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Newsletter

Eric (Rick) M. Mills - President; Elizabeth Lund - President Elect, Robin Starr-Chichester - Secretary Treasurer;
Ronald D. Smith - Newsletter Editor

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Update on AVI Web site

By Web Person Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd

Here are the November, December, and January numbers on AVI web site, launched September 1, 2000 at <http://avinformatics.org>:

- Number of visitors* per day averaged 73, up from 46 per day in September-October
- Number of hits** was 57,171, or 627 per day
- Average length of visit was over 5 minutes (306 seconds)
- Main browsers were Internet Explorer at 65% and Netscape at 19%
- Platforms were Windows at 79.8% and Mac at 3.6%
- Top domain was AOL at 21.3%
- Top sections visited were Newsletter at 39.1%, Homepage at 30.9%, and Programs at 10.4%

* A visitor is an individual viewing one or more pages on the site.

** A hit is the number of files viewed, i.e., every image on every page.

We have an international audience; there was more than one visitor per day from the UK, Canada, and Australia, over one every two days from Australia and Germany, and one every three days from Italy, Spain, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and France, followed by Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Taiwan, Brazil, Poland, and Mexico.

Please send the web person your input so the site can better meet member needs.

Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd at
starrchi@earthlink.net

How to Contact AVI

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check payable to the AVI, should be sent to:

Dr. Robin M. Starr; Secretary Treasurer, AVI;
31575 Griffin Drive, Conifer, CO 80433
Phone: 303/674-5231; FAX: 303/674-9717;
e-mail: starrchi@earthlink.net

Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://www.avinformatics.org/>

Dr. Starr is responsible for distribution of the hardcopy version of the AVI Newsletter.

Newsletter items can be sent to:

Dr. Ronald D. Smith, Newsletter Editor, AVI;
UI College of Veterinary Medicine; 2001 South
Lincoln; Urbana, IL 61801.
Phone: 217/333-2449
FAX: 217/333-4628
E-mail: rd-smith@uiuc.edu

If you are an AVI member and would like to be on the AVI Newsletter electronic distribution list, send an e-mail message to the Newsletter Editor. The electronic (PDF) version is faster, searchable, easier to store and retrieve, and environmentally friendly.

Current and past issues of the AVI Newsletter are also available on the Web at:

<http://www.avinformatics.org/>

AVI 2001 PROGRAMS ON VETERINARY INFORMATICS

Richard B. Talbot Symposium on Veterinary Informatics
Sunday, July 15, 2000 Program
AVMA General Sessions
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; July 16-18, 2001 Program
 [<http://avinformatics.org/symposia/talbot01/talbot01.htm>](http://avinformatics.org/symposia/talbot01/talbot01.htm)

| DATE | SECTION | TIME | TITLE | Name |
|--------------------------|---|---------|--|--|
| Sunday 7/15/01 | Opening for Talbot | 8:00am | Introductions & Opening of the Talbot 2001 | Paul Schmitz, DVM & Rick Mills, DVM, PhD |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 8:10am | Web-based Clinical Decision Support in the Veterinary Practice Exam | Craig Carter, DVM, MS, PhD |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 8:45am | Veterinary Technicians: An Underutilized Resource in Veterinary Informatics | Ronald Smith, DVM, MS, PhD |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 9:20am | Single Entry Discharge Summary, Client Instructions, and Referring Veterinarian Letter Using a Web-based Interface | Arthur Smith, MS |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 10:15am | Informatics in Support of Evidence-based Medicine | Allen Hahn, DVM, PhD |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 10:45am | Classification of Body Cavity Effusions by Expert and Machine Learning Methods - Student Award Presentation Winner | Christine Hotz, DVM, MS |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 11:05am | Persian Gulf War: Creation of a Database for Comparison of Deployed Military Dogs with a Control Cohort | Denzil Frost, DVM, DACVP |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 11:25am | The Impact of Telemedicine on the Veterinary Practitioner and Student Award Presentation | Larry Moore, BA, MA, EdD (ABD) |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 1:00pm | Logging on When the Kids are Asleep | Robert Lofstedt, DVM |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 1:45pm | Continuing Education, Telemedicine, and the Internet | Larry Tilley, DVM, DACVIM |

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|---------|---|--------|---|--------------------|
| | Symposium | | | |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 3:15pm | Empowering Students: Using Hand-held Technology to Bring the Latest Information to Students | Mark Acierno, DVM |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 3:45pm | A Flexible Web-based Query System for a Clinical Information System | Arthur Smith, MS |
| 7/15/01 | Sixth Annual Talbot Informatics Symposium | 4:15pm | Wearable Computers in Veterinary Medicine | Linda Cochran, DVM |

AVMA General Sessions - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday; July 16-18, 2001

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---|--|
| Monday 7/16/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 8:00am | Internet2: Opportunities for Veterinary Medicine | Gary Allen, DVM, PhD |
| 7/16/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 10:15am | Should You Create Your Own Web Site? | Robin Starr, DVM, MED |
| 7/16/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 1:00pm | Low Bandwidth Video Conferencing for Media-intensive Distance Learning and Telemedicine | Charles Branch, PhD & James Barnes, EdD |
| 7/16/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 3:15-5:15pm | Stakeholders Informational Session See below* | James T. Case, DVM, PhD & Jeff Wilcke, DVM, MS, DACVCP |

* Stakeholders Informational Session

The Stakeholders meeting is sponsored by the Sub-Committee on Standards of the AVMA's Committee on Veterinary Informatics. All persons interested in and associated with the establishment, transmission, storage and searching of electronic veterinary data are invited and encouraged to attend. Presentations will include updates on data transmission standards, terminology (vocabulary standards) and other areas pertaining to veterinary medical records in electronic forms.

Electronic veterinary medical records are becoming much more common and in some venues, almost 'de rigueur'. Our brief but important session will bring all up to date on the rapidly developing field of standards and information interchange. Practitioners using or anticipating using electronic records and/or transmissions should plan to attend and exchange their own ideas and concerns. Especially important will be the how and wherefore of the exchange of information among veterinarians, laboratories, referral practices and repositories. The meeting will feature reports on the vital work performed by members of the Standards subcommittee in adapting standards for transmission and storage already extant in human medicine to our profession.

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--|---|
| Tuesday 7/17/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 8:00am | Controlled Vocabularies in Clinical Information Systems | Arthur Smith, MS & Jeff Wilcke, DVM, MS, DACVCP |
| 7/17/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 10:15am | The Past, Present, and Future of Distance Learning in Veterinary Medicine: Reaching the Veterinary Desktop | Duncan Ferguson, VMD, PhD |
| 7/17/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 1:00pm | A National Companion Animal Disease Database: What's in it for Practitioners? | Elizabeth Lund, DVM, MPH, PhD |
| 7/17/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 3:15pm | A "Practical" EMR and Using Computers & Software to Your Advantage in the Modern Veterinary Practice, Part I | Paul Schmitz, DVM |

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|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------|---|-------------------|
| Wed 7/18/01 | AVMA Informatics Sessions | 8:00am | A "Practical" EMR and Using Computers & Software to Your Advantage in the Modern Veterinary Practice, Part II | Paul Schmitz, DVM |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------|---|-------------------|

PRODUCTS & REVIEWS

Palm OS Software for Veterinarians

<http://www.anmlldr.com/develop.htm>

ANMLDR, L.L.C. is in the process of developing Palm OS® software for uses in the veterinary profession. These programs should work on any handheld that utilizes the Palm OS® software.

The first product available is the ANMLDR patient record databases. These databases are described elsewhere on the anmlldr.com web site.

I am also in the process of developing other programs that will prove to be beneficial to our profession. These include programs designed specifically for displaying information found in textbooks. These programs are unique to each book. If you are an author or a publisher and would like to investigate the possibilities of ANMLDR, L.L.C. developing programs for your book, please contact me at the address below.

Projects in the works include:

1. The ANMLDR Drug formulary in Silo Based on the formulary from the 5 Minute Veterinary Consult
2. Emergency Drug Calculator for dogs and cats COMPLETED and available.
3. Clinical Pathology reference program (ANMLDR Lab). To find out more about this neat program, go to ANMLDR Lab
4. Programs designed for quick reference textbooks. "ECG For the Small Animal Practitioner" now AVAILABLE. "Pain Management for the Small Animal Practitioner" will be available SOON!
5. Flow charts for diagnosis by lab findings. Profiles of diseases and diagnosis by clinical signs (may be awhile on this one)
6. Common calculations used in veterinary medicine (Now available!)
7. Anesthesia/Surgery Record
Now available in HanDBase. Go to Surgery.

8. Dermatology Exam Record
Now available in HanDBase. Go to Derm Exam Form

9. Professors! If you would like to see your class notes available for your students on their Palm, contact me at the address below. (If the conversion is easy, it will be FREE)

10. I am also able to convert many types of documents such as "Proceedings" for reading on your Palm. For more information, contact me at the address below.

11. Download "Links from Linda" by joining the PalmVet mailing list on eGroups. This is a web page that is created several times a week that links to veterinary related content sites. You can download the information to your Palm easily because I am able to limit the number of links that your Palm will download--thereby making the memory used as small as possible. Hundreds of links have already been created. Join PalmVet for free and you can download them all. Also, this is a Palm user group. It is a forum for asking and answering each other's questions about the use of Palms in veterinary medicine.

If you would like to have a specific type of program available and have suggestions, then by all means, contact me and we will discuss the possibilities of making the program available.

Write to me at
LindaCochranDVM@anmlr.com

Announcing the New and Improved IMC Website!

In Fall 1999, we launched the INTEGRATED MEDICAL CURRICULUM at <http://www.imc.gsm.com>, the first website ever to integrate the major courses taught in medical school. All of us at Gold Standard Multimedia would like to thank you for using IMC during the past year. Your continued patronage has enabled us to add new programs and enhanced functionality to this award-winning website. Today, we are pleased to announce the launch of IMC "2001"...with a brand new look and more user-friendly features than ever before! Visit IMC now to check out

our expanded coverage, exciting new areas and the many benefits that await you:

- * Basic Clinical Skills -- Our newest program! Explore this teaching guide and reference in physical diagnosis, including 350 illustrations and photographs, narrated video demonstrations, step-by-step instructions on how to perform each skill, printable checklists, and more than 300 content pages

- * Essentials of Human Physiology -- Check out the extensive upgrade to Section VII, Renal Physiology, offering twelve chapters and a clinical problem plus learning objectives, questions and answers, and over 250 new and revised illustrations, drawings, charts, diagrams and animations

- * Human Anatomy -- Study with more than 200 new and enhanced images on this popular program, plus new clinical correlations and practice questions written in Board style

- * Testing Center -- Challenge yourself with thousands of quiz questions and answers

- * Continuing Ed -- Conveniently earn your mandatory credits right from the IMC site

- * Student Lounge -- Have fun with message boards, e-cards and feature stories...games are coming soon!

- * Faculty Lounge -- Browse our online journal, conference information, teaching awards and more

- * Shopping Center -- Visit our online store to shop for GSM products and merchandise

- * Site Map -- See all of IMC at-a-glance for quick and easy navigation

- * Author Biographies -- View the credentials of our renowned program authors

- * Features -- Read timely stories about healthcare, education and multimedia worldwide

Explore the phenomenal new additions and helpful tools you'll find on IMC by clicking into <http://www.imc.gsm.com> right now -- and

visit us often to continue to take advantage of the finest medical education courseware on the internet!

Linda Lanier, M.D.
Executive Producer, Integrated Medical Curriculum

INTERNET RESOURCES

New!! VIN 3.0

VIN (Veterinary Information Network) completed the migration from AOL to our permanent home at VIN.com in December, 1999. Moving more than 5,000 colleagues from AOL to the World Wide Web was no small task - but we all made it and we love our new home.

During 2000, we settled into our new home. This year, 2001, we are redecorating and refining.

It is my pleasure to tell you that - over the next few days - you will notice changes in your VIN.

Don't worry. It is an evolution of the VIN you are accustomed to. We haven't "rearranged the furniture" much - we have improved the functionality.

The major enhancements are described below. Keep watching! We will continue to roll out new features over the next days, weeks and months.

NEW FRONT PAGE

The VIN Main Screen has been renamed Front Page and changed to a 3-column format to reflect its Newspaper / Newsmagazine functionality.

The left-hand column contains current news items and "Daily Pearls" to help you get the most from VIN.

The center column contains the very popular Clinical Updates. Many VINners tell us that this feature alone is worth the price of their complete membership. These highlights from the literature and message boards change daily.

The right-hand column contains VIN's weekly features:

- VIN This Week - VIN's online newsletter -
- What's Your Diagnosis - a case quiz
- On The Boards - links to current message board discussions you should read - Abstract Of The Week
- Website Of The Week
- Book Reviews
- Recent Rounds

Think of this column as similar to the features you would find in Newsweek or Time magazine.

EXPANDED UNIFORM NAVIGATION & BROWSER-RESISTANT FUNCTIONALITY

We aim to please! We have spent a great deal of time ensuring that you will not lose your way, no matter where you go in VIN. We provide "bread-crumbs" (top right, above the content portion of each page). This shows you the location of the page you are viewing. (Think of it as a road map.)

Every page also has a "tool bar" that is always visible - providing easy access to navigational and functional control:

- return to top of page
- return to the previous page viewed
- print this page
- save this page to disk
- bookmark (favorite place) this page for future reference - email this page to me

Paul D. Pion, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)
co-founder, VIN

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Ain't Got Time to Teach

Although many proponents of online education tout its efficiency and flexibility, many instructors say teaching an online course is much more time-consuming than teaching a traditional class. University of Tennessee assistant dean Robert H. Jackson reached this conclusion after conducting a study of the two methods of teaching. He says online education forces instructors to spend more time both preparing and teaching a course. The fact that many instructors must spend time learning how to use the tools needed for online education is another factor in their reluctance, says Universe Online director Cyndi Wilson Porter. She also contends that online education affords those students who would not interact with an instructor in a classroom setting an opportunity to interact at will. This results in a greater time burden for the instructor without increasing the student's time burden, Porter claims. A possible solution, Jackson suggests, is to conduct some online education in a synchronous format, but Porter points out that the asynchronous format is what attracts most students to online education in the first place. Other proponents of online education say instructors are misstating the burden of preparing for an online course. (New York Times, 22 January 2001)

Rx for Learning

Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston is earning rave reviews for its new Health Sciences Database. The Knowledge Management (KM) system has brought much of the school's curriculum online, allowing students to study and review a vast amount of course material that in the past was available only in professors' slide carousels and lecture notes. Tufts began work on the database in the late 1980s, receiving support and funding from the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the

American Association of Medical Colleges. After meeting with faculty and students, officials decided to create a digital image library based on content from professors' courses. Officials say convincing professors to give up this material--and to accept that they were not going to be replaced by computers--was perhaps the most difficult aspect of putting the plan into action. The site launched in 1997 and added content from Tufts' dental and veterinary schools in 1999. Now, the database contains about 70 percent of the medical school's curriculum content. Although there has been no formal evaluation of the database's success, students and faculty seem to be impressed. (CIO, 1 February 2001)

College Students' Gadgets a Far Cry from Ten Years Ago

Today's college students have taken to computer technology and consumer electronics more than their counterparts of recent decades. Although most colleges require or recommend computers, students are embracing the latest gadgets such as Webcams, wireless PC mice, Palm organizers, and even robotic dogs. Meanwhile, the Internet is already ingrained into campus life all across the country, but students are finding new ways to use the technology, such as for online file storage. An SWR Worldwide study, commissioned by Best Buy, found that more than 50 percent of college freshmen brought a desktop or laptop computer to college in 2000, compared to just 13 percent in 1990. The study also found that 24 percent of today's students plan to bring a laptop to class regularly, compared to 4 percent of students 10 years ago. Meanwhile, 20 percent of today's students use cell phones, 11 percent use pagers, 44 percent use CD players, and 11 percent use personal digital assistants. The study revealed that 17 percent of students used the Web or e-mail to register for classes. (Knight-Ridder, 22 February 2001)

MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Distance Learning 2001 - August 8-10; Madison, Wisconsin

17th Annual Conference on Distance Teaching and Learning.

Widely recognized as a premier conference in distance education, this event attracts more than 1000 distance educators, trainers, and executives from the United States, Canada, and around the world. For further information see the conference Web site:
<http://www.uwex.edu/disted/conference>

CLOSING BITS

Learning Behind Bars

Prisoners at the maximum-security Patuxent Institution in Maryland will soon be able to start work on earning college degrees online. Funded by a \$1 million U.S. Office of Postsecondary Education grant, the new pilot program will help inmates prepare for life on the outside, say officials at the state's Correctional Education Program. Eventually, 90 percent of prisoners will be released, claims D. Ray Harbert, one of the program's organizers. He says being isolated from digital technology for several years poses a serious handicap for prisoners granted parole or

released. The 24 new Gateway Pentium III computers will not let inmates access the Internet in "real time." Each day, online content and e-mails will be downloaded to the prison server before the Internet connection is terminated. Inmates will then work off the contained content and update it before logging out. At the end of the day, the prison server will upload completed coursework to one of six area campuses that offer online degrees. Security is the utmost concern of prison officials, who are aware of some lawmakers' attempts to stymie Internet efforts in prisons.
(Baltimore Sun, 12 February 2001)