

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER OF SPUMS: IS THERE A FUTURE ?

From the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer of
The New Zealand Chapter of SPUMS

2000/1/15

Dear Editor

The role of a separate New Zealand Chapter of SPUMS, with its own meetings, has recently been questioned.

There appears to be great inertia among members of the New Zealand Chapter of SPUMS to become involved in activities in New Zealand. The hugely successful 1997 meeting of SPUMS in New Zealand, organised by Mike Davis, was supported by few registrants from New Zealand. Local annual meetings have had between 6-15 attendees.

Over the past 12 months we have tried to organise a meeting in Tutukaka and asked for expressions of interest. Basically there has been none. What does this mean for

SPUMS members in New Zealand? Presumably, most consider the trip overseas to the SPUMS Annual Scientific Meeting and/or the Journal to be their main reason for membership.

Now the time has come to discuss where we should go from here. We would be grateful for any feedback from the New Zealand members on this issue. We would put forward the following questions.

- 1 Do you want a separate New Zealand Chapter of SPUMS?
- 2 If YES, what do you want from it?
- 3 If NO, what should we do with the assets in our account?

Please contact us either by phone or e-mail. If we have not had any positive replies by the middle of the year then we will wind up the New Zealand Chapter of SPUMS and send all assets to the SPUMS main office in Australia.

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BOOK REVIEWS

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN: WOUND HEALING, SAFETY, COST EFFECTIVENESS

Bakker DJ, Péchon JC and Marroni A. Editors.

Holywell Neopren – Hyperbaric Medical Centre, Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

202 pages, hardcover, 1998.

Review copy from Best Publishing Company, P.O.Box 30100, Flagstaff, Arizona 86003-0100, U.S.A.

Price from Best Publishing Company \$US 39.50.

Postage and packing extra. Credit card orders may be placed by phone on +1-520-527-1055 or faxed to +1-520-526-0370.

E-mail <divebooks@bestpub.com>.

The main title of this book might suggest that it is a text with a major focus on the role of hyperbaric oxygen in wound healing. It is, in fact, the proceedings of the First European Workshop on Hyperbaric Medicine, organised under the auspices of the European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine and run in Belgrade in association with the First International Postgraduate Course of the International Postgraduate School of Baromedicine at the University of Belgrade.

Three separate workshops were held, one on each of the hyperbaric medicine themes that make up the title. The first, "Oxygen and Wound Healing," focussed upon oxygen physiology and the measurement of oxygen tension in tissue with only two clinical papers which provide a review and recommendations regarding hyperbaric oxygen and its roles in wound healing and in post-traumatic infection. The second workshop considered "Safety at Work in Hyperbaric Medicine" with presentations providing a variety of international perspectives. This section concludes with the European Committee for Hyperbaric Medicine's proposed recommendations for the Prevention of Fire in the Hyperbaric Environment. Unfortunately for readers without a sound grasp of the French Language, these are printed in the original French, an odd inclusion for a book that is otherwise in English but perhaps understandable in the context of using the Workshop Proceedings as a means of disseminating a set of draft recommendations to the European hyperbaric community. Workshop III addressed "Cost-Effectiveness of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy". This potentially most important section is the shortest at 23 pages and rather disappointing, incorporating very brief overviews of the current state of health economics in the UK and USA