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### Conflict of interest

Dr Anderson is the inventor named on the patent that covers the mannitol test. The patent is owned by her employer, the Central Sydney Area Health Service, who has licensed the commercial rights to Pharmaxis Ltd. Dr Anderson owns shares (but no options) in Pharmaxis Ltd that she purchased herself and, in the future, would benefit from royalties paid to her employer.

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### Key words

Letters (to the Editor), fitness to dive, respiratory, asthma, pulmonary function

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## A successor for Project Stickybeak

Dear Editor,

You appear to be unaware that I have been trying to obtain someone to help run Project Stickybeak and ultimately take over – but without success. The only two candidates John Lippmann could suggest soon lost interest, possibly when they realised the amount of work involved, especially the problems of finessing coroners and other government agencies into giving support.

There has never been active interest and involvement in the collection of ‘fatality information’ from members of the SPUMS Committee, although you have continued to publish the provisional reports and ‘advertised’ the project in the Journal.

You should be aware that I have many easily accessible data on file that are not included in the provisional reports. Also, basic data are available to anyone interested at the National Library.

Had anyone been interested they would logically have contacted me. However, I have created, and continue to add to, this database, regardless of the present lack of interest by diving authorities (lay and medical) in this ‘rough trade’ type of research into the improvement of diver safety.

You will recollect that some time ago I contacted you concerning a plan to hold a workshop to discuss the influence of health factors on diver safety. If you intend to proceed with this idea you will find my databank makes it easy to identify such cases in the fatalities report files. You may even manage to extract data from others.

*Douglas Walker*  
*Project Stickybeak*

### Key words

Letters (to the Editor), diving accidents, diving deaths, research

### Editor’s comment:

Since 1972, Dr Walker has created a huge database of case histories of diving fatalities, the most recent report for which appears in this issue. Despite his comments above, the Society strongly supports this work, and greatly appreciates Douglas’s tenacity and hard work.

To ensure that Project Stickybeak continues, a long-term commitment from a member or members of the Society to take up the reins from Douglas, possibly with the aid of DAN-SEAP, is required.

It has been suggested that there should be a medical practitioner who can establish a close working relationship with the Police and Coroners in each coastal State of Australia to collect and collate the information for that State and forward these data to an overall coordinator who would prepare the Project Stickybeak reports. This was discussed at the Fiji ASM in June and several individuals expressed an interest in helping to continue this invaluable project. Those interested should make themselves known either to the President, Chris Acott, or the Editor.

A similar process has been established in New Zealand with Water Safety NZ, the NZU Accident Recorder, Dr Lynn Taylor and the Editor.

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## Fitness standards for beach lifeguards

Dear Editor,

*Occupational Medicine* has published two papers by Reilly et al on occupational fitness standards for beach lifeguarding that you might like to cite for your readers.<sup>1,2</sup> Its website is <www.occmed.oxfordjournals.org>.

These papers beg the question as to what standard of fitness holders of the RLSS Bronze Medallion should attain and maintain bearing in mind the need not ‘to beat the aqualung’ whilst undertaking subaquatic rescue, let alone ‘beat the bubbles’ to the surface. There is a plethora of other considerations concerning physical capacities of rescued and