



## **Report from the ASTN Open Forum, Auckland March 2007\***

The second ASTN Open Forum was held in Auckland on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2007 alongside the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand.

The Open Forum began with an introduction to the ASTN and a summary of recent developments by Principal Investigator Ron Grunstein. Sutapa Mukherjee, Chair of the ASTN Research Committee then outlined the role of this recently formed ASTN Committee and explained the processes which are followed when investigators bring study proposals to the Research Committee.

Biostatistics experts Wei Xuan and Guy Marks looked at some common study design and analysis pitfalls in clinical trials and discussed ways to avoid them. Health economist Duncan Mortimer demonstrated the usefulness of carrying out economic analysis with clinical trials and showed how such analyses can add clarity to clinical and health system decision-making.

The SAVE trial is an ASTN-endorsed large-scale international clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of CPAP in preventing cardiovascular disease in patients with high cardiovascular risk and obstructive sleep apnea. SAVE Principal Investigator Doug McEvoy spoke about the launch of lead-up studies and plans for conducting and funding the main trial. Another ongoing study is the ASTN-sponsored trial of methods for improving PSG concordance between laboratories. Rob Pierce who with Andrew Thornton and Peter Rochford is leading this study, reported on the design of the study and levels of variation between the 15 collaborating laboratories at baseline.

Two researchers then gave presentation on proposed multicentre studies and invited audience comment and input. Maree Barnes spoke about a study to trial a specific diet and exercise programme for OSA, and David Berlowitz presented a multicentre study looking at a CPAP intervention in acute tetraplegia.

ASTN Chief Investigators look forward to hosting further thought provoking and informative sessions relating to multicentre studies at WorldSleep 07 in September

*\*Article from ASTN Newsletter 4, May 2007*