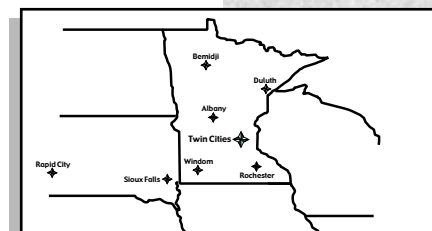


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# Attention!

*ALL RCP's interested in PFT's*

On October 18, 2000, Unity Hospital will host a Pulmonary Function Meeting. Anyone interested in diagnostic testing is welcome. If you would like to find out what other Pulmonary Function labs in the area are doing for QA, predicted, equipment being used, please come to the meeting.

Mark Stang, MD will give a presentation (for 1 CEU).  
Hors d'oeuvres will be provided by Sensormedics.

If interested in coming, please RSVP to Unity  
CardioPulmonary Lab @ **763-780-6756**, or  
email to: [nwest@allina.com](mailto:nwest@allina.com). Hope to see you there!



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***Save The Date*** 

*Important Dates for Upcoming Events.*

***MSRC 2000***

**August 18th:** Board meeting at ALA 2:00pm.

**September 10-16th:** National Respiratory Care Week.

**September 20-22nd:** Annual Fall Education Conference in Rochester

**October 7-10th:** National Congress in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**November 17th:** 3rd Annual Fall Retreat Board Meeting



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