

ANZSRS Fellowship and Society Research Medal

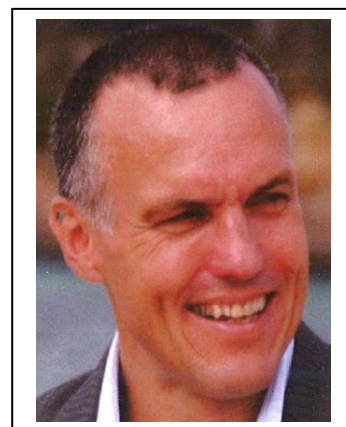
Dr Jeffrey J Pretto

BAppSci, GradDipBiomInstr, CRFS, DHlthSc, FANZSRS

Nominated by:

Danny Brazzale

February 2014



Summary of Major Scientific Contributions (at the time of nomination)

Sadly, Dr Jeff Pretto passed away suddenly in 7th March 2014. Jeff had been informed that he would receive this award for his very significant research contributions.

At the time of nomination Dr Jeff Pretto was Principal Scientist and Scientific Director in the Department of Respiratory & Sleep Medicine at John Hunter Hospital (Newcastle). He had associations with the Hunter Medical Research Institute and the University of Newcastle. Jeff had had a longstanding involvement in the Institute of Breathing and Sleep (IBAS), which included many years as a member of the Medical and Scientific Research Committee. Jeff completed a Graduate Diploma in Biomedical Instrumentation in 1987 and a Doctorate of Health Science in 2010. His particular interests were in diagnostic techniques in clinical respiratory medicine, and the role of obesity and weight loss in sleep and respiratory disorders.

Jeff had been a member of the ANZSRS for more than 30 years and during this time had made a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field of respiratory science. He had 35 peer-reviewed research publications, many as senior author. He had made many presentations of his original research at ANZSRS meetings and been invited to present at many national and international scientific meetings, which attest to his excellent presentation skills and unique ability to convey scientific information. He enthusiastically acted as a mentor to junior members of the Society and was involved in the education of numerous health care professionals.

Jeff had been successful in receiving significant research grant funding from the ANZSRS, NHMRC, University of Newcastle, Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative and Victorian Tuberculosis and Lung Association. Jeff had also received several awards for research presentations, not only from this Society but also from the TSANZ.

Jeff's contributions to the ANZSRS were outstanding; he had been the chair of the Scientific and Conference Committee, an Executive Committee member, co-ordinator of the Physiology Roadshow, convenor of the TSANZ pulmonary physiology and sleep special interest group, a committee member of the TSANZ research subcommittee, was on numerous judging panels, abstract review committees and local organising committees. Importantly, he raised the profile of the ANZSRS and the skills of its members to the medical profession and to other professional societies. His achievements in respiratory measurement were done quietly and methodically, an approach that was inspiring to many.