



ECHUCA STUDY DAY **22nd August, 2009**

Presenters:

*Jill Woods, Verona Costello, Nic Robertson, Megan Yeomans,
Mauricio Yanez, Louise Humble, Maria Eager*

GATE Pain Management Interest Group has been providing annual rural education days for several years. This year, Echuca was the fortunate recipient of an informative full-day program that was enjoyed by both 30 attendees and 7 presenters from GATE. An overview of the weekend follows:

The venue was superb – “Coriander” – a rustic little B&B located just outside Echuca and set amongst beautiful gardens. The conference room was spacious and comfortable, and the food provided on the day was excellent.

Verona was the facilitator of the day and opened proceedings with a welcome and outlined the days’ events.

Our first speaker was Jill who provided a comprehensive session on Pain Assessment including a detailed overview of sedation scoring, and concluded with an interesting case study.

Next was Verona who followed on with the theme of pain assessment, however, thoroughly explored the notion of challenging assessment in individuals who are cognitively impaired.

Nic was the next presenter, offering an overview and update of some current pharmacology trends & issues.

Following morning tea, Megan presented an extensive and interesting session on balanced analgesia, which also incorporated some thought provoking case studies.

Next up was Mauricio with an informative session on chronic pain, which explored the behaviours of the chronic pain patient and offered clinicians some insight as to how manage this population.

After the lunch break, Louise provided an excellent session on epidural management aimed at general surgical nurses, which incorporated a thorough overview of anatomy/physiology & of practical management.

Maria was our next presenter with a topical and interesting session on epidural management in the obstetric population, which followed on well from Louise's presentation, yet remained unique because of the specialised nature of the topic.

Louise rounded off the epidural sessions with a comprehensive session on complications and troubleshooting of epidurals.

There was then a practical hands-on workshop with the CADD pumps – Louise, Megan and Maria expertly guided the attendees through the “ins and outs” of the pumps. The session was well received by the participants.

Following afternoon tea, the presenters formed a panel to discuss case study scenarios and field any questions from the floor. This session highlighted the unique and eclectic mix we have in our GATE members, as we all shared our various thoughts, experiences and practices from our workplaces. There was a good level of interest & interaction shown from the attendees with some pertinent questions asked of the panel.

The day was deemed as a very successful one by the presenters – we all thoroughly enjoyed each others presentations and especially the camaraderie.

All of the presenters' enthusiastic contributions made the day as successful as it was, however, a very special acknowledgement and genuine thanks go to Davina who did a superb job in organising this day along with Janine in Echuca. Likewise, big thanks to Nan for her seamless efforts in ensuring the “financials” of the day were all taken care of. Thanks also to those who lugged equipment along – laptops, microphone, date projector, CADD pumps, show bag supplies etc, etc!!

Cheers, Nic.



Back row L-R: Jill Woods, Verona Costello, Nic Robertson
Front row L-R: Mauricio Yanez, Megan Yeomans, Maria Eager, Louise Humble