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Newsletter

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

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;
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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/>

LOINC TRAINING AT AAVLD

(Editor's comment: This training session will have been completed by the time this issue of the AVI Newsletter is published. It represents an important step toward standardized coding and exchange of veterinary medical data and is included here to keep AVI members abreast of progress in the field.)

At the 2000 annual meeting of the AAVLD, the AAVLD House of Delegates approved a resolution that stated, in part:

“...that all AAVLD accredited veterinary diagnostic laboratories specify that HL7, SNOMED and [Laboratory Observation Identifier, Names and Codes] LOINC be used as the standards for the transmission of data between laboratories, and...that SNOMED and LOINC vocabulary standards be expanded to include the vocabulary of veterinary laboratories for all disciplines...”

Following the adoption of the resolution, there were a number of questions about the nature of these standards and how they would be implemented in diagnostic laboratories. To address these questions, the AAVLD Informatics Committee will present a 4-hour introductory training session on the use of LOINC in diagnostic laboratories. The session will be held Friday November 2, 2001 from 1-5pm in the Cocoa 2 room.

Who should attend:

- Individuals who are responsible for the maintenance and enhancement of laboratory information systems
- Laboratory discipline leaders who will be responsible for providing domain knowledge for the proper use of LOINC terms.

- Laboratory professionals who wish to know more about standardizing their laboratory results or are responsible for maintaining the laboratory test catalog.
- Individuals interested in the developing area of veterinary health information standards.

Workshop objectives:

- Overview of LOINC
- Example database design to implement LOINC
- Convert local service catalog to LOINC LMOF (Local Master Observation File)
- Import LMOF into RELMA
- Map existing codes to LOINC
- Identify new terms that are needed for submission to LOINC
- Explain how new terms are added
- Explain the relationship between LOINC and other veterinary health standards (HL7 and SNOMED)

Requirements:

A delimited-ASCII or Excel version of your local service catalog (test list, see example below) – the information that will be needed to be productive includes the name of the test, the method, the analyte(s) being measured and a sample result, including units.

Since this will be a hands-on workshop, all participants should bring a computer for the exercises.

Materials provided:

Presentation materials
 Example information model
 Full LOINC standard database
 RELMA (LOINC Mapping tool)

For more information on LOINC: <http://www.regenstrief.org/loinc/>

Example format for use in mapping to LOINC

Local Code	Test Description	Method	Sample Result
0001	ACID FAST STAIN	Stain	Positive for acid fast bacteria
0004	BACTERIAL AEROBIC CULTURE	culture	Staphylococcus aureus
0013	CLOSTRIDIUM CHAUVOEII-FA	FA	Pos
0031	MYCOPLASMA SPP - IMMUNOPEROXIDASE	Ipx	Positive
0098	TOTAL COLIFORM COUNT	Culture	25cfu/ml
4025	AVIAN REOVIRUS – AGID	AGID	Negative
4026	AVIAN REOVIRUS – ELISA	ELISA	Titer group 3
4029	BOVINE HERPES VIRUS 1 (IBR) - SVN	Titer	1:128
4034	BOVINE PARVOVIRUS - HI	HI	1:256
4035	AVIAN – HA	HA	1:256
4038	M. GALLISEPTICUM DNA PROBE	PCR	Weak Positive
4043	NEOSPOA ELISA	ELISA	0.135 ELISA
4059	LEPTOSPIRA MAT - L. BRATISLAVA	MAT	Neg@ 1:100
4074	EQUINE QUANTITATIVE IGM	AGID	2075mg/dL
6002	BLOOD PROTOZOA/RICKETTSIA EXAM	microscopy	Anaplasma sp. Identified
6005	FECAL EXAM - BAERMAN	concentration	No ova or parasites seen
7007	TOXOPLASMA IFAT	IFA	Negative
7501	ASPARTATE AMINOTRANSFERASE (SGOT)		380 U/L
7500	ALBUMIN		2.6 g/dL
7503	BUN - BLOOD UREA NITROGEN		16.7 mg/dl

7508	GLUTATHIONE PEROXIDASE		2 mU NADPH oxidize/min/mg HGB
7509	HEMATOCRIT		52 %
8005	ANTICOAGULANT SCREEN		Positive
9004	INFECTIOUS BRONCHITIS VIRUS TYPING – PAGE	PAGE	IBV-Ark Type

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PRODUCTS & REVIEWS

Henry Schein Releases 'Dental Career Planner' CD-ROM To Help New Practitioners Evaluate Their Dental Practice Options

(Editor's comment: I thought this news item would be of interest to the veterinary community given the similarities between dental practices and veterinary practices.)

MELVILLE, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 5, 2001--

New planning tool also valuable to practicing dentists in evaluating their future

Henry Schein, Inc., the largest provider of healthcare supplies to office-based practitioners in the North American and European markets, announced today the release of an interactive CD-ROM designed to help new dental practitioners make informed decisions about their career options.

The new software program, titled Dental Career Planner: A Guide to Practice Ownership utilizes data such as assets, liabilities, net worth and projected living expenses to generate a customized financial profile, including monthly income requirements. The program then helps the dentist explore a variety of practice options - for example, becoming an associate, acquiring an existing practice, or starting a new practice either as a solo practitioner or with a partner - by outlining financial scenarios based on estimated expenses and required income.

The CD-ROM also contains several other helpful planning tools, including articles on practice transitions, demonstrations of Henry Schein's widely used dental practice management software products, DENTRIX(R) and Easy Dental(R), and a collection of continuing education courses.

"Dentists new to the field will find The Dental Career Planner a valuable tool for planning and launching their careers," said Jim Breslawski, President of Sullivan-Schein Dental, Henry Schein's U.S. dental business. "Henry Schein's number one priority is to offer its dental customers the products and services they need for operating a successful practice. That includes today's new dentists who typically have funded a substantial portion of their training through loans. Strategic financial planning and practice management is essential for helping to ensure future business success for these new practitioners. Initial feedback on the new CD-ROM program has been extremely positive."

The new software is also an asset to the seasoned practitioner who might be preparing to take on an associate," added Mr. Breslawski. "The program is invaluable in helping to determine the financial practicality of such a move."

VetPDA

UC Davis hosts a site
<<http://vetpda.ucdavis.edu>> featuring timely

news, reviews and comparisons of personal digital assistant (PDA) hardware and software for veterinary use. The site also features links to hardware and software providers.

INTERNET RESOURCES

IVIS Online Services

The IVIS (International Veterinary Information Services) website offers two FREE services to its members.

IVIS subscribers can now search for educational and employment opportunities for veterinary students, technicians, practitioners and clinicians in the IVIS Classified Advertisements Section. You can add information on employment opportunities, externship, internship, residency, PhD or postdoc positions online free of charge. Simply go to "Calendar and other Resources" and look for "Classified Advertisements".

The IVIS calendar database has information on over 500 veterinary meetings and short-courses world-wide and can be searched based on region, species, event type and date. To add your veterinary event on-line go to the IVIS Calendar and click on the Submission Form.

The IVIS website can be visited free of charge at <http://www.ivis.org/>. The IVIS project is a work-in-progress and comments or suggestions may be sent to info@ivis.org.

Irma Revah, DVM MPVM PhD
Editor-in-Chief

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Third Annual MRI Survey of EHR Trends/Usage

MRI is proud to announce the availability of its most comprehensive survey of EHR Trends and Usage to date. The Survey of EHR Trends and Usage was derived from 485 respondents. This data was gathered between March and July of 2001.

A Complimentary Preview – Online: MRI invites you to visit the survey website at <http://www.medrecinst.com/resources/survey/index.shtml> and gain an overview of the survey contents.

Overview: A total of 298 respondents, who were self-identified as __, providers, % from Integrated Delivery Networks or Managed Care

Organizations, Ambulatory Facilities and Acute Care Institutions provided answers on issues such as:

- Management, Administrative, and Clinical Motivations Driving the Need for Electronic Health Record Systems
- EHR Applications and Functions Being Implemented
- Data Capture Methods Being Employed
- Network Platforms Being Used to Support EHRs
- Web-based Applications Being Considered
- Major Barriers to EHRs and the User Strategies to Address Them
- Data Security Concerns and Implementation Plans

CLOSING BITS

Better Networks: Look to Nature

Telecommunications firms may be able to make their networks more efficient by emulating the techniques of ants to establish the quickest lines of communication. Because data on the Internet is sent in separate packets, researchers say that sending virtual ants through these networks to find the fastest routes could help speed data packets to their destinations. In nature, ants

deposit pheromones to keep track of which trails are best. Collectively, these individual tracks focus in on the most efficient routes. Icosystem Chairman and chief scientist Eric Bonabeau is also working on using this ant method to make peer-to-peer networks, distributed computing, and instant messaging technologies even more effective.
(New York Times, 13 September 2001)