



Volume 11 - Number 4

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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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Renewal time!

**It's time to renew
your AVI membership for 2003.**

**Membership Renewal form at end
of this issue.**

ASSOCIATION NEWS

AVI Newsletter Editor Stepping Down

I produced my first issue of the AVI Newsletter in 1992. This issue will be my last. The main reason that I have chosen to step down as newsletter editor is my belief that the AVI Web site <<http://www.avinformatics.org/>> can replace most or all of the newsletter's functions, and provide information in a more timely manner. There is also a financial advantage for AVI to terminate the newsletter in lieu of the more cost-effective Web site.

The AVI Web site offers a variety of services to visitors. The "News that Matters" section includes the kinds of information of relevance to the veterinary informatics community that I would normally include in the Newsletter; but it appears on the Web in a much more timely fashion. The news archive provides a permanent home for these news items just as the Newsletter archives have in the past.

If someone else wants to pick up the Newsletter editorship that's fine, but I'm convinced that transition to an online vehicle at this time makes sense and is entirely consistent with the nature and mission of our organization.

Thank you for your support over the past 11 years.

Ronald D. Smith
AVI Newsletter Editor (Emeritus)

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/>

Ms. Ball is responsible for distribution of the hardcopy version of the AVI Newsletter.

News items can be sent to:

Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd
PO Box 150217
Lakewood, CO 80215-0217
Work: (303) 922-6231
Fax: (303) 922-6234
E-mail: starrchi@earthlink.net

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

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

AVI MEMBERSHIP REPORT

July 12, 2002

Membership Recruitment: Efforts during 2001-2002 year included:

- E-mail renewal notices on December 28, 2001; and January 25, and July 5, 2002
- Renewal notices in the Sept-Oct, Nov-Dec, and Jan-Mar hardcopy newsletters
- Membership application form in AVI Newsletters and on the AVI web site
- Information about the AVI and membership on the AVI-L LISTSERV.

Membership:

As of July 12, 2002, AVI has 93 active members, down from 112 active members in 2001 and 138 members in 2000. Membership includes 85 Full, 3 Associate, 2 Student, and 3 Corporate members. There are 5 non-USA members; 1 each from Brazil, Sweden, and St. Kitts, and 2 from Canada. In addition, 36 libraries of veterinary medicine, including the AVMA, and the National Library of Medicine, receive a complimentary subscription to the AVI Newsletter.

Professional Activities:

AVI members indicate that 45 are in academe (Education, R&D, Diagnostic, Other), 22 are in Small Animal Practice, 16 in "Other" veterinary medicine, and the remaining 10 in a variety of categories.

Work Groups

Members are allowed to select one work group: CAI/CAL was selected by 31, Computerized Patient records by 25, and Practice Management Systems by 15, Networking 4, Standards 3.

Member Interests:

Members were asked to select one or more current interests in veterinary informatics. Internet Usage was selected by 52, Education by 36, Advanced Computer Usage in Practice by 28, Cutting Edge Computer Technology by 25 each, and Basic Computer Usage in Practice by 17 each, and Other by 23.

AVI Newsletter Format:

The largest portion of members (59, or 45.7%) request both electronic and hardcopy, 52 (40.3%) electronic only, and 18 (14.0%) hardcopy only.

January to June 2002 AVI Web Statistics:

AVI web site had 19,440 hits per month (3,052 visitors/mo.), 654 hits/day (103 visitors/day).

Respectfully submitted,
Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd
Secretary/Treasurer, Association for Veterinary Informatics

AVI FINANCIAL REPORT

July 12, 2002

INFLOWS

AVMA 2001 Student Sponsors	805.00
AVMA 2002 Student Sponsors	1,250.00
Interest Inc	87.04
Member Dues	
Associate	60.00
Corporate	300.00
Full	3,150.00
Student	60.00
<u>TOTAL Member Dues</u>	<u>3,570.00</u>
TOTAL INFLOWS	5,712.04

OUTFLOWS

AVMA 2001 Student Award:	
Airfare	805.00
Prize	1,500.00
TOTAL AVMA 2001 Student Award	2,305.00
AVMA 2002 Student Award:	
Prize	1,500.00
TOTAL AVMA 2002 Student Award*	1,500.00
AVMA Meeting 2001:	
Luncheon	1,080.98
TOTAL AVMA Meeting 2001	1,080.98
AVMA Meeting 2002:	
Luncheon	1,202.87
TOTAL AVMA Meeting 2002**	1,202.87
Business Exp:	
Office supplies	59.45
TOTAL Business Exp	59.45
Directory:	
Postage	221.56
Printing	357.00
Services	80.00
TOTAL Directory	658.56
Newsletter:	
Honorarium	1,000.00
Postage	182.37

Printing	295.32
Services	57.00
Supplies	3.30
TOTAL Newsletter	1,537.99
Web Site:	
Host	264.40
Maintenance	1,690.00
Register	35.00
TOTAL Web Site	1,989.40
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	10,334.25

OVERALL TOTAL -4,622.21

* Prizes Prepaid for 2002 - \$1500

* Luncheon Prepaid for 2002 - \$1202.87

CASH ON HAND 7/12/02 \$ 2,933.97

Respectfully submitted,
Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd
Secretary/Treasurer, Association for Veterinary Informatics

PRODUCTS & REVIEWS

OVT Charting System – Canine Reproduction

We are in process of completing a project for veterinarians involved in small animal reproduction. □ Might be of interest. □ If you will check our website, <http://www.ovtveter.com>, it indicate our objectives. □ One of the major objectives was to create a web site through which veterinarians involved in small animal reproduction could share information. □ The project consisted of a desktop application, web site, and applications for handheld devices. □ Veterinarians can publish to the web site the records they create on the desktop application. □

Hope you will talk a look at the web site and would be happy to answer any questions. □ We are trying to more and more veterinarians working in this area to share cases. □ By using the web site we can involve veterinarians around the world.

Thank you,

Norman Roskin, DVM
nroskin@aol.com
Olney Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital
Sandy Spring, Md. 20860
301-774-0700

INTERNET RESOURCES

MSU Unveils Food Safety Site

<http://www.RUsick2.msu.edu/>

Deemed as the nation's first Web site that allows people to report food poisoning, the goal is to stop the spread of food-borne illnesses by collecting data from residents of three Michigan counties: Ingham, Eaton and Clinton. Researchers say the data would allow county health departments to quickly identify outbreaks.

Veterinary Textbooks On-Line

The following veterinary textbooks can be consulted on-line at the IVIS website (Note: access is free to veterinarians, veterinary students, technicians and researchers)

Clinical Neurology in Small Animals: Localization, Diagnosis and Treatment by K.G. Braund (529 pages - 2002 - Publisher: IVIS)
Go to:

http://www.ivis.org/special_books/braund/toc.asp

Recent Advances in Yak Reproduction by Zhao X.X. and Zhang R.C. (50 pages - 2001 - Publisher: IVIS) Go to:

<http://www.ivis.org/advances/Zhao/toc.asp>

A Concise Guide to Infectious and Parasitic Diseases of Dogs and Cats by G.R. Carter (99 pages - 2002 - Publisher: IVIS) Go to:
http://www.ivis.org/special_books/carter/toc.asp

Recent Advances in Canine Infectious Diseases by L. Carmichael (72 pages - 2001 - Publisher: IVIS) Go to:
http://www.ivis.org/advances/Infect_Dis_Carmichael/toc.asp

Recent Advances in Companion Animal Behavior Problems by K.A. Houpt (62 pages - 2001 - Publisher: IVIS) Go to:
http://www.ivis.org/advances/Behavior_Houpt/toc.asp

The IVIS project is a work-in-progress. Your comments or questions are important to us and can be sent to info@ivis.org. We hope that you will continue to enjoy the IVIS website.

Irma Revah, DVM MPVM PhD
Editor-in-Chief

IVIS is a New York-based, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of animal care by providing up-to-date, clinical information to veterinarians, veterinary students and animal health professionals worldwide using Internet technologies

International Veterinary Information Service (IVIS), P.O. Box 4371, Ithaca NY 14852, USA
email: info@ivis.org
Website: <http://www.ivis.org/>

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Organizers Plan Online Medical School

A group of more than 50 schools in 16 countries are working to create an online medical school, in part to combat the "brain drain" that occurs when medical students go abroad for their education but do not return later. The International Virtual Medical School is led by the University of Dundee in Scotland, and includes Scotland's other four medical schools at the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St. Andrews. Organizers said that because degrees would be

granted by individual participating schools, all of which are accredited, students should not have to worry about accreditation problems. Students would spend about 30 percent of their time in clinical settings during the first two years of the program and about 70 percent after that. American schools participating in the project include Brown, Wake Forest, and West Virginia Universities, and the University of Miami.

Chronicle of Higher Education, 9 October 2002
<http://chronicle.com/free/2002/10/2002100901t.htm>

Med School Integrates Handhelds into Curriculum

The University of Louisville School of Medicine and School of Dentistry purchased and distributed 1,100 Palm Inc. m500 handhelds to students as part of a strategy to connect students to patient care throughout its curriculum -- from studies traditionally dominated by lecture-style presentations to hands-on clinical training. "Most national medical educators agree that active, self-directed learning facilitates retention," said Ruth Greenberg, Ph.D., director of academic programs at the school's Health Sciences Center. "With handheld technology, we can create opportunities for students to become more actively engaged in their learning even in basic science classes. We can introduce them to clinical concepts from the first day they enter medical school rather than waiting until the third and fourth years of clinical work where handhelds are more commonly used."

Online Peer Reviews Gain Momentum

Among the 25,000 peer-reviewed journals worldwide, an increasing number are abandoning the traditional, mail-based process for reviewing and editing articles, turning instead to electronic systems. According to Rick Johnson, enterprise director of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, "Journals sink or swim based on whether they attract the top authors." The significant time savings from conducting the peer-review process electronically, he said, puts journals that make the change at a competitive advantage over those that do not. Money saved on postage can also be substantial. The Journal of the American College of Cardiology expects to save 80 percent of its postal budget, \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year, by switching to an electronic system. Other advantages include convenience and reduced risk of errors and lost mailings.

New York Times, 12 August 2002

MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

IMIA Working Group on Education 2003 Meeting

Teach Globally, Learn Locally: Innovations in Health and Biomedical Informatics Education in the 21st Century - IMIA Working Group on Education 2003 Meeting

The Division of Medical Informatics & Outcomes Research (DMIOR) at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) is pleased to host the 2003 IMIA Working Group on Education meeting. The meeting will span two and one-half days and be held April 23-25, 2003 in Portland, Oregon, USA.

The goals of the meeting are to provide both an exposition for innovations in health and biomedical informatics education as well as provide a working meeting for ongoing work of the IMIA Working Group on Education. The latter includes the development of a health and biomedical informatics education textbook and

planning for the development of the IMIA "virtual university" that will enable students in educational programs to access courses at other universities around the globe.

The format of the meeting will alternate between a single plenary session for paper presentations and breakout sessions for work on the book and virtual university. A pertinent keynote speaker will also be secured. In addition, there will be a poster session at OHSU that will be coupled with an open house one evening and a social dinner the other evening. There will also be a business meeting for the IMIA Working Group on Education.

For more information, contact:
William Hersh, M.D., General Conference Chair, hersh@ohsu.edu
Paul Gorman, M.D., Program Committee Chair, gormanp@ohsu.edu
Lynetta Sacherek, M.L.S., M.H.A., Conference Administrator, sacherek@ohsu.edu

SUGGESTED READING

Evidence-Based Medicine in the Festive Season

Posted to: epivet-1@upei.ca

Festive seasons present an opportunity for taking a brief respite from the tough work of science...

A chance (= risk assessment probability estimation opportunity - in noun-cluster terms) to take a more relaxed perspective on ourselves, our activities and our world-view.

In this spirit, I recently tested and explored the real meaning of scientific research...

"Research Questioned and Investigated"
<http://www.aasv.org/news/story.php?id=384>

Normally I would not dream of bringing such a piece of iconoclastic trivia to the attention of my august colleagues in Epivet, but I have been encouraged in this act of gross mischief by an article in today's online edition of the British Medical Journal: entitled: "EBM: unmasking the ugly truth."

It can be viewed (if you dare!) at:
<http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/325/7378/1496>

Mike Meredith
www.pighealth.com

CLOSING BITS

Addicted to the Web

Sung To The Tune Of "Winter Wonderland."

Doorbell rings, I'm not list'nin',
From my mouth, drool is glist'nin',
I'm happy -- although
My boss let me go --
Happily addicted to the Web.

All night long, I sit clicking,
Unaware time is ticking,
There's beard on my cheek,
Same clothes for a week,
Happily addicted to the Web.

Friends come by; they shake me, Saying, "Yo, man!
Don't you know tonight's the senior prom?"
With a listless shrug, I mutter, "No, man;
I just discovered letterman-dot-com!"

I don't phone, don't send faxes,
Don't go out, don't pay taxes,
Who cares if someday
They drag me away?
I'm happily addicted to the Web!

