

# They Saw It Here First!

AARC Members Tell How They Use Their Membership To Stay Informed About Technology

**R**espiratory therapists are known far and wide for their ability to understand the inner workings of sophisticated equipment. How do they manage to stay up to date on the latest and greatest in respiratory technology? For many, it's their membership in the AARC that makes the difference.

## Management Section keeps him in touch

I don't know how I would keep abreast of what's going on and what's changing without being a part of the Management Section e-mail list. I feel like it allows me to keep my finger on the pulse of our profession on a daily basis. — *Larry R. Jenks, RRT, RPFT, director, respiratory care services, Holy Family Hospital, Spokane, WA*

## Summer Forum introduced him to DataArc

About four years ago, while attending the AARC Summer Forum<sup>SM</sup>, I first saw the concept of DataArc. This is a service for respiratory therapy educational programs that utilizes the Internet to maintain nearly all the records we desire to evaluate and manage an educational program. The software and service have been developed by respiratory therapy instructors at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX. I was able to be one of the first to use the service and have been very pleased with it. The DataArc company exhibits at all AARC meetings, and they provide the best customer support and technical assistance of any software or hardware I have ever purchased. — *Kerry George, MEd, RRT, FAARC, Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, IA*



## Respiratory Therapists Stay Up To Date



### Section e-mail lists pointed the way

We have recently begun to use Vapotherm at my hospital. I know it is not exactly NEW, but it is new to us. We had been trying to figure a way to deliver high humidity via nasal cannula to our extubated neonates without drowning them, and Vapotherm was the answer. We have not had a neonatal nosebleed since we started using them. We're still learning the best way to use them, but we're learning fast. I never would have tried them or really known about them without the section e-mail lists through the AARC. I belong to five of them, and they are invaluable to me and my department. Thank you AARC! — *Susan Gill, RRT, director, respiratory care, St. Vincent Health System, Little Rock, AR*

### Congress Exhibit Hall is where it's at

Honestly, the best way the AARC helps me in regards to technology is that by being a member I am able to attend the International Respiratory Congress®. All those vendors! I am able to seek and find exactly what I am looking for, talk directly to the vendors present, and receive follow-up from my representative when I get home. That is where I found the Inspiration™ eVent ventilator. It met my needs for a ventilator and a bi-level positive airway pressure instrument. We have bought two of them. Last year, I met many vendors I expect to do business with in the future. It is almost overwhelming, but half the fun of the Congress is the vendors. Thanks so much. — *Candy Pendergrass, RRT, cardiopulmonary and sleep lab director, Barrow Community Hospital, Winder, GA*

### Hospital executive keeps up with pulmonary developments through the AARC

Since I've been in management for greater than 10 years overseeing different areas, including pulmonary, my AARC membership has kept me apprised of changes in the profession. — *Judee Harrington, RRT, executive director, professional and diagnostics services, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Albuquerque, NM*



## AARC Provides Sophisticated Information



### AARC Buyer's Guide makes it easy to find what she needs

I joined the AARC in 1985 and have benefited from membership over the years — initially as a staff therapist and then as a department director. The Buyer's Guide has been an invaluable resource for keeping me abreast of the latest in technology, especially when I couldn't attend the International Congress. Through the Buyer's Guide, I am able to scan the list of available products, call our manufacturer's rep, and acquire the best product at the best cost. As an RRT and department director, I'm proud to be a member of the AARC.  
— *Lois M. Yerger, MS, RRT, chief, respiratory care, Atlanta VAMC, Decatur, GA*

### Vendor interaction at national and state meetings, Specialty Section networking top the list

AARC membership has been invaluable to me as a respiratory therapy manager and as a therapist. It is the primary resource for me when it comes to keeping abreast of the latest techniques, practice standards, and the technology that goes along with them.

Attending AARC and state society functions that have vendor halls saves me hours of time that would have to be spent in meetings with reps from all the companies present. Say one wants to evaluate the purchase of a new widget — at the vendor halls, one can see, touch, and gather information on all the players in the widget industry at once. One can also arrange to receive samples, demos, staff educational opportunities, etc. And, once that has been accomplished, there will most likely be an educational session scheduled at the event that will pertain to the use of the widget in question.

The Specialty Sections to which I belong provide a great sounding board for applying technology as well as an information-filled forum that helps me avoid some of the same mistakes others have made, and keeps me from having to reinvent the wheel. This service alone is worth much more than the cost of membership.

I believe that I would not be doing justice to my job, my employer, or my patients if I did not take advantage of all that my AARC membership offers. — *Jeff Keener, RRT, RPSGT, director, respiratory services, Freeman Health System, Joplin, MO*

### Exhibit Hall discussions, journals, deliver the goods

I am in charge of a large home respiratory care department in the Chicagoland area. Recently, I had the opportunity to assist one of our local university hospitals with some insight into the use of ventilator therapy for neuromuscular disease patients. Par-

## AARC Members Gain Advantages



ticularly, I was working with post-polio patients and the use of home ventilators for mask ventilation.

I attended the 2004 International Respiratory Congress in New Orleans. While at the conference and at the Exhibit Hall, I had the opportunity to discuss detailed mask ventilation modes with a ventilator vendor and was able to obtain additional clinical information. This opportunity assisted me to provide up-to-date and timely clinical advice to my contacts at the hospital.

I believe that my participation in this conference sponsored by the AARC, my timely receipt of the clinical journals published by the AARC, and the detailed information I receive from my AARC membership have all helped me to become a valuable clinical resource for my clients.

Thanks for such valued information. Keep up the good work! — *Luis Velasquez, RRT, corporate clinical and compliance manager, DependiCare, Chicago, IL*

### Magazines, practice guidelines, and more aid job performance

As a long-time therapist for more than 36 years, I can remember when our profession was called “inhalation therapy.” I can also remember the pride of seeing our Association grow to many members and new services. I use the magazines and the practice guidelines as I develop policies and set up protocols. I feel that the AARC is helpful in every aspect of my job performance. The AARC supports members and helps with passing laws that affect our services. Our professional standing is better because of the AARC. — *Sandra Moore, CRT, RPFT, director of cardiopulmonary services, Cobb Memorial Hospital, Royston, GA*

### When time's at a premium, the AARC is there

How does my AARC membership keep me abreast of technology? I no longer have time to meet with vendors, so I try to keep current regarding new equipment and supplies by reading RESPIRATORY CARE® and AARC Times, and

also by attending our state and national meetings. — *Merrill Pickert, BS, RRT, director, respiratory care/sleep disorders center, Olathe Medical Center, Olathe, KS*

### AARC Buyer's Guide has the answers

The AARC Times Buyer's Guide is a great help to me in my role as region clinical manager. I keep the most current issue at hand as a reference for those instances when I receive a question about a new product from one of our home care RTs. The way the Buyer's Guide is laid out by product, manufacturer, and category is very helpful. I especially appreciate the manufacturer web site and tech support contact information. — *Joan Koborst, MA, RRT-NPS, region clinical manager, Apria Healthcare, St. Louis, MO* 🐦