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Newsletter

Paul M. Schmitz - President; Stephen D. Pittenger - President Elect, Elizabeth M. Lund - Immediate Past President; Valerie Ball - Secretary Treasurer; Ronald D. Smith - Newsletter Editor

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

2002-2003 AVI Officers Installed July 15

These following officers were installed at the July 15, 2002 business luncheon.

- President: Dr. Paul Schmitz
- President-Elect: Dr. Steve Pittenger
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Elizabeth Lund
- Secretary/Treasurer: Ms. Valerie Ball
- Newsletter Editor: Dr. Ronald D. Smith

Summary AVI Executive Board Meeting

July 15, 2002 (AVMA Convention)

Liz Lund, Paul Schmitz, Ron Smith

- A. Summary of comments discussed at AVI Business Meeting luncheon
 - a. Need for AVI mission statement. What is mission of organization and how can limited resources address this mission?
 - b. Need for integration of informatics/computer-based tools/technology into general talks at convention so that can truly reach practitioners?
 - c. How to get program attended by more practitioners? Is this a reasonable goal given everything going on at convention?
 - d. Should our focus be more on students as future practitioners?
- B. Newsletters distributed by e-mail. Suggestion to make URL's included as active links to WWW.
- C. Generated ideas for themes that can be used to give Wendy Emerson broad headings for time slots. Post message to AVI-L for more ideas?
 - a. Hand-held computing
 - b. Evidence-Based Medicine
 - c. Current Trends in Lifelong Learning
 - d. Interactive and Client Oriented Web Development
 - e. Practice Management Software—"Mining the Gold from Patient Data"
 - f. Multimedia presentations for hospital PR and marketing
 - g. Wireless Solutions
 - h. Application Development by DVM's (e.g., Cochran, Gobar)
 - i. Technologic Tools/Applications for Practice
 - i. Acrobat Reader
 - ii. PowerPoint
 - iii. WinZip
- D. Discussed AVI listserv and lack of activity. Need to get regular postings to list. Post something about topic area ideas for Talbot? Message board on Web site?
- E. Discussed need for sponsors to maintain Web site.
 - a. Dark Horse—telemedicine delivery system
 - b. Animal Intelligence
 - c. Software vendors
 - d. Pharmaceutical companies
 - e. Pets for Vets
 - f. One to One Care
 - g. VetConnects, IDEXX, AVIMark
 - h. DVM Magazine
 - i. VIN (talk to Paul Pion about providing a link to AVI?)
 - j. VLS
 - k. Vet Economics
- F. Discussion about ways to cut costs and decrease costs
 - a. Sponsors for Web site. Include Web link/ad with all corporate memberships to AVI as a way of stimulating membership.

- Increase corporate rate to do this?
- b. May not be able to have two Student Awards next year if can't offset costs of web maintenance. Operating costs exceeded budget this year, but we had positive balance going into the year.
- c. Should we just distribute electronic copy of newsletter? Would save a couple hundred dollars/year?

G. Other AVI business

- a. Does Robin have a list of the individuals who sign up for particular work groups? Should these groups be active?
- b. Contact vet magazine (DVM Magazine?) about article series
- c. Post questions to list serve about mission statement. Does Robin know if we have a mission statement from the Strategic Planning Session held at the AMIA meeting in the 90's? (John Albers moderated)
- d. Add "blurb" about 2004 proposals. To web site? To 2003 call for papers?
- e. 2003 Talbot presentations to be 30 minutes (25 mins. plus questions and transitions). Monday and Tuesday programming to be 45 or 90 minutes presentations.

Summary AVI Meeting

July 15, 2002 (AVMA Convention in Nashville)
Wendy Emerson, Liz Lund, Paul Schmitz

- A. Paul will be designated the Program Coordinator for the AVI track at 2003 AVMA in Denver (Liz will help and we need to have Steve and Valerie involved to some degree). Liz won't be attending Denver conference.
 - a. We discussed the flat rate used to pay speakers for the Talbot so that they get more \$ than if paid based on length of talk
 - b. It is critical that we get on the timeline for convention planning

as everyone else. It is causing grief for Wendy, our Section Manager, and she believes that we would get better exposure and be able to lure more practitioners to our talks if content could be advertised ahead of time.

- c. Wendy can promote our talks in JAVMA ahead of time if we have programming in place when we are supposed to.

B. Program Deadlines

- a. **September 1, 2002**—program submitted to AVMA. Wendy needs the broad themes assigned to time blocks so that she has something to work with. We can use the list of topics that has been distributed with the call for proposals to generate these.
- b. **August 15, 2002**--Request for proposals generated with a deadline of return by **September 30, 2002**
- c. **November 1, 2002**—Speakers confirmed and notified.
- d. **November 8, 2002**—Speaker ID forms returned
- e. **November 15, 2002**—Wendy needs Program Prep forms and Speaker ID forms
- f. **May 15, 2003**—Request for proposals will be sent out for the 2004 AVMA Convention so that we get our program put together BEFORE we go to Denver convention.

C. Miscellaneous program comments

- a. We will have 3 days of programming
 - i. 8th Annual Talbot Symposium on Sunday: shorter, research/cutting edge presentations of 25 minute (30 minutes including

- questions/transition) on Sunday
- ii. Monday and Tuesday will be longer presentations of more general/practitioner interest
 - b. When we send out the 2003 Call for Speakers we will ask if they would be willing to have talks accepted for presentation at 2004 meeting. Let them know that we will be asking for papers again in May 2003 for the 2004 convention. That way, depending on how many papers are submitted and in what categories of interest, we may be able to start filling slots for 2004
 - c. We also discussed the need for sponsors of the program and AVMA can help us get sponsors IF we have our programming in place on the right timeline.
 - d. We also discussed getting integrated/advertising our program more with Computer Lab and other aspects of the convention.

How to Contact AVI

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

Ms. Valerie Ball; Secretary Treasurer, AVI;
College of Veterinary Medicine; NCSU;
Raleigh, NC 27695
Phone: 919/513-6520; FAX: 919/513-6225;
e-mail: valerie_ball@ncsu.edu

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/>

8TH ANNUAL TALBOT INFORMATICS SYMPOSIUM - JULY 2003

**"Improving the Quality and Effectiveness of Veterinary
Care
through the use of Computers, Technology and Informatics"**

The 2003 Talbot Symposium on Computers and Veterinary Informatics

This year's focus is on topics that demonstrate how the integration of informatics and computer technology can increase the quality of patient care; provide educational enrichment and enjoyment for practitioner and staff; and also increases the bottom line of the practice. The Talbot Symposium takes place at the AVMA Annual Convention in Denver, CO on Sunday, July 20, 2003. The Informatics Program continues on Monday, July 21 and Tuesday, July 22, 2003. The Sunday session consists of twelve 30-minute presentations. Monday and Tuesday's programs consist of 45 or 90-minute sessions.

We are also again pleased to announce...

3rd Annual Association for Veterinary Informatics Scholars' Award

Prizes of \$750 plus round trip airfare, free registration for the AVMA Annual Convention, and AVMA speaker's fee will be awarded for at least one, possibly two, winning student informatics proposals for a 30-minute presentation to be given on Sunday at the Talbot Informatics Symposium.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2004 TALBOT SYMPOSIUM

Because of scheduling constraints placed on us by the AVMA Convention planners, we will need to organize our 2004 Program by July 2003 and will be sending out another Call for Proposals in May 2003. **If you would be willing or interested in submitting a topic for presentation at 2004 AVMA Convention (Philadelphia, PA, July 24-28, 2004), please complete the submission form below.**

Submissions are invited from both inside and outside the veterinary profession, wherever information technologies have been shown effective in solving real problems for veterinary practitioners. Presentations will be chosen competitively with preferences to those aligned with the symposium's theme and/or with information the practitioner can take back immediately to practice.

Suitable presentations may be sponsored by the AVI for publication in JAVMA or the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education. Please use the proposal submission form below and e-mail all

completed proposals to: petsdvm@aol.com or mail to: Paul M. Schmitz, DVM; President of AVI 2002-03; 1616 S. Beech Ave.; Broken Arrow, OK, 74012, USA

PLEASE SUBMIT ONE FORM PER PRESENTATION/POSTER

Please indicate the topic area of your presentation or poster according to the outline of suggested topics listed below:

Suggested Topics for the 2004 Talbot Symposium:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computerizing the veterinary practice • Internet access issues • Hardware & networking issues • Database programs for hospitals • Other clinical practice related software / hardware • Digital photography for practitioners • Status of On-line CE: VIN, NOAH...others? • Status of the World Wide Web & Internet 2...other? • Literature searching via the internet • Better and more relevant client communications • Clinical workstations • Decision support technology • Resource allocation in veterinary medicine • Interactive clinical discussion courses - online rounds etc. • Expert systems • Standards and policy • Imaging and non-textual data issues • Bio-informatics • Bibliographic database search, retrieval and storage programs • Paperless practices and truly computer-based medical records • Outcomes analyses in veterinary medicine - its use or not? • Continuous quality care improvement in veterinary medicine • Clinical information management • Health information networks in veterinary and human medicine • Legal and ethical ramifications of the electronic record • Impact of information technology on the pet health-care delivery process • Query languages and search engines -through intranets and the internet • Accuracy on the Internet • Comparison of various veterinary software programs on the market • Voice recognition software/hardware for medical record entry of data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants) and such in veterinary medicine • Diagnostic programs - their current state and ones still available • Drug Formularies or other "Practitioner Helper" type programs • Education uses of technology for the hospital, DVMs and staff – online, distance learning, training via internet technologies, video-conferencing, Advances in CD-ROM use: books, lectures, images, literature, videos, drug formularies, medical dictionaries, client information handouts (CE), kiosks for clinic lobby, others? • Acquiring, authoring and delivering clinical information via the internet • Tele-medicine: patient records, radiology, ultrasound, EKG, video-image capture, etc. • Medical terminology & nomenclature standards - where are we now, where will we or should we be? Compliance to such? streaming etc. • Importance of standardized patient descriptions, problem lists, diagnoses lists, services, inventory descriptions, protocols and strategy development as it relates to an optimal patient care delivery system • Better and more informative computerized reminders - methods of attention getting delivery • Use of online manuals, client and staff training (CE) computer presentations and hospital user references or guides - and other training and education issues • User friendly front-ends in our hospitals and other user interface issues – ergonomics in a typical veterinary hospital in 2001 and beyond • Tapping into alternative media channels, allowing quick and direct communications within the hospital; between hospitals; and between hospitals and their patients (their owners) • More use of the world-wide-web (internet) for disseminating information between ourselves and to our clients • Information retrieval and digital libraries
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2004 TALBOT SYMPOSIUM SUBMISSION FORM

TOPIC AREA

TITLE *(Please be sure your title reflects your content and is ATTRACTIVE to attendees)*

Length of Presentation: (Check one)

Sunday session: 30 min.

Monday or Tuesday: 90 min. 45 min...?_____

Would you consider presenting this topic at either the 2003 or 2004 AVMA Convention?

Yes. Presentation at either the 2003 or 2004 Convention is acceptable

No, only consider this for the 2003 AVMA Convention...

Abstract: *300 words – Use second page if necessary.*

SPEAKER

Name

Address

Phone Number (____) ____ - _____ *FAX Number* (____) ____ - _____

E-mail Address _____

A-V / Computer Needs for presentation (call or email for list of supplied hardware):

Other Comments / Needs:

PRODUCTS & REVIEWS

Fifty years of Veterinary Publishing on Searchable CD-ROM

The New Zealand Veterinary Journal recently celebrated 50 years of publication with the release on CD-Rom of its entire 50-year archive in full text, together with a special Jubilee Issue featuring reviews, commentaries and highlights of veterinary research in New Zealand over the last 100 years. The three-CD set incorporates search software that has been written specifically for the NZVJ. This sophisticated capability allows the user to search the titles and/or full text of all articles for any word or combination of words, as well as to search indexes of author, volume, year, article type, animal type and subject, and to retrieve the full text of any article immediately.

The CD archive is available for PC and Mac computers and can be loaded on to computer hard-drives and intra-nets. Annual releases will allow the resource to be added to and updated each year. A demonstration version available on the website

(www.vetjournal.org.nz/news.html) showcases the search tool and data from the last five years of NZVJ publication, but without full text.

The NZVJ is a high-quality, peer-reviewed scientific journal that publishes articles on all aspects of veterinary science, particularly the pastoral farming of cattle, sheep, deer and horses for which New Zealand is noted but also including papers on companion animal medicine and wildlife. It is consistently ranked in the top quartile of veterinary science journals in the world, based on citation index.

Information about ordering the CD archive is available from jacqui@vets.org.nz or from the website www.vetjournal.org.nz/news.html.

For more information, please contact:

Dr Peter Jolly
Telephone: +64 6 329 4045
Fax: +64 6 329 4047
Email: nzvj@massey.ac.nz

INTERNET RESOURCES

Pharma Lexicon

From: Christian Nordqvist
<Scienceacronyms@AOL.COM>

Look up medical and pharmaceutical acronyms and abbreviations from a database of over 56,000 at the Pharma Lexicon Web site
<<http://www.pharma-lexicon.com>>:

- Medical/Pharma abbreviations search
- Pharma companies worldwide search
- Drug search
- Medical/Pharma associations search
- Medical articles search
- Merck manual search

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Texas Instruments Pocket Calculator Celebrates 35th Birthday

Syllabus News, Resources, Trends for August 23, 2002

Thirty-five years ago Texas Instruments unveiled the electronic handheld calculator, which swept through college campuses and

forced educators to rethink their approach to teaching problem-solving and administering tests. Ironically, the company is now distancing itself from "the C Word." "The majority of our business is now with educational handhelds," said Tom Ferrio, a TI vice president for educational solution. "These are generations

removed from what most people think of when they say 'calculator.'" The new handhelds are sophisticated descendents of the 70's-era calculator, with their own microprocessors and operating systems. They can be upgraded electronically as new versions are released and customized to add functionality for different curricular needs.

Stanford School of Medicine Deploys Wireless Learning System

Stanford University School of Medicine is testing a wireless polling system that would help instructors improve classroom interactions. During the summer, students used Palm m125 handhelds equipped with the Palm Bluetooth Card, a Secure Digital Input/Output card, and Stanford's custom-designed software to communicate wirelessly with instructors. The new approach is faster and provides more accurate feedback due to the anonymity it lends to students. Based on responses, instructors were able to dynamically tailor course material to meet the needs of a particular class. "Our students come from very different backgrounds," said Pat Cross, a professor of structural biology. "Being able to more precisely fine-tune our content leads to better-educated students and, ultimately, better-trained medical professionals. The key is really the anonymity the students have. Their answers are more truthful since there is no public embarrassment for answering incorrectly."

For more information, visit:
<http://palm.stanford.edu/>.

Physicians Group Launches PDA Info Clearinghouse

pdaMD, a provider of handheld computing technology for physicians, said it would create

a PDA Center for the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM), the national organization of internal medicine specialists. The PDA Center will provide physicians access to a library of medically oriented handheld applications, advanced customization options to speed deployment, and dedicated support personnel. Handheld technology has become increasingly important in today's medical environment, providing improved access to critical information such as drug prescribing data, treatment strategies, patient history and reference material, all at the point of care. According to a 2001 ACP-ASIM survey of 489 members, 47 percent were found to use handheld computers, and usage among internists is expected to increase.

For more information, visit:
<http://www.acponline.org>

George Washington Univ Medical Center Teaches with Simulation Technology

George Washington University Medical Center said it will build a medical simulation system for cardiac catheterization skills. The Center said it would use the SimSuite Training System from Denver-based Medical Simulation Corp. for the application, an which includes a combination of tactile force-feel simulation technology with procedures performed on a simulated patient named "Simantha." The system will allow all healthcare professionals in the region to practice the craft through highly realistic simulated medical scenarios. The system will specialize initially in the practice of minimally invasive cardiovascular and endovascular procedures.

MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

New Professional MS degree at Stanford

The Biomedical Informatics (BMI) training program at Stanford University will offer a professional Masters degree beginning Spring Quarter of 2003. The professional MS program is specially designed so students may remain fully employed while studying for their degree. Students accepted into the program may enroll part-time with up to 5 years to complete the program. It is possible to fulfill the requirements for the degree through courses offered by Stanford Online; students are not required to attend classes on-campus.

The goal of the BMI program is to train scientists with the necessary research skills to develop novel methods in biomedical informatics. Students in the program may choose to specialize in either bioinformatics or

medical informatics. The current academic M.S. program has a strong focus on the research project and students are expected to enroll full-time for two years.

The new program will not focus on research (although research can be performed for credit). Because our online course offerings are currently strongest in technical fields of computer science and statistics, the initial class of students must enter with previous training in biology or medicine. Thus, the professional Masters degree program is appropriate for students who already have advanced training in biology or medicine, and wish to acquire interdisciplinary skills.

For more information about the program and how to apply, please review the website at <http://smi-web.stanford.edu/academics/>

SUGGESTED READING

MERCK Veterinary Manual Online

See <http://www.merckvetmanual.com/>

now online for free as a public service from Merck and Merial.

CLOSING BITS

Television

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book. - Groucho Marx (1890-1977)

Television: chewing gum for the eyes. - Frank Lloyd Wright (1869-1959)

Television is to news as bumperstickers are to philosophy. - Richard Milhous Nixon (b.1913)

The problem is not that television presents us with entertaining subject matter, but that all subject matter is presented as entertaining. - Neil Postman

Television is an invention that permits you to be entertained in your living room by people you wouldn't have in your home. - David Frost (b.1939)