

6 TESLA



Spin Down Under



Ahem.

You're back to my blog! A personal saga of life leading up to the meeting.
A year seemed so long, but boy was I wrong - the time till we get there is fleeting.

Today I'm inciting your passion by writing about still more changes we've made.
With less inhibition to follow tradition, I just hope that I don't get flayed!

The topic today is the brand new way the study groups will get together.
So let's take stock of how we will flock - one might call it "Birds of a Feather."

The name "Birds of a Feather" is actually the idea of Kevin Gorman, co-founder of ETS, the AV company that works many of our meetings. This is the name given to informal gatherings that happen at one of the AV industry meetings he goes to (I wonder who runs the AV at those meetings?). We're not actually calling this new initiative "Birds of a Feather" - I just needed something to rhyme with "together" - we're calling it the "Study Group Lounge", which is not as cool of a name but hopefully gives less room for confusion. HOWEVER, with a nod to Kevin, I'll be inserting pictures of birds that I took on my June trip to Australia. (I took the pictures, not the birds).



Kevin Gorman (the one on the left) looks for a penguin suit suitable for the Study Group Lounge, while birds of different feathers look on.



Supporting data for the “Birds of a Feather Flock Together” hypothesis.

The concept of the Study Group Lounge is intended to address the following comments I often hear: (1) the days are way too long, (2) the informal, one-on-one interactions that occur in the meeting are very important, and (3) there is not enough time to see the posters. We will be taking one of the rooms ordinarily used for oral sessions, converting it to the Study Group Lounge, and giving every study group - if they want - a slot during the day in which they can host the lounge. Groups may pair up together if they wish. An example of this is given in the layout below, same as in the SDU 4T blog, but now with the fifth column filled in.

Day	Slot	Eposter	Tposter	Study group	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral
Mon	1	CV	Body	Diff & white matter	Neuro	Cancer	Spect	Psd	Difperf	Fmri	Education	Education	Education
	2	Neuro A	Fmri	Hyperpolar & "BODY"	Cv	Mol	Psd	Eng	Msk	Education	Education	Education	Education
	3	Cancer	Mol & spect	Perf and cancer	Neuro	Cv	Body	Eng	Difperf	Psd	Education	Education	Education
Tues	1	Body	Msk	Brain function & psych MRI/s	Neuro	Cancer	Mol	Psd	Cv	Psd	Education	Education	Education
	2	Psd A	Cv	Msk & swi	Neuro	Body	Difperf	Fmri	Spec	Neuro	Education	Education	Education
	3	Eng	Psd	Cardiac & flow mot	Neuro	Body	Fmri	Neuro	Cancer	Education	Education	Education	Education
Wed	1	Msk & interventional	Cancer	High field and brain function	Interv	Difperf	Psd	Eng	Cv	Neuro	Education	Education	Education
	2	Diff perf	Neuro	Mot cor & eng	Msk	Mol	Psd	Cv	Body	Fmri	Education	Education	Education
	3	Neuro B and psd B	Diff perf	Safety & dyn spectro	Cancer	Msk	Cv	Eng	Body	Education	Education	Education	Education
Thurs	1	Mol & spect	Intervent	Kangaroo & Koala	Neuro	Difperf	Fmri	Psd	Psd	Eng	Education	Education	Education
	2	Fmri	Eng	Drug & mol cell	Interv	Spect	Difperf	Psd	Neuro	Education	Education	Education	Education
	3			Recon challenge	Neuro	Difperf	Psd	Neuro	Body	Education	Education	Education	Education
Fri	1				Neuro	Cancer	Spec	Difperf	Psd	Education	Education	Education	Education

Example of how the Distributed Poster Sessions might be laid out, including the Study Group Lounge. This is just an example; actual layouts may vary.

We will be asking the study groups to make this a place that is really good for interacting with other folks that share a common interest. They may highlight posters from the meeting that are relevant to their study group, have poster walking tours (inside the lounge), showcase academic software, have a hot topic debate, etc. This will have a different feel than some of the previous study group meetings, however, in that there will be no traditional lectures. Hopefully, it will provide a refreshing break from the oral sessions that you attend, and be a chance for you to interact more with colleagues. This is yet one more change that we will poll you about after the meeting, to see if it worked well for you.



The study group lounge is a great place to (left) talk to friends and colleagues, or (right) just kick back after a long day of meetings. OK, that's not a bird, but she's chillaxin' like one.



(left) The study group lounge may present some prickly issues for people that disagree (echidna not), but (right) hopefully you'll be warned ahead of time of the dangers.

We are still early in the planning process, but the study groups are already working hard to bring you the finest educational lounge experience in the southern hemisphere. We are talking poster tours, academic software demos, kiosk-style education clusters, hot topic debates, interactive discussions, and more. In true MR fashion, this lounge will be a great place to get excited and refocused! And, um, relaxed, and stuff.

So with no study groups after 6:30 each night, what will you do? Don't worry, we've got you covered. There are corporate events offsite many of those nights, there are Bronze Corporate Symposia on Tuesday night, and of course you won't want to miss the ISMRM business meeting on Wednesday night. But wait! There's more! On Monday-Wednesday, we plan to keep the poster hall open in the evening, and make it a fun place to be for those who want to look at posters or just do some more socializing with colleagues. We are thinking of having a cash bar, perhaps even have a Karaoke night. In fact, if you think a Karaoke night is a good idea (i.e. you want to sing), please email me (jim.pipe@chw.edu) with the subject line KARAOKE - no text necessary, unless it's the lyrics to your favorite song. If you think Karaoke night in the poster hall would be an auditory disaster, please email me with the subject line MERCY. I'll let you know the results.

Hooroo,

Jim Pipe,
AMPC Chair, 2012 Melbourne