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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

Affiliated groups gather in Salt Lake City

Robin M. Starr <starrchi@EARTHLINK.NET>

FYI, here's the AVMA News story on the AVI meeting in Salt Lake City.

Veterinary informatics

Event: Association for Veterinary Informatics business meeting, July 23

Officers: Dr. Eric M. Mills, Blacksburg, Va, president; Dr. Elizabeth Lund, Lake Elmo, Minn, president-elect; and Dr. Paul M. Schmitz, Tulsa, Okla, chair of the education committee

Business: The association created the AVI Scholar's Award to encourage student participation in the informatics association and in the field of informatics. Pet's Choice Inc and VetConnect Systems Inc will award a \$750 prize and round-trip airfare for each of the winning proposals for presentations at the 2001 Talbot Symposium, July 15 during the 2001 AVMA Annual Convention in Boston. The winning students will also receive free convention registration from the AVMA and the equivalent of the AVMA Standard Speaker honorarium.

Contact: Dr. Robin M. Starr, Association for Veterinary Informatics, 31575 Griffin Dr, Conifer, CO 80433-9507; phone, (303) 674-3251; fax, (303) 674-9719; e-mail, starrchi@earthlink.net

See the entire article at:

<http://www.avma.org/noah/members/memnews/javma/oct00/s100100g.asp>

New AVI Web Site a Hit! (Pun Intended.)

By Web person Robin M. Starr, DVM, MEd

The new AVI web site was launched September 1, 2000 at <http://avinformatics.org>. The number of visitors per day averaged 42.9 in September and increased to 49.2 in October. A

“visitor” is an individual viewing one or more pages on the site. Note that the number of “hits” is often listed for a site, but is several magnitudes higher than number of visitors because it counts the number of files viewed, i.e., every image on every page. There were over 20,000 hits per month on the AVI site. Average length of visit was over 5 minutes (314 seconds) in September and over 4_ minutes (274 seconds) in October. For September and October combined, most visitors (66.8%) browsed with Internet Explorer and 21.9% with Netscape. AOL was by far the top domain, accounting for 32.9% of visitors. Over 90% of visitors were on a PC platform, with 5.2% on Macs. Viewing times tend to be highest around lunchtime, with a smaller peak at 5:00 and 6:00 pm. Viewing day of the week varies widely, with no discernable trend. Two new members joined using the Web site applications.

This site is designed to meet member needs and more feedback would be greatly appreciated. Would an online printable membership form be useful (remember, renewal time is approaching)? The Executive Committee has determined that online credit cards are not feasible at this time, so you would still have to mail the form in with your check. Is the News section tweaking your interest? Can you suggest any other news sources or items for the Resources page? Please send the web person your input!

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 COMPUTER-AIDED INSTRUCTION INTEREST GROUP MINUTES

Association of Veterinarian Informatics
Computer Aided Instruction Interest Group
Held 5:30pm - 7:00pm; July 24, 2000
Marriott Hotel; Salt Lake City, Utah

ATTENDEES

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Cheryl Dhein | Washington | crd@vetmed.wsu.edu |
| • Richard Hackett | Cornell | rph2@cornell.edu |
| • Mickey Sims | Tennessee | msims@utk.edu |
| • Charles Branch | Auburn | branch@auburn.edu |
| • Zac March | Missouri | marchj@missouri.edu |
| • Jim Holland | North Carolina | Jim_Holland@ncsu.edu |
| • Harriet Mermes | North Carolina | harriet_mermes@ncsu.edu |
| • Denise Simpson | Oregon Heath Sciences Unit | drdenise@gocougs.wsu.edu |
| • John Boyce | National Board Exam Committee | Boyce@NBEC.org |
| • Joanne Richards | Private Practice | jrich@jettnet.org |
| • Fred Oehme | Kansas | oehme@vet.ksu.edu |
| • Wayne Wingfield | Colorado | wwingfie@vth.colostate.edu |

The format of this informal session was to have everyone give a brief overview of their position and some of the projects that are being developed at their school. The primary purpose of this meeting was an attempt to increase collaboration across schools in the development of computer-enhanced learning tools. Introductions were followed by demonstrations.

During the introductions, as topics of mutual interest arose, we set an agenda for additional discussion of those topics.

North Carolina State is working on an image management program and is deliberating issues such as: using a hospital versus a college image server what standards should be used for identifying images what quality of images should be archived and displayed There is a pilot project for

archiving images for the poultry group at North Carolina State. The image management software being used is called Cumulus. One of the issues that North Carolina attendees cited as “needs improvement” for CAI projects at North Carolina (and probably at all schools) is a guideline for project management: who is doing what task, deadlines, et cetera.

Washington State University has an image database located at:
<http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/imagedb/> Additional submissions of images to the database are being sought. There is an on line submission form at the web site.

Denise Simpson presented some information on her informatics masters at the Oregon Health Sciences Center. Her thesis was an objective evaluation of a multi-media product developed at Colorado State University used to teach Neurobiology.

John Boyce of the National Board Exam Committee made a request for a submission of images for potential inclusion in the national licensing exam (NAVLE). These images should either not be subsequently used in other publications, or teaching applications, unless they are very generic such as cytologies or radiographs that would not likely be recognized by a student from a specific institution which would give them an unfair advantage on the exam.

Zac March of the University of Missouri, presented some information on an USDA grant they are working on to develop a training program for technology skills. They have full six programmers assigned to this project. They are also working on an online testing tool.

Charles Branch from Auburn University and Mickey Sims from Tennessee presented information about video conferencing including a demonstration of videoconferencing based on H.323 IP protocol. They did a pilot video conferencing project of virtual rounds between Auburn and Tennessee followed by a meeting in Knoxville to review the project and discuss options. The following schools were represented: Tennessee, Auburn, Tuskeegee, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. They are interested in furthering collaborative efforts using video conferencing techniques.

An issue discussed was control of printing in student computer labs. At Auburn the problem of excessive printing was remedied by having the University supply a printer similar to that used in their general-purpose-fee-based labs for the veterinary lab so the veterinary students have to pay the University for prints but the veterinary school doesn't have to track the accounting. There are no free print services in their Veterinary College.

Richard Hackett from Cornell presented a demonstration of their ASAP based image library, which is integrated with their medical record. Referring veterinarians can log on to a server at Cornell and get the results of all cases they referred for the past twelve years. They can get text-based reports, for example clinical cytologies and radiology reports and view images online. The referral veterinary database is built using Power Builder.

Wayne Wingfield presented an overview of the use of web CT at Colorado State University. Colorado has a University license for web CT. All their courses are offered through Web CT. It's easy to use and allows the integration of notes and images as well as testing capabilities. Web CT has lots of tracking features to see what resources the students have used. The students can access from computer labs or from home. They also have a cold fusion database image management system at Colorado State.

There was some discussion on the different course management systems. The strength of Web CT included the ability to generate lots of feedback about student use, which pages students are using; it also has integrated chat rooms. Alternative programs briefly discussed were Black Board and

Learning Space, which are used at the University of Tennessee. Missouri is using Tool Book and Librarian for management of many of their course materials.

There was a discussion on online continuing education. There is a new organization called Race, which is coordinated by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) <<http://www.aavsb.org>> which is attempting to standardize criteria for continuing education credit. CE programs and CE providers must request approval from the American Association of Veterinarian State Boards for RACE certification. WSU offered its first online continuing education course in May, which was deemed a success and which will set the stage for additional online credit-granting CE.

We discussed “standardization” for archival images. Auburn digitizes their graphics on Photo CD. Charles Branch mentioned a batch tool for image conversion and the ability to rapidly create electronic slide shows of graphics. The product was called IrfanView. URL: <http://stud1.tuwien.ac.at/~e9227474/english.htm>

The WSU image data base images are acquired as ~7 MB scans which are archived on CD. The image in the image database is sized at 1024 x 768 at screen resolution with an option to display a 640 x 480 image “on the fly”.

The question was raised but no one had the answer, as to whether it was acceptable to have copyrighted materials on an internal web citing the “fair use law” for copyrighted material in the classroom. It was stated that in the most recent journal of the Chronicle of Higher education that there is an article on intellectual property rights, which addresses the subject of whether the faculty, university or college owns the intellectual property rights on technology enhanced courseware.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

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LAPTOP CHECKOUT SURVEY RESULTS

Results of Survey about Laptops and Projectors for Use Off Campus

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Thanks to all who replied. The questions that were asked:

- Does your school provide a laptop and or video projector for faculty who attend and/or present at meetings off campus?
- Is there a fee assessed?
- Do you have a method for faculty to dial in from a remote (long distance) location (not from home but when traveling? e.g. 800 phone number)

"Maybe" means that there are restrictions on the use of checked out equipment (eg..only certain groups)

Laptop	Projector	Fee	800 #	Comments
yes	yes	no	no	
maybe	maybe	no	no	have a laptop and/or projector available for instruction. If a faculty needs either one and the meeting isn't too long, we sometimes allow them to check it out - no cost. But we don't have that equipment specifically for the faculty.
maybe	maybe	yes	no	have a video projector that can be moved off campus, many faculty have their own laptops and one could be (fairly) readily borrowed. Our projector is often booked during regular hours so it might be difficult taking it a long distance (except during summer). Theoretically a fee would be charged (\$150/day?) but I suspect there might be some flexibility if there were no other potential users.
no	yes	no	no	I think they presume that laptops are personal items. However there is a move afoot to obtain a "pool" of laptops for just this purpose. Most faculty use private calling cards
yes	yes	no	yes	
no	no	NA	yes	NO. Faculty buy their own computer and many of us have had to buy our own projector as well. We have an 800 number to dial into the University but are expected to pay if it is used

				for personal email, etc.
maybe	maybe	no	no	Yes, routinely for outreach presentations. Other meetings would require a special arrangements. There is not a formal, publicized service of this nature for faculty attending meetings.
yes	no	no	no	about to provide a laptop computer for faculty to use on a sign-out basis for lectures and meetings. A couple of groups in the school have bought LCD projectors for faculty to take to meetings etc but they are not generally available to all faculty, just members of the group
yes	yes	no	no	Most faculty have ISP's that will allow network access via "local" numbers from long distance.
maybe	maybe	no	no	does have laptops and video projectors for off-campus presentations. However, these are generally associated with certain projects and are not available to all faculty.
yes	yes	no	no	regular long distance call.
no	no	NA	no	No. Some departments own their own
yes	yes	no	no	
yes	yes	no	yes	

PRODUCTS & REVIEWS

Handhelds/Software

Richard Estes <restes@WORLDNET.ATT.NET>

Recently I asked for information for a database for a Pocket PC. One of the replies was from (AVI-L) list member, Dr. Linda Cochran. Communicating with her concerning my database needs I found out she has developed some very interesting programs for veterinarians for the Palm OS. Her programs seem innovative and include SA and LA Patient records, some dose calculating programs, drug formulary programs etc. I thought others may be interested in her ideas. Dr. Cochran has a nice website <<http://www.anmldr.com>> which also has some good links to related medical handheld sites.

I would be interested in hearing about other programs for Pocket or Palm PC's that people have found useful.

Rich Estes, Ocala,FL

Elective Course on Computer Applications for Veterinarians

Cinzia Gandini <cindex@IOL.IT>

I am developing a 3D educational environment focused to the veterinary medicine. The project Vetunimi is affiliated to the University of Milano, Italy. The 3D environment allows an interactive use of the internet and it supports real-time meetings, opinion and data exchange among distant colleagues or students, images, internet searching and veterinary library resources and tutorials. The use of the 3D and computer based media tools like voice tool, seems to power any form of communication skill and it allows to get a more interactive environment. It's future application is oriented to the continuing education, distant colleagues support, share impossible meetings and distant learning. A feedback will be very welcome.

Here are some links about the project:

- <http://edu.activeworlds.com/participants/vetunimi.html>

- <http://www.bioinfovet.unimi.it/vetunimi/virtual/info.html>
- http://www.italvet.com/clinic/vet_unimi.html

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INTERNET RESOURCES

EQWISE - Newly Updated Website

Tom Irwin <tom.irwin@VET.GLA.AC.UK>

EQWISE is a one stop source for the horse rider, trainer, owner and veterinarian. It provides a range of material and modules that are of a general nature and are designed to improve knowledge and awareness of equine health and welfare issues.

We hope you find it useful and informative and will choose to support the initiative by subscribing, for a small one-off fee, for full access.

EQWISE is operated on a not-for-profit basis and all proceeds will be directed towards the improvement of the site and equine welfare.

EQWISE is supported by The Home of Rest for Horses, one of the leading equine charities in the UK.

The EQWISE Team
<http://www.vie.gla.ac.uk/eqwise/>

The IVIS Website

International Veterinary Information Service
<info@ivis.org>

On behalf of our editorial board, I am pleased to announce that the IVIS website is now available at www.ivis.org/. The IVIS (International Veterinary Information Service) is a New York not-for-profit organization created to provide clinically relevant, up-to-date information to veterinary practitioners, veterinary students, academic clinicians and researchers in the animal health care sector worldwide using the Internet. The IVIS website provides free access to original, electronic reviews, updates, and other books

on a wide variety of veterinary topics. IVIS publications aspire to the same high quality standards as academic textbooks. Editors of e-books are carefully selected and all publications are written specifically for the IVIS website by contributing authors selected by the editor(s) of each book. Today, the IVIS Recent Advances in Veterinary Medicine library contains no less than 27 e-books.

It is our hope that you will find the IVIS content interesting and useful. One of the goals is that the IVIS website be used as a resource in veterinary curricula. The IVIS website can be consulted as often as needed free of cost and documents can easily be printed using files specifically paginated for on-line color or black-and-white printing. IVIS was developed by faculty in several veterinary colleges and is not associated with any University or Veterinary College. IVIS acquires its financial support through private, corporate and government sponsorship. It is my pleasure to invite you to visit the IVIS website at www.ivis.org/

The IVIS project is a work-in-progress and we appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have. Please send you comments or questions to info@ivis.org.

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Website: <http://www.ivis.org/>

Integrated Medical Curriculum

<http://www.imc.gsm.com>

Gold Standard Multimedia Inc. (GSM), a publisher of medical education and reference software, has launched the Integrated Medical Curriculum (IMC), the first product to link the study of anatomy, physiology, histology, immunology, medical ethics, and pharmacology on a single Internet site.

Located at <http://www.imc.gsm.com>, the site allows the user to dissect cadavers online, head-to-toe, skin-to-bones; examine cellular biology through a digital microscope; animate complicated physiologic processes; look at radiographs without a lightbox; explore medical ethical issues; obtain up-to-date clinical drug information; test medical knowledge with online quizzing, earn continuing education credits; and more. Available around the clock at no charge, the site is open to consumers as well as healthcare students and professionals.

MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Medinfo2001 (London) - September 2-5, 2001

There is now only one year until medinfo2001 opens at the ExCeL Congress Centre, London. Medinfo2001, to be held on 2-5 September, 2001, is the tenth triennial congress of the International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA), and is expected to attract over 2,500 delegates from around the world. It will be hosted by the British Computer Society through its Health Informatics Committee and this will be the first time that this prestigious international event has been held in the UK.

The call for scientific papers, to be submitted electronically, closes on 1 December 2000, and the website, with full details of the event and electronic submission details, has already attracted over 100,000 hits per quarter.

Development of the ExCeL Congress venue, in London's Docklands, is ahead of schedule and on target for holding its first event in November 2000.

The medinfo2001 event will provide scientific papers, demonstrations, posters, workshops and tutorials on the state of the art and leading edge developments in the use of information and communications technologies in the promotion of health and the delivery of health care. Many other international organisations have expressed interest in holding meetings in conjunction with medinfo2001.

The event will also feature a large exhibition of trade stands from leading vendors in the informatics field, and a Global Village of national activities and multi-national programmes from all parts of the world; this has already attracted interest from, among other countries, USA, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Germany, Cyprus, Hungary and New Zealand.

Background web addresses for editor:
Medinfo2001 - <http://www.medinfo2001.org>
IMIA - <http://www.imia.org>

Further information:

For press and publicity contacts:

Peter J. Murray,
Press and PR Co-ordinator, medinfo2001,
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For medinfo2001 logistical contacts:

Jean Roberts,
Chair, Local Organising Committee,
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SUGGESTED READING

Computerized Medical Imaging and Graphics

<http://www.elsevier.com/inca/publications/store/2/9/2/index.htm>

Computerized Medical Imaging and Graphics is an important source for the latest information on the medical use of new computer applications in radiological imaging, 3-D imaging and microscopy, including research methods and results in CT, MR, PET, SPECT, digital radiology, DSA, ultrasound, confocal microscopy, 3-D reconstruction, image analysis and color analysis. The Journal provides for the rapid review of original research papers, review articles, and preliminary research publications in this important field.

Audience: Radiologists, Cardiologists, Oncologists.

ScienceDirect subscribers have access to full-text articles by logging in at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>

Editor-in-Chief: Robert S. Ledley
Email: usinfo-f@elsevier.com

Computers & Education

<http://www.elsevier.com/inca/publications/store/3/4/7/index.htm>

Computing and communication technology continue to make an ever-increasing impact on all aspects of cognition, education and training, from primary to tertiary and in the growing open and distance learning environment. The journal is an established technically-based, interdisciplinary forum for communication in the use of all forms of computing in this socially and technologically significant area of application and will continue to publish definitive contributions to serve as a reference standard against which the current state-of-the-art can be assessed.

The Editors welcome any papers on cognition, educational or training systems development using techniques from and applications in any technical knowledge domain: social issues and

gender issues; curricula considerations, graphics, simulations, computer-aided design, computer integrated manufacture, artificial intelligence and its applications including intelligent tutoring systems and computer assisted language learning; hypertext and hypermedia; user interfaces to learning systems; management of technological change on campus and in local education; uses of advanced technology information systems, networks, terrestrial and satellite transmissions and distributed processing; and virtual reality in an educational context; state-of-the-art summaries and review articles.

Audience: Researchers interested in the educational aspects of computers (computing), Educational Technologists.

ScienceDirect subscribers have access to full-text articles by logging in at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>

Editors: R.S. Heller and J.M. Underwood
Email: usinfo-f@elsevier.com

Computers in Biology and Medicine

<http://www.elsevier.com/inca/publications/store/3/5/1/index.htm>

This journal is a medium of international communication on the revolutionary advances being made in the application of the computer to the fields of biomedical engineering and medical informatics. It encourages the exchange of research, instruction, ideas and information on all aspects of the growing use of computers and focuses on such areas as (1) Analysis of biomedical systems: solutions of equations; (2) Synthesis of biomedical systems: simulations; (3) Special medical data processing methods; (4) Special purpose computers and clinical data processing; and (5) Medical diagnosis and record processing.

Audience: Physicians, Surgeons, Physiologists, Bacteriologists.

ScienceDirect subscribers have access to full-text articles by logging in at <http://www.sciencedirect.com>

Editor-in-Chief: Robert S. Ledley
Email: usinfo-f@elsevier.com

Health Data Management

<http://hdm.faulknergray.com>

Health Data Management provides information on every aspect of health care information technology. Articles are designed to help readers use information technology to improve the quality of care while controlling costs.

Health Data Management covers a broad array of topics, including:

- The latest applications of the Internet and intranets in health care.

- The implementation of computer-based patient records.
- The use of electronic data interchange for claims, managed care transactions and supply procurement.
- The creation of enterprisewide networks to link sites in integrated delivery systems.
- The application of telemedicine technology to cut costs.
- Innovations in managed care software.
- Strategies for ensuring data security.

The full-text of featured articles is available in HTML format without a subscription.

Editorial Director: Howard J. Anderson
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CLOSING BITS

New Virus

NOTICE: You have just received the Amish virus.

As we don't have any electricity, computers, or programming experience, this virus works on the honor system. Please delete all of the files

from your hard drive and then forward this virus to everyone on your mailing list.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Information Services Department
Amish, Inc.