

- of the tendon of Achilles: a new clinical diagnostic test. *J Trauma* 1962; 2: 126-129
- 8 Bullough PG and Vigorita VJ. Eds. *Atlas of Orthopaedic Pathology. 2nd edition.* London: Gower, 1992
- 9 Campbell MW. Ed. *Operative Orthopaedics.* Philadelphia; Lippincott Co, 1988
- 10 Kleinman M and Gross AE. Achilles tendon rupture following steroid injection. *J Bone Joint Surg* 1983; 65A: 1345-1387

Acknowledgments

The author thanks Dr Nick Cooling, Mr John Mills and Dr R Jones of Hobart, for diagnosis and treatment of the case described, and Ms Anne Batt, Medical Librarian, University of Western Australia, for research assistance.

Dr J C Marwood MRCS LRCP is a General Practitioner. His address is 8 Sloane Street, Hobart, Tasmania 7004, Australia. Telephone +61-(0)3-6223-7887 or +61-018 047 806. Fax +61-(0)3-6228-9530.

THE WORLD AS IT IS

WHY DID DAN SUSPEND COVER FOR VANUATU ?

John Lippmann

Key Words

Accident, decompression illness, insurance, rescue, transport.

Over the past two years, DAN has been involved in the evacuation of around 15 divers from Vanuatu. We are also aware of a substantial number of divers who were not evacuated but who required treatment for decompression illness after returning home from Vanuatu.

Many of these divers had been diving on the *President Coolidge*, off Santo, to depths from around 20 m to approaching 70 m. DAN has expressed concern for some time about the amount of deep diving conducted on the *Coolidge*. In particular we have been concerned about:

- 1 The depth and number of dives conducted;
- 2 the minimal experience of many of the divers;
- 3 the incidence and severity of decompression illness occurring;
- 4 the lack of appropriate medical facilities for treating divers in Vanuatu;
- 5 the general lack of appropriate oxygen equipment and trained personnel;
- 6 the difficulty and delays sometimes associated with evacuating a person from Vanuatu;
- 7 the cost of evacuating a person from Vanuatu (around \$40,000).

Many divers believe that DAN is little more than an insurance company. **DAN is not an insurance company.** DAN buys insurance for its members from insurance companies. DAN is a non-profit, membership-based organisation dedicated to improving dive safety through a variety of activities that include:

- 1 Regular dive safety journals; educational programs and seminars;
- 2 funding diving emergency hotlines (e.g. the DES in Australia);
- 3 providing evacuation cover;
- 4 providing very economical dive injury insurance;
- 5 providing economical and effective oxygen equipment;
- 6 the provision of advisory services for diving health and safety;
- 7 providing support for the establishment of recompression chambers;
- 8 donation of safety equipment;
- 9 collection, analysis and reporting of dive accident data.

Over the past 12 months or so, DAN SEAP has expressed its concern to several dive operators in Vanuatu, pointing out that some insurers were considering placing restrictions on cover for certain dive destinations known to produce DCI. We warned that it was possible that some insurers might cease to offer cover for diving accidents in certain places. Despite our expressions of concern, we observed no reduction in the number of cases.

DAN believes that the best solution would be to have a suitable recompression facility established in Vanuatu. To this end, we approached some organisations and requested that they consider establishing such a facility. DAN offered to make a substantial initial contribution to the chamber and has offered to provide some funds to cover the on-going training and supervision requirements. One of the organisations we approached has spent considerable effort investigating establishing a facility in Vanuatu. The essential condition is that chamber is financially supported by the dive operators, who would have to put a small levy on the cost of each dive to cover the ongoing maintenance and operational costs of the chamber. There was some initial reluctance of some dive operators to support the levy concept and the potential chamber installer has notified us that he is now unwilling to commit himself to installing a chamber in Vanuatu.

The cost of evacuating divers from Vanuatu has been so high that our insurers threatened to cease offering us cover for evacuations from anywhere else, which could affect the viability of DAN S.E. Asia-Pacific. Clearly, we cannot risk our other vital services. As a result, we have been forced to suspend cover for evacuation from Vanuatu. Although we will cover divers who were DAN SEAP members at the time we restricted cover (July 1998), no new or renewing members will be covered for Vanuatu. This situation will be reviewed if and when an appropriate recompression facility is established in Vanuatu.

DAN SEAP has always advised its members to take out appropriate travel insurance when travelling overseas to cover a variety of situations, such as medical treatment, loss of luggage and so on. Many people feel far more comfortable having DAN involved in the evacuation, rather than an organisation that may not be as experienced in managing dive accidents. If a DAN member has travel insurance that will cover a diving accident we will be happy to work with the insurer, if we are contacted by the member, to advise on and facilitate an evacuation if required. However, many travel insurance policies impose a depth limit of 40 m and do not cover diving deeper.

DAN SEAP works hard to improve dive safety services throughout the Asia-Pacific region. For some years we have been involved in training the diving industry in accident management and have facilitated the availability of first aid equipment and facilities throughout the Region. We have established National offices in the Philippines (Makati Medical Centre), New Zealand (NZ Naval Hospital) and soon in Malaysia (Naval Hospital) to improve the availability of treatment to both residents and visitors to those countries. We have provided support for the establishment of recompression facilities in Phuket, Thailand and Papua New Guinea. The latest extensions of

DAN SEAP's work are the Nationally Accredited DAN SEAP general and workplace first aid courses that are now available in Australia.

DAN works hard to support divers, and without the support of divers, we cannot continue to function. DAN SEAP works on a very small budget and its few staff work long and hard to assist both members and non-members. The staff get rather frustrated when people see us a "just another insurance company". We are not and will never be such a company. DAN SEAP receives no government funding and receives minimal donations from the diving industry. Everything we do, we fund through membership revenue and certification fees. We need the support of members to exist and to continue to grow. If you believe that DAN is a worthwhile organisation you should encourage other divers to join and find ways to help us. The ball is in your court!

John Lippmann is Executive Director of DAN S.E.Asia-Pacific. He is co-author, with Stan Bugg, of THE DIVER EMERGENCY HANDBOOK which first appeared in 1984 and has since been adopted by DAN USA and the British Sub-Aqua Club. It has also been translated into Japanese, German and Italian. He is also author of DEEPER INTO DIVING, THE ESSENTIALS OF DEEPER DIVING and OXYGEN FIRST AID FOR DIVERS. For his contributions to diving safety he was elected a member of SPUMS in 1996.

The address of DAN S.E.Asia-Pacific is 49A Karnak Rd (PO Box 384) Ashburton, Victoria 3147, Australia. Phone +61-3-9886-9166. Fax +61-3-9886 9155. E-mail danseap@danseap.com.au . Web page www.danseap.com.au .

SPUMS NOTICES

ERRATUM

SPUMS J 1998; 28 (1).

In the paper by Carl Edmonds *Drowning syndromes: the mechanism* (SPUMS J 1998; 28 (1):2-9) reference 1 (Donald WK. Drowning. *Brit Med J* 1995; (2): 155-160) was misdated. The paper was actually published in 1955 and the date, volume and pages should read 1955; 2: 155-160.

Key Words

Notice.

PROFESSOR JOHN WILLIAMSON AM

The Executive Committee of SPUMS congratulates Dr John Williamson, Director of the Hyperbaric Medicine Unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, on his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

The appointment was for his contributions to the fields of Marine Envenomation, Surf Lifesaving, St John's Ambulance and Hyperbaric Medicine. Dr Williamson has also found time to be a Committee Member of SPUMS (1984-1987, 1990-1993 and 1994-19960).

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SPUMS**
held at the Palau Pacific Resort on 15/5/98 at 1610

Apologies

Drs A Slark and J McKee

Present

All members attending the Annual Scientific Meeting

1 Minutes of the previous Meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting have been published (SPUMS J 1998; 28 (1):16).

Motion that the minutes be taken as read and are an accurate record. Proposed Dr D Gorman, seconded Dr V Haller. Carried.

2 Matters arising from the minutes:

None.

3 Annual reports

President's Report (Printed below)

4 Treasurer's Report

The Auditor's report and Statement of Receipts and Payments are printed on page 199.

Motion that the financial statements be accepted. Proposed Dr I Seppelt, seconded Dr D Davies. Carried.

7 Annual subscriptions

Motion that the subscriptions remain the same (Full and corporate membership \$100 and associate membership \$ 50). Proposed Dr D Gorman, seconded Dr J Knight. Carried.

6 Election of office bearers

Nominations had been received as follows.

President	Dr Guy Williams
Secretary	Dr Cathy Meehan
Treasurer	Dr Timujin Wong
Editor	Dr John Knight
Public Officer	Dr Guy Williams
Education Officer	Dr David Davies
Committee Members	Dr Chris Acott Dr Vanessa Haller Dr Robyn Walker

There being no other nominations they were declared elected.

7 Appointment of the Auditor

Motion that Dr Douglas Porter, FCA, of Newport Beach, New South Wales be reappointed as auditor, proposed Dr G Williams seconded Dr J Knight. Carried

8 Business of which notice has been given

8.1 That Dr Anthony Slark be elected a Life

Member of the Society. Proposed Dr D Gorman seconded Dr G Williams. Carried

8.2 That Rule 22(b) be altered to increase the period of election to the Committee to three years. The actual wording of the amendment is as follows. That Rule 22 (b), which reads "Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the annual general meeting next after the date of that person's election but is eligible for re-election.", shall be changed by replacing the word *next* by the words *three years*.

The rule would then read. "*Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the annual general meeting three years after the date of that person's election but is eligible for re-election.*" Proposed Dr G Williams, seconded Dr R Walker. This motion for spoken for by Dr G Williams, and against by Dr J Knight.

The motion was passed with a show of hands, by a small margin. The motion will be printed in the journal so that members may request a postal ballot.

Closed 1640

Key Words

Meeting.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Thank you for attending SPUMS' 26th Annual Scientific Meeting, and our third visit to Palau. I would like to thank David Elliott and John Bevan for their participation in this year's meeting, and especially note David Elliott's elevation to life membership at last year's meeting in New Zealand. Chris Acott deserves a special mention for his work in convening this year's meeting, and for his stamina in also being convener for the 1999 meeting in Layang Layang, Malaysia. I hope many of you can attend next year's meeting which will be held in the first week of May. Our guest speakers will be Alf Brubakk and Richard Moon, the topic will be Bubbling, with a workshop on the Clinical Aspects of the Treatment of Decompression Illness.

This year sees the birth of SPUMS on the Net, members and non-members will be able to obtain information on SPUMS and Diving Medicine, membership information, details of our meetings and the SPUMS Journal, on line. I hope this will increase our exposure to the world and result in a boost to our numbers outside Australia and New Zealand.

Guy Williams
President SPUMS

**AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC UNDERWATER MEDICINE SOCIETY**

I have conducted various tests and checks as I believe are necessary considering the size and nature of the Society and having so examined the books and records of the South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society for the year ended 31 December 1997 report that the accompanying Statement of Receipts and Payments have been properly drawn up from the records of the Society and gives a true and fair view of the financial activities for the period then ended.

17/9/97
361 Barrenjoey Road, Newport Beach, New South Wales 2106.

David S Porter
Chartered Accountant

THE SOUTH PACIFIC UNDERWATER MEDICINE SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1997

	1997	1996
Opening Balance		
ANZ Bank		
1995 ASM Fiji	-	11,090
Access Accounts	32,041	(3,722)
ANZ V2 Plus	68,045	92,320
	100,086	99,688
Receipts		
Subscriptions and registrations	92,518	161,430
Interest	4,388	5,707
Advertising and Journal sales	402	1,201
Sundry income	210	1,455
	<u>97,518</u>	<u>169,793</u>
	197,604	269,481
Payments		
ASM costs	6,161	20,393
Travel	-	22,779
Secretarial	4,754	10,865
Stationery and Printing	1,198	5,183
Journal	27,554	36,792
Postage and facsimile	4,459	6,074
Conferences and telephone	6,952	9,324
Computer equipment	8,281	36,300
Miscellaneous and subscriptions	2,223	952
Bank Charges		
2,151	2,604	
Audit	1,100	1,080
Insurance	-	799
Editor's honorarium	15,300	16,250
Oxydive kit	2,561	-
	82,694	169,395
Closing balances		
ANZ Bank		
Access Cheque Account (new)	1,740	
Access accounts	33,170	32,041
ANZ V2 Plus	80,000	68,045
	<u>114,910</u>	<u>100,086</u>
	197,604	269,481

These are the accounts referred to in the report of D S Porter, Chartered Accountant, Newport Beach, NSW 2106, dated 17/9/97

**MINUTES OF THE
SPUMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**
held at the Palau Pacific Resort on 11/5/98 and 15/5/98

Present

Drs G Williams (President), D Gorman (Immediate Past President), C Meehan (Secretary), T Wong (Treasurer), J Knight (Editor), D Davies (Education Officer), C Acott, V Haller, R Walker (Committee members), H Straunstrup (European Representative) and M Bennett (ANZHMG Representative), on 15 May only.

Apologies

Dr M Kluger (NZ Representative)

1 Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting on 1 November 1997 read and accepted as a true record after minor adjustments. Proposed Dr J Knight, seconded Dr R Walker. Carried.

2 Matters arising from the minutes

- 2.1 North American Chapter. Mr Jeffrey Bertsch will be the chapter representative. The financial affairs of the chapter prior to now are considered closed.
- 2.2 Indemnity Policy update. Dr Williams will be following this up.
- 2.3 Job description update of the Editor, Treasurer, and Convener. An updated job description of the Editor and the Treasurer has been received. The job description of the Convener is still pending.
- 2.4 Oxygen equipment update. It was not necessary to take oxygen equipment to Palau as there was ample equipment available.
- 2.5 Upgrade of the audio equipment. All the remote microphones have been upgraded. Dr Acott provided information on a SVGA projector. The committee will review the specifications and further discussion will be held.
- 2.6 SPUMS on the Internet. There have been small technical problems in setting up the domain site. However, it is expected that this will be resolved shortly. The domain name is <http://www.SPUMS.org.au> It is suggested that this site is viewed and any errors are corrected before it is posted. Any additional information or links that should be on this site should be sent to the Secretary.
- 2.7 New application form will be printed after the ASM. Committee members are invited to comment on the layout of the new forms. The Treasurer would like the application form and renewal notice to be on one form. The benefits of this and enclosing the renewal notice with the December journal should be discussed further.
- 2.8 Secretariat. It was decided that the Secretary and Treasurer should continue to use SPUMS paid typists.

2.9 ANZHMG. The chairperson of the ANZHMG will be invited to attend all the SPUMS Executive Committee meetings, including the face to face meeting held towards the end of every year. The chairperson of the ANZHMG is to be the recognised spokesperson for all matters associated with HBO therapy. It is thought that a motion to change the constitution to formalise this arrangement will be put forward at the 1999 AGM. The wording of this motion is yet to be decided.

3 Annual Scientific Meetings

- 3.1 1998 Palau update. There will be a meeting between the Convener, the Treasurer and the Allways Dive Expedition representative. All the outstanding expenses will be discussed. There will be discussion as to the appropriate allocation of the FOCs.
- 3.2 1999 Layang Layang update. The workshop at this meeting will be the Treatment of Decompression Illness. There were no other outstanding matters to discuss.
- 3.3 2000 proposed Fiji. It has been suggested that this conference be a family orientated conference as was the case in 1995. The proposed Conveners for this meeting are Drs G Williams and V Haller.
- 3.4 2001 proposed PNG Kavieng. It was proposed that Dr C Meehan be one of the convenors.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented and the Society is in good financial standing. In view of this there is to be no change in the subscription fees this year.

5 Correspondence

- 5.1 Letter from Bob Ramsay re HBOT future. This matter will be passed onto Dr M Bennett (chairperson of ANZHMG).
- 5.2 Letter from John Knight re registration fee for accompanying persons. This was discussed.

6 Other Business

- 6.1 It was discussed and agreed that, in future, the conference convenors should have their airfares and accommodation covered by some of the allocated FOCs. They would no pay the registration fee. In the past they have paid all their own expenses.
It was agreed that the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and other Committee Members should not be financially assisted to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting .
- 6.2 Proposal with regards Toshiba notebooks when warranty runs out early 1999. No decision was made on this.
- 6.3 Revision of AS4005.1 and revision of the SPUMS Diving Medical. As AS4005.1 was being revised it was considered necessary to revise the SPUMS Diving Medical on which the AS4005.1 is based. Proposals for changes were given, and these have

been passed to the Australian Standards committee by Dr C Meehan, the current SPUMS representative on that committee.

- 6.4 Review of the Editor's honorarium. There were no changes made to the honorarium for the coming financial year.
- 6.5 A membership drive was discussed.
- 6.6 Dr Henrik Straunstrup, the European Representative, discussed his role and the possibility of having closer links.

Key Words

Meetings.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

At the Annual General Meeting held in Palau on 15/5/98 the following amendment to the constitution was passed.

That Rule 22 (b), which reads "Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the annual general meeting next after the date of that person's election but is eligible for re-election.", shall be changed by replacing the word *next* by the words *three years*.

(Continued on page 202)

BEST PUBLISHING COMPANY

*Books on Hyperbaric Medicine
Scientific & Research Diving*

EUBS PROCEEDINGS ON **DIVING AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE**

Edited by Igor B. Mekjavic, Michael J. Tipton and Ola Elken

Proceedings of the XXIII Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Underwater and Baromedical Society. Over 150 contributors/authors references with each section and a complete author index is included.

Book No: D987 Price \$44.50 (US)

**Edited by
David H. Elliot, O.B.E.**

This 20-page document is available through Best Publishing Company, Inc., for \$10.00. (US) It complements Dr. David H. Elliott's "Medical Assessment of Fitness to Dive" book.

Book No: D746A

**medical
assessment of
fitness
to
dive**

Receive a free color catalog with your first order.

FAX YOUR ORDER

FASTER - EASIER - IMMEDIATE CONFIRMATION

FAX ORDERS • 520.526.0370 • 24-hour service



BEST PUBLISHING COMPANY

Credit card orders accepted.

**P.O. Box 30100, Flagstaff,
AZ 86003 USA**

Tele: 520.527.1055

email : divebooks@bestpub.com

ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS



**Official
SPUMS 1998
Conference
Organiser**



ALLWAYS DIVE EXPEDITIONS

168 High Street
Ashburton, Melbourne
Vic. Australia 3147
TEL: (03) 9885 8863
Fax: (03) 9885 1164
TOLL FREE: 1800 338 239
Email: allways@netlink.com.au
Web: www.allways.com.au




**Contact us for all your travel requirements within Australia and overseas.
Ask about our low cost air fares to all destinations
or our great diver deals worldwide.**

(Continued from page 201)

The new wording would be: *Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the annual general meeting three years after the date of that person's election but is eligible for re-election.*

As no member has notified the Secretary of SPUMS that he or she objected to the above amendments it is assumed that the Membership has voted in favour of the above amendments which now come into force

Cathy Meehan
Secretary of SPUMS

Key Words

Constitutional amendment, notice.

1999 SPUMS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

will be held on the island of
Layang Layang,
Malaysia

Friday April 30th to Sunday May 9th 1999

The Guest Speakers will be Dr Richard Moon (USA), who was a guest speaker at the 1997 ASM at Waitangi in New Zealand and Dr Alf Brubakk (Norway), who attended the 1998 ASM in Palau

The Convener of the Annual Scientific Meeting is Dr Chris Acott. The provisional title of the theme of the meeting is *Gas bubble injury and its treatment.*

To present papers contact:

Dr Chris Acott
Hyperbaric Medicine Unit, Royal Adelaide Hospital,
North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia 5000
Telephone +61-8-8222-5116. Fax +61-8-8232-4207.
E-mail guyw@surf.net.au

Speakers at the ASM must provide the printed text and the paper on disc to the Convener before speaking.

The Official Travel Agent for the meeting is:
Allways Dive Expeditions
168 High Street, Ashburton, Victoria, Australia 3147
Telephone + 61-(0)3-9885-8863.
Toll Free with Australia 1-800-338-239
Fax +61+(0)3-9885-1164.
Email: allways@netlink.com.au

SOUTH PACIFIC UNDERWATER MEDICINE SOCIETY**DIPLOMA OF DIVING AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE.****Requirements for candidates**

In order for the Diploma of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine to be awarded by the Society, the candidate must comply with the following conditions:

- 1 The candidate must be a financial member of the Society.
- 2 The candidate must supply documentary evidence of satisfactory completion of examined courses in both Basic and Advanced Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine at an institution approved by the Board of Censors of the Society.
- 3 The candidate must have completed at least six months full time, or equivalent part time, training in an approved Hyperbaric Medicine Unit.
- 4 All candidates will be required to advise the Board of Censors of their intended candidacy and to discuss the proposed subject matter of their thesis.
- 5 Having received prior approval of the subject matter by the Board of Censors, the candidate must submit a thesis, treatise or paper, in a form suitable for publication, for consideration by the Board of Censors.

Candidates are advised that preference will be given to papers reporting original basic or clinical research work. All clinical research material must be accompanied by documentary evidence of approval by an appropriate Ethics Committee.

Case reports may be acceptable provided they are thoroughly documented, the subject is extensively researched and is then discussed in depth. Reports of a single case will be deemed insufficient.

Review articles may be acceptable only if the review is of the world literature, it is thoroughly analysed and discussed and the subject matter has not received a similar review in recent times.

- 6 All successful thesis material becomes the property of the Society to be published as it deems fit.
- 7 The Board of Censors reserves the right to modify any of these requirements from time to time.

Key Words

Qualification