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# Newsletter

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Robin Starr-Chichester (Conifer, CO) - President; James V. Schoster (Wisconsin) - President Elect, James T. Case (UC-Davis) - Secretary Treasurer; Ronald D. Smith (Illinois) - Newsletter Editor

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## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### How to Contact AVI

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check for \$35 payable to the AVI, should be sent to:

Dr. James T. Case; Secretary Treasurer,  
AVI; 1590 Augusta Ct., Dixon, CA 95620  
Phone: 916/752-4408; FAX: 916/752-5680;  
e-mail: JimCase@aol.com

Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://netvet.wustl.edu/avi.htm>

Dr. Case 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. Although the electronic version is only an ASCII (text) file, it's 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://netvet.wustl.edu/avi.htm>

## CORRESPONDENCE

### **In Memoriam - Dr. Edgard Nunes D'Almeida**

From: "Mauricio Garcia, DVM, PhD"  
<mauricio@technovet.com.br>

Dear Ken

I don't know if you are already aware, but I have the heaviness and sadness to communicate the death (Sept. 13 98) of our beloved and healthy friend Edgard Nunes D'Almeida in an airplane accident. Edgard Nunes was the

moderator of VET-L, brazilian veterinary mailing list <vet@netvale.com.br> and leaves us with a vacuum in brazilian veterinary informatics. Edgard, 43 years old, was married with 4 children.

Regards,  
Mauricio Garcia, DVM, PhD  
<mauricio@technovet.com.br>

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERINARY STUDENTS ON NOAH AND VIN

## A Sampling of Information from NOAH and VIN Web Sites

**Ronald D. Smith, DVM, PhD**  
**Director of Instructional Computing**  
**College of Veterinary Medicine**  
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With contributions from

**Diana Tomasek - Online Managing Editor, AVMA Network**  
**Dr. Paul Pion - President, Veterinary Information Network**

The American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Network of Animal Health (NOAH) and the Veterinary Information Network (VIN) have both established comprehensive veterinary information services on the World Wide Web. Both have also made free subscriptions available to veterinary students in the United States, with discounts available for recent graduates.

Although both organizations have launched active recruitment efforts aimed at veterinary students, many (particularly in academia) are unaware of the respective student programs and how these resources might be used to enhance instruction.

The following article utilizes information captured from NOAH and VIN Web sites to provide a brief overview of resources available to veterinary students on NOAH and VIN. With the exception of formatting, original text is unaltered so as to assure the accuracy of information provided. However, since Web-based information is dynamic, relevant Web site URL's are provided so that readers can consult the most current information. Although the URL for specific areas within VIN are listed, it is best to go directly to the VIN home page at <http://www.vin.com>, as this site is organized as frames.

Additional comments from Diana Tomasek, Online Managing Editor of the AVMA Network, and Dr. Paul Pion, President of VIN, are included at the end of sections describing the respective information resources.

# The AVMA Network and NOAH

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

## What is NOAH?

<http://www.avma.org/network.html>

With the all-new NOAH®, it's even easier to find get the information you need. NOAH is AVMA's Network of Animal Health - connecting you to colleagues, board-certified specialists, and a variety of online-interactive veterinary professional resources.

- NOAH Discussion Groups - Ask questions, share experiences, or just browse through the NOAH Discussion Group Messages.
- NOAH Resource Center - NOAH's Resource Center is the place to go to find drug information, do literature searches, locate Material Safety Data Sheets, and much more:
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) - Contains material safety data sheets relating to over 14,000 animal health products.
- Compendium of Veterinary Products (CVP) - Includes over 4,800 monographs of approved pharmaceuticals, pesticides, biologics, and other products. (sponsored by Bayer Animal Health)
- Veterinary Drug Handbook - A fully searchable, electronic version of Dr. Donald Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook fully that provides information on 370 drugs.
- AVMA Literature Database - the AVMA Literature Database contains abstracts and references from the JAVMA, AJVR, and Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research.
- Zoonosis Updates - A series of articles on zoonotic diseases from JAVMA. A valuable source of concise information on zoonoses that is practical and easy to read.
- The Information Exchange - Selected articles from "The Information Exchange" (TIE) feature, published monthly in JAVMA. TIE articles summarize the results of economic, statistical, or demographic research conducted by AVMA.
- NOAH Conference Archives - Selected transcripts and reference materials from past online conferences.
- ISI/NOAH World Veterinary Index - For an additional fee, NOAH members can also access The ISI/NOAH World Veterinary Index. The Index includes abstracts and bibliographic references from 85 journals covering topics in veterinary medicine, agriculture, and the biomedical sciences from the past five years.
- PLUS... Convenient Access To
  - AVMA Membership Roster
  - The AVMA Online Membership Roster listing 62,000 current AVMA members.
  - JAVMA News
  - News items from JAVMA published online two weeks in advance for members to preview.
  - JAVMA Classifieds
  - Ads from JAVMA classified section presented two weeks before the publication of each issue.
  - Master Calendar of Events
  - Information on upcoming conventions, meetings, and continuing education opportunities.

## **NOAH WAVE - Student and Educator Accounts**

<http://www.avma.org/noahpromo/wave/default.htm>

<http://www.avma.org/noahwave/default.htm>

WAVE is "Web Access for Veterinary Education" for AVMA's NOAH. AVMA's WAVE program, cosponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc., kicks off for 1998-99 by providing free NOAH access to veterinary medical educators and all veterinary students on NOAH. The WAVE program benefits AVMA accredited veterinary medical colleges and veterinary technician programs by providing participating institutions with online interactive medical and professional educational resources:

- Free, individual NOAH accounts for all student AVMA members
- Network program/operational support for the expansion of online student activities that are integrated with other organizational efforts of the AVMA and SAVMA
- Free NOAH accounts for each Veterinary medical college resource centers/libraries at AVMA-accredited colleges
- All educational faculty at AVMA-accredited colleges will be provided free individual NOAH accounts via an institutional group program at minimal cost.
- Free institutional NOAH accounts for all AVMA accredited veterinary technology programs
- Network program/operational support for the expansion of online veterinary technician professional development activities that are integrated with other organizational efforts of the AVMA and NAVTA.

### **WAVE Program Benefits:**

- Students will have enhanced exposure to real-world practice management, organizational, communications and other necessary professional knowledge and skills in a friendly and dynamic environment.
- Students and educators will work and interact with AVMA members and leadership to help shape online program activities as well as gain insights into significant professional and career issues facing the veterinary profession.
- Expanded access to AVMA's professional resources and other organizational services that nurture and support students and veterinarians throughout their professional careers.
- WAVE sponsorship represents a critical communications network that links each veterinary medical school and every veterinary medical student, improves student chapter (SCAVMA) communications, and enhances educational resources.
- Links to Student AVMA and veterinary technology education materials and resources will be integrated to provide all-in-one, comprehensive online resources.
- Special student-oriented discussion groups will be set up in NOAH and will be moderated by guest specialists and experts who will be available to answer questions on specific topics.
- Students will have the opportunity to participate in - and help build - new programs for technology communication, education, and information-exchange, and to broaden technology information access to the veterinary profession.

To access your free NOAH account, email [noahhelp@avma.org](mailto:noahhelp@avma.org). Once we receive your email request, you will be contacted with an ID and Password for NOAH.

## **Additional Comments from Diana Tomasek**

Online Managing Editor - The AVMA Network

The AVMA Network refers to the AVMA's entire Web site. We have extensive public and professional resources, and private areas including a SAVMA web site for student information. NOAH, on the other hand, is the AVMA's subscription based resource for selected databases and medical discussion groups, and represents about 20% of the online resources that AVMA makes available for students. Because NOAH is conveniently integrated with all of the other databases and content areas, even private areas for SAVMA's web site, a student has access to much more information, by entering through the NOAH portal. Thus, the selected text summarizing services you are reproducing in the AVI newsletter would not be an accurate representation of the complete services that AVMA's WAVE program offers to students. We did not develop the text you are using as a comprehensive promotion piece for the purpose you are intending to use it. It is informational but intentionally brief.

As stated in the WAVE information under \*WAVE Program Benefits,\* students have \*expanded access to professional resources and other organizational services\* and that these are \*integrated to provide all-in-one, comprehensive online resources.\* The text you are using does not mention, for example, that students have access to AVMA's Member Only Center, which not only links them to a special SAVMA area, but also links them to AVMA Policies and Guidelines on a broad range of professional subjects, AMDUCA Extralabel Drug Use Algorithm, Small Animal Poison Guide, Psittacosis Compendium, Rabies Compendium and Preexposure Prophylaxis, Center for Disease Control Recommendations and Public Health information. In addition, Students have access to other resources such as AVMA's complete Classified Ads - updated every two weeks from the JAVMA, a Master Calendar - listing over 300 meetings and CE opportunities, AVMA Member Database - enabling searches of AVMA's 61,000 members, Volunteer Leadership Roster of all councils and committees, an extensive collection of key economic statistics including starting salary, educational debt, and employment data, and over 100 articles on special topics by the AVMA's Professional Liability Insurance Trust.

## **The Veterinary Information Network**

<http://www.vin.com/>

### **What is VIN**

<http://www.vin.com/vinpromo/whatis.htm>

The Veterinary Information Network (VIN) is the first and largest online community for veterinarians. VIN is exclusively for veterinarians by veterinarians. VIN provides veterinary professionals a variety of services including continuing education courses, specialist consultation, searchable medical databases, forum discussions, veterinary industry technical support, and much more. The Veterinary Information Network is a private service resident on America Online, the world's most popular and reliable Internet Service Provider.

- VIN Consultants - The VIN team of consultants are some of the most well known and respected leaders in their fields, monitoring and facilitating professional, scholarly discussions throughout the VIN community. With over sixty clinical and practice management members on the team, VIN offers a larger pool of experts than many veterinary colleges.
- VIN Medical Message Boards - The VIN community of veterinarians operates like a large group practice -- a very large practice of almost 4,000 members -- and growing!
- The VIN Rounds Room - The Rounds Room is VIN's "virtual" meeting room. Here you can attend weekly Sunday night discussions on a timely topic in veterinary medicine.

- VIN & Our Industry Partners - This is an active area specifically for VIN members to interact with Industry Partners.
- The Veterinary Support Personnel Network - Discover VSPN, an interactive professional forum that is opening up career pathways for everyone in your practice! VSPN is specifically designed to engage office managers, technicians and other support staff.
- Continuing Education - VIN provides high-quality educational courses, taught by the leading board certified specialists in the country.
- The VIN Searchable Database - VIN provides you with a broad and growing spectrum of database services. You can search the literature, message boards, drug handbook, and a vast number of human medical journals all at once!
- The Veterinary Journal Library - Search or browse VIN's huge library of Veterinary and Human Medical Journals. For those of you who need access to additional biomedical literature, we have included a link to MEDLINE in each of the Journal Libraries.
- Full-Text Publications - Our extensive libraries of veterinary journals and research materials also include the following full-text publications:
  - Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook
  - The Capsule Report
  - FDA Veterinarian Newsletter
  - Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
  - First-Aid: Emergency
  - Care for Dogs & Cats
  - Small Animal Clinical Endocrinology
  - FIP Report
  - and many others!
- The VIN OSHA Center - The VIN OSHA Center is a resource for the entire veterinary team. Here you can learn more about hospital safety, as well as obtain materials to help stay in compliance with all government safety regulations.

## **Veterinary Student Program**

<http://www.vin.com/vinpromo/student.htm>

VIN is for Students

- VIN is free to students on AOL or the web if you use the workstations at your school to access AOL or access the VIN on the web from your student email address (e.g., myname@cornell.edu). WALTHAM® has provided VIN/AOL workstations at your school. Email us if you need help locating them.
- VIN is \$25/year for students wishing to access from a personal, nonUniversity account. That is compared to the normal price of \$449 / year for VIN on AOL -- or \$360/yr for VIN on the web.

## **Adopt a Vet/Student Program - VIN Student Matching Program**

<http://www.vin.com/scripts/adopt/adopt.pl>

As a student, it's so difficult to determine how the things that you're memorizing are going to be important in the future. By matching students with practicing veterinarians, we're hoping to demonstrate the relevance of the classroom knowledge. I match students with practicing

veterinarians with similar practice interests via email. From there, it's up to the participants to correspond via email as frequently or infrequently as they wish. (Lynne Boggs, DVM)

## **Additional Comments from Dr. Paul D. Pion**

President - Veterinary Information Network

To keep an eye on what is happening in VIN check out the twice weekly online newsletter, VIN This Week! <<http://www.vin.com/vinpromo/vinthis.htm>>

VIN is a great resource for faculty and students alike. Each week, more faculty discover the value of VIN and send their entire classes to VIN to meet their future colleagues and seek out reference material unlike anything they have ever encountered. VIN is free to faculty who participate in the VIN community. Contact PDP1@aol.com for more information.

Come to class with Colleagues <<http://www.vin.com/vinpromo/ce.htm>> - VIN CE Classes are Free to Students:

VIN provides high-quality educational courses, taught by the leading board certified specialists in the country. And provides them to you in a convenient, easy-to-learn, easy-to-use format. Contact us (ceonvin@aol.com) for the latest course information and enrollment fees.

Continual Education online is enhancing veterinary medicine by allowing veterinarians to expand their knowledge from their office or home. VIN's course offerings have been compared to the breadth of those at veterinary schools and are unmatched by any other online service in any profession. More than 1000 hours have been offered since 1991. oLive interactive sessions weekly. oLearn while you're at home. o Discussion boards to post questions to your instructors and classmates. oAll sessions logged and posted if you need to retrieve them later. o Short courses, "VINgnettes", and long courses available. oBoard review courses for Organ Systems and ABVP Exam Review, review of ACVIM Forum and more.

NOTE!: And now some of VIN's courses have received approval by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards Registry for Approved Continuing Education (RACE) Nonetheless, please check with your state board for its policy on acceptance of online continuing education for licensure purposes.

## **PRODUCTS & REVIEWS**

### **Computer-aided Decision Support**

From: "Fred Smith"

<fsmith%CALC.VET.UGA.EDU@WUVMD.  
WUSTL.EDU>

A number of years ago (1985 to be exact!) I wrote a computer-aided decision support program called RORI (Rule-Out Rule-In). I have resurrected RORI in Web format as a demonstration of a simple approach to decision support. You can take a look at it at:

<http://WWW.VAR.VET.UGA.EDU/RORI/>

I have used the old RKBs (RORI Knowledge Bases) so the data in them may be way out of date. They are there just to give you an idea how RORI works.

If you would like to try your hand at writing a RORI knowledge base I would be happy to send you details for the file format. Samples are included on the RORI home page.

Fred G. Smith, DVM, PhD  
Voice: (706) 542-5550 FAX: (706) 542-0051  
<fsmith@calc.vet.uga.edu>

## **Veterinary Coverage in MEDLINE/INDEX MEDICUS**

From: "Trenton Boyd"

<vetlib@showme.missouri.edu>

Many of you will remember a survey that the Veterinary Serials Committee of the Veterinary Medical Libraries Section/Medical Library Association did in the Fall of the 1996. The survey was done on behalf of the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee of the National Library of Medicine to help give them guidance for their comprehensive review of the coverage of "Veterinary Medicine" in MEDLINE/INDEX MEDICUS. The Committee also sought input from American Animal Hospital Association, Association of American Veterinary Colleges, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, and the Veterinary Research Program at the National Institutes of Health.

The Literature Selection Technical Review Committee has finished its review and the results have been made public. My apologies to Lois Ann Colaianni, Scientific Review Administrator (NLM), for not getting this information posted sooner to VETLIB-L.

Five new titles will be added to the indexing coverage, including:

- Animal Reproduction Science
- Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine
- Preventive Veterinary Medicine
- Theriogenology
- Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound

Four titles will be dropped at the end of this year. They are:

- Archivum Veterinarium Polonicum
- Journal of Experimental Animal Sciences
- Revue d'Elevage et de Medecine Veterinaire
- des pays Tropicaux Veterinarni Medicina

The total list of veterinary journals to be indexed for MEDLINE/INDEX MEDICUS in 1998 is:

- Acta Veterinaria Hungarica
- Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica & Supplement Advances in Veterinary Science and Comparative Medicine
- American Journal of Primatology
- American Journal of Veterinary Research
- Anatomia, Histologia, Embryologia
- Animal Genetics
- Animal Reproduction Science
- Archiv fur Tierernahrung/Archives of Animal Nutrition Australian Veterinary Journal
- Avian Diseases
- Berliner und Munchener Tierarztliche Wochenschrift British Poultry Science
- Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research
- Canadian Veterinary Journal/Revue Veterinaire Canadienne Comparative Immunology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Domestic Animal Endocrinology
- DTW. Deutsche Tierarztliche Wochenschrift Equine Veterinary Journal
- Experimental Animals
- Japanese Journal of Veterinary Research
- Journal of Animal Science
- Journal of Comparative Pathology
- Journal of Dairy Research
- Journal of Dairy Science
- Journal of Medical and Veterinary Mycology Journal of Small Animal Practice
- Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association
- Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association
- Journal of the South African Veterinary Association
- Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine
- Journal of Veterinary Medical Science
- Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Journal of Wildlife Diseases

- Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine
- Laboratory Animal Science
- Laboratory Animals
- Medical and Veterinary Entomology
- Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research Poultry Science
- Preventive Veterinary Medicine
- Reproduction, Nutrition, Development
- Research in Veterinary Science
- Revue Scientifique et Technique/OIE Scientific & Technical Review Schweizer Archiv fur Tierheilkunde
- Seminars in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery (Small Animal) Theriogenology
- Tierarztliche Praxis & Supplement
- Tijdschrift voor Diergeneeskunde
- Tropical Animal Health and Production
- Veterinary and Human Toxicology
- Veterinary Clinics of North America, Equine Practice
- Veterinary Clinics of North America, Food Animal Practice
- Veterinary Clinics of North America, Small Animal Practice
- Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology Veterinary Journal

- Veterinary Microbiology
- Veterinary Parasitology
- Veterinary Pathology
- Veterinary Quarterly
- Veterinary Radiology and Ultrasound
- Veterinary Record
- Veterinary Research
- Veterinary Research Communications
- Veterinary Surgery/VS
- Zentralblatt fur Veterinarmedizin. Reihe A
- Zentralblatt fur Veterinarmedizin. Reihe B

I wish to thank all of the veterinary librarians who participated in the survey.

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 Veterinary Serials Committee  
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## INTERNET RESOURCES

### **E-VeT - The Professional's Veterinary**

**Site** From: "Peter Knapp"  
 <petvet@globalnet.co.uk>

<http://www.e-vet.com/>

E-VeT is a young (and free) veterinary site primarily for professionals and it aims to remain an independant self-help group. Apart from developing a database of vets and suppliers globally E-VeT can also give you an alternative e-mail professionally attractive forwarding address <you>@e-vet.com which just redirects mail to your usual address. E-Vet also has its own veterinary discussion list for professionals to share cases and help each other. This is not in competition with the list-servers but

encourages exchanges and case presentations with the full features of html. It also keeps cases on the website and provides chat facilities and useful links. If you get a chance please come and take a look. We'd love to have you join us!

### **New List - VetPet Partners**

Moderated discussion among veterinary professionals and companion animal caretakers about health, behavioral issues and chronic disease management. Emphasis on encouraging productive partnership and communication between caretakers and veterinary professionals. One of the rare lists that brings together vets and clients in the

shared commitment to learn more about issues from "both sides of the fence". Provocative medical discussion, rich in references and referrals, and representing a growing body of concerned and education-oriented companion animal advocates. All topics encouraged. Liability disclaimers apply and courteous exchange of ideas relevant to companion animal wellbeing and client/vet relationships is welcomed.

For full description, questions, sample threads, contact owners: <owner-vetpet@List-Server.net>

To subscribe:  
(Address) Majordomo@List-Server.net  
(body message) subscribe vetpet

### **Veterinary Parasitology Images Gallery Web Site**

From: "Mauricio Garcia, DVM, PhD"  
<mauricio%technovet.com.br@wuvmd.wustl.edu>

<http://parasitology.icb2.usp.br/marcelocp>

The Veterinary Parasitology Images Gallery () is an image collection of parasites with medical veterinary importance. The images were scanned from the author's personal teaching slide collection, built along his professional career as veterinary parasitologist and amateur photographer. All images are in JPEG format and are of reasonable size for download. Included with each photo there is a brief essay to read while the picture loads. If you wish to see greater detail, click on the image for a larger

photo. The author is Marcelo de Campos Pereira <marcelcp@deane.icb2.usp.br>, from the Department of Parasitology, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of São Paulo, Brazil.

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E-mail: <mauricio@technovet.com.br>

### **CONVINCE Computer-Assisted Instruction Web Page**

From: "Cheryl Dhein" <crd@vetmed.wsu.edu>

If you have a computer-aided instruction program on any Veterinary Topic which is available for use outside your institution, please consider posting information about your program at the CONVINCENCE Web site:

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

There is a form at this site that you can complete to submit details about your program.

The database currently has 306 entries. It is searchable by species, discipline, key words, author and combinations.

Cheryl R Dhein DVM MS, Diplomat ACVIM  
Associate Professor, VCS  
Head of Instructional Technology, VIS  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Washington State University, 99164-6610

## **NEWS & COMMENTARY**

### **NC State Web Site Rated Among the Best for Food Safety News**

From: "Food Safety Network" <fsnet-1@listserv.uoguelph.ca>

Mar. 24/98 (from a press release)  
RALEIGH, NC -- Worried about food safety? A new Web site launched at North Carolina State University makes it easy for you to quickly get answers to your questions, in

language you can understand. The site is located at

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/foodsci/agentinfo>

It's the brainchild of Dunn, N.C., native Melissa Taylor, a food safety education and communication specialist with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service at NC State. "Our goal was to design a site where you don't need a PhD to find the information you're

looking for," Taylor says. "All you have to do is click on the food group you're interested in, and you'll automatically be linked to pages with the most current, comprehensive research findings and safety advice for that food."

Site users can select from eight food-group categories, including meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, fruits, vegetables, and fish and seafood. A link titled "Organisms of Concern" points out which harmful pathogens are likely to contaminate each type of food. Another link, "Hot Topics," brings up more links to articles on pesticides and food additives, foodborne illnesses and food science facts. "With more than 150 different internal sites within our database, and links to more than 600 other Web pages, you literally have access to a world of information about food safety," Taylor says. In a recent review of more than 200 Web sites by the Tufts University Nutrition Navigator, the NC State-based site earned perfect scores for timeliness, accuracy and depth of information provided, placing it in the top six of all sites reviewed and earning it a rating of "among the best" in the world by the review panel.

"Among the Best' ratings are awarded only to Web sites that serve as outstanding resources and maintain a high level of integrity and nutrition reporting," says Jeanne Goldberg, director of the Tufts University Center on Nutrition Communication. "The N.C. Cooperative Extension Service is a leader in the electronic delivery of food safety and nutrition information."

### **Y2K Resources on the Internet**

From: "Robin Nobles"  
<robin@robinsnest.com>

Simply saying "Y2K" makes our hearts beat a little faster, doesn't it? If we knew exactly what to expect, it would be different, but we don't. No one really does. Companies are spending literally billions of dollars in preparation of Y2K, trying to cover all bases so that when the clock rolls over to the new millennium, our computer systems worldwide won't shut down.

#### The Necessities

Let's begin at PC Magazine's Y2K Resource Center, where you can download free utilities

that will allow you to test your computer system for Y2K compliance. The site offers articles on how to assess your Y2K risk and how to fix your Year 2000 problems. Be sure to read the feature story, "What you need to do to protect yourself from the millennium bug."

<http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/special/y2k/index.html>

Microsoft has created a web site to address Year 2000 issues from the point of view of both individuals and companies. TechNet - Year 2000 offers an online Year 2000 Seminar where you can learn how to evaluate the impact of Y2K on your organization. You'll even find solutions and ways to solve problems that affect hardware, operating systems, applications, and data interfaces. Click on Product Guide for details on Y2K compliance of Microsoft products, or click on services and tools for services that will help you analyze the applications you're running, no matter what operating system you use.

<http://microsoft.com/technet/topics/year2k/default.htm>

An excellent resource for Y2K information is Everything 2000. Under Computer Date Crisis, click on Home PC to see how your personal computer could be affected. Or, access business resources, legal issues, or learn how Y2K could affect your utility system. Read articles on why the Net is not immune to Year 2000 problems. Learn about movements affected by the Year 2000 in religion, environment, space, peace, and more.

<http://www.everything2000.com/>

"For many computer and software systems, the year 2000 will bring a host of problems related to software programs that record the year using only the last two digits." At The Year 2000 Information Center/Millennium Bug, you can learn the legal, accounting, and insurance aspects of the Year 2000 problem to avoid liability and maximize recovery. Join an e-mail mailing list where you'll receive the latest Y2K information on a regular basis, or click on Hardware/Software Compliance Information for links to compliance data from major providers.

<http://www.year2000.com/>

## More Information

Yahoo! News offers a listing of articles related to the Y2K issue, including "Y2K fix at small firms can be simple," and "Schools tackle Y2K risks, solutions." Post questions at a message board, listen to real audio speeches about Y2K, or attend live chat events.

[http://headlines.yahoo.com/Full\\_Coverage/Tech/Year\\_2000\\_Problem/](http://headlines.yahoo.com/Full_Coverage/Tech/Year_2000_Problem/)

Yahoo! offers another comprehensive listing of Y2K resources that bears a good look. At the Year 2000 Problem, you'll find links to how Y2K will impact public health information systems, affect communication and broadcasting companies, and basically be the ultimate challenge of the century.

[http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers\\_and\\_Internet/Year\\_2000\\_Problem/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Year_2000_Problem/)

Finally, The Millennium Bug - A Year 2000 Problem with a 2000 Year Old Solution, offers an impressive listing of Y2K resources, such as Management's Top 5 Y2K Issues, Concrete Y2K Solutions, and even Y2K humor.

<http://www.coggan.com/y2k/index.html>

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Robin Nobles  
<[robin@robinsnest.com](mailto:robin@robinsnest.com)>

### **DVM News Online Nov. Update**

From: Lynne Brakeman  
<[lbrakeman%advanstar.com@wuvmd.wustl.edu](mailto:lbrakeman%advanstar.com@wuvmd.wustl.edu)>

We are pleased to inform you that the latest update of DVM News Online is now available.

<http://www.dvmnewsmagazine.com>

News Alert: The U.S. Pharmacopeia has released a summary report of the 169 cases of vaccine-associated feline sarcoma reported to it by August 1998. Dr. E. Kathryn Meyer draws some tentative conclusions from these preliminary results.

Updated pages for November 1998 include:

- Breaking News
- Calendar
- Product Spotlights
- Classified ads

We invite your list members to stop by and let us know what they think.

Sincerely,  
Lynne Brakeman  
Senior Editor  
DVM Newsmagazine  
E-mail: <[lbrakeman@advanstar.com](mailto:lbrakeman@advanstar.com)>

### **Web Myth Versus Reality**

Excerpt from ZDNet WEB page

MYTH #1: The flashier, the better. No, the faster, the better. Take a look at the way super-successful Hotmail has revamped its site to stress simplicity and speed.

MYTH #2: The Web is a new advertising medium. We don't want more ads on the Internet, we want to do something. Like save money. Find merchandise faster. Get immediate assistance.

MYTH #3: It's more important to be perfect than to be first. What would have happened if Amazon.com had waited until it got bookselling exactly right? The Internet demands you act fast, then make frequent tweaks.

MYTH #4: Ecommerce will grow, and grow and grow. Yes, ecommerce is going to explode, but not in a straight line up. Once we've gotten all the early adopters online, we'll face a pause while more cautious mainstream users make up their minds to take the plunge.

Myth #5: Portals are your most important partner. Companies have vastly overpaid for real estate on the major portals. Most of that real estate is gone now. In any event, it may be smarter to look for space on "vertical portals" or "hubs" as we call them here at AnchorDesk. You pay less and you get a more targeted audience. (Disclosure: Our parent ZDNet is the leading high-tech hub, so we are not a disinterested party in this debate.)

## MEETINGS & EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

See the informatics section of NetVet for a more complete and current list of informatics-related activities at:

<http://netvet.wustl.edu/info.htm>

### **CDC Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program**

From: "Aryel, Ron" [rfa5@cdc.gov](mailto:rfa5@cdc.gov)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is soliciting applications from graduating master's and doctoral degree candidates to the Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program.

This fellowship, the only one of its kind in the United States, is designed to offer interested individuals the opportunity to gain experience in both public health, including epidemiology and disease surveillance, and the information systems supporting public health efforts. Fellows pursue coursework alongside Epidemic Intelligence Service officers, attend classes covering information system design, controlled vocabularies, databases and user interfaces, and contribute directly to the CDC's efforts to exploit modern information technologies to improve public health and disease prevention. Our trainees are currently:

- analyzing current and future needs of existing surveillance systems at the CDC
- assisting in the design and implementation of new systems for collecting, analyzing and reporting data from health departments and laboratories
- contributing to the development of a national electronic immunization registry
- participating in formulating policy and procedures governing the use of information systems at the CDC and other agencies.

Applicants accepted into the fellowship will receive monthly stipends for this two-year program ranging from \$1,805.00 to \$2,933.00 for those with master's degrees, and \$2,405.00 to \$3,600.00 for individuals with doctoral or professional degrees. Additionally, the

program will cover fellows' expenses during travel on official business, and will support travel to, and attendance at, two professional conferences per year.

Applicants should observe the following calendar:

September 1 - Opening of application season  
December 1 - Closing of application season  
February - Selection of potential fellows  
March - Acceptance and placement decisions completed  
July - New Fellows begin training at CDC.

Interested parties may request an application from:

Cheryl Guthrie  
Postgraduate Research Program-CDC  
Education and Training Division  
Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education  
P.O. Box 117  
Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0117  
(423) 576-4805  
<[guthriec@ornl.gov](mailto:guthriec@ornl.gov)>

The Public Health Informatics Website is available at

[www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/informat.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/epo/dphsi/informat.htm).

If you have any questions about the fellowship, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at <[phitpepo@cdc.gov](mailto:phitpepo@cdc.gov)> or by telephone at 404-639-3843.

Ron Aryel MD  
PHI Training Coordinator

### **Stanford Medical Informatics Short Course Now Online**

From: "Larry Fagan"  
<[fagan@SMI.Stanford.EDU](mailto:fagan@SMI.Stanford.EDU)>

Stanford Medical Informatics Introductory Short Course is now available via the Internet. Stanford Medical Informatics in the School of Medicine has partnered with the Stanford

Center for Professional Development to make this popular short course available online.

The 5-day campus based short course has sold out the last two years, with participants travelling to campus from around the world. Now participants will have the option of coming to campus for the live version, June 14-18, or August 16-20, for the 1999 session; or getting the online version now.

The course provides an overview of medical informatics, concentrating on key technical

issues supplemented with research project presentations. The lectures feature Stanford's faculty along with representatives from the medical computing industry. They provide an overview of medical informatics as well as a description of research trends in informatics.

For more information, please visit the web site:

<http://scpd.stanford.edu/misc>

## SUGGESTED READING

**Smith / The Internet for Physicians**  
Springer-Verlag New York Inc, 1997, \$24.95.

**Slack / Cybermedicine: How Computing Empowers Doctors and Patients for Better Health Care**  
Jossey-Bass Inc Publishers, 1997, \$24.00.

**Keinholz / Official Netscape Guide to Medical Research (Book + CD-Rom)**  
Ventana Press, 1997, \$34.99.

### **JAMA Articles**

The October 21, 1998 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association has a series of articles on application of computer-based information technology and the Internet to medical practice.

### **International Journal of Veterinary Medicine**

From: "News of New Electronic Journals"

<http://www.priory.co.uk/vet.htm>

ISSN 1360-1962

International Journal of Veterinary Medicine is keen to publish case reports, audit, treatment protocols, review papers and research. Submitted material will be peer reviewed. Applications for the Editorial Board are also sought.

International Journal of Veterinary Medicine is part of a network of inter-related biomedical

journals, owned and administered by Priory Lodge Education Ltd. which is visited over 600,000 times a month.

Additional biomedical journals to appear include:

- \* Pharmacy On-Line (tm)
- \* Chest Medicine On-Line (tm)
- \* Paediatrics (Pediatrics) On-Line (tm)
- \* Obstetrics On-Line (tm)
- \* Gynaecology On-Line (tm)
- \* Microbiology On-Line (tm)
- \* Cardiology On-Line (tm)
- \* Surgery On-Line (tm)
- \* Pharmacology On-Line (tm)
- \* Psychology On-Line (tm)
- \* Health Management On-Line (tm)
- \* Nurse On-Line (tm)

Contact:

Geoff Potts, <[geof@aldervet.demon.co.uk](mailto:geof@aldervet.demon.co.uk)>  
or <[solutions@priory.com](mailto:solutions@priory.com)>

### **Informatics and Medical Computing News**

<http://gasnet.med.yale.edu/periodical/imcn/>

Informatics and Medical Computing News is edited by Eugene Worth, MD, a medical informatics consultant. This informative newsletter brings the clinician up to date in this rapidly changing area. Dr. Worth provides useful, practical, and cost-effective solutions to

## CLOSING BITS

### **An Alternative Approach to the Y2K Problem**

In response to growing concerns over year 2000 computer problems, some have suggested that all computers be removed from the university by Jan, 1999. Instead, everyone will be provided with an Etch-A-Sketch.

There are many sound reasons for doing this:

- No Y2K problems
- No technical glitches keeping work from being done.
- No more wasted time reading and writing emails.
- No worry about inappropriate Internet usage
- No need for network or software applications support
- Others will not pester you to play with your computer

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Etch-A-Sketch Technical Support:

Q: My Etch-A-Sketch has all of these funny little lines all over the screen.

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I turn my Etch-A-Sketch off?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: What's the shortcut for Undo?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I create a New Document window?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I set the background and foreground to the same color?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: What is the proper procedure for rebooting my Etch-A-Sketch?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I delete a document on my Etch-A-Sketch?

A: Pick it up and shake it.

Q: How do I save my Etch-A-Sketch document?

A: Don't shake it.