

# ePulse

Number 48

Newsletter of the Health Sciences Library Association of NJ

Autumn 2002

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Vicki Sciuk, Overlook Hospital

This September is generating a lot of reflecting and looking back over the past year. Sadly, some of our colleagues had tragic personal losses, but there were also miracles that happened to some family and friends. As a group, HSLANJ tried to cope as best we could with new priorities.

In response to September 11<sup>th</sup> and the anthrax threat, our members immediately helped each other to find clinical information on disaster-preparedness, PTSD, and bioterrorism through our listserv, and we quickly made it available to our hospital & medical school staffs. The listserv was also useful in establishing an immediate need for a Disaster/Biological/Chemical Agents information class, and in motivating Michelle Volesko (NJHA) and Mary Mylenki (RML/MARL) to go to extraordinary lengths to pull it together.

We've changed our bylaws to have the flexibility to host a longer CE class – instead of a business meeting – when needed. Therefore we could hold a full day CE like the wonderful Copyright class with Laura Gasaway; or have a meeting along with a CE (such as the Government Resources in Consumer Health class taught by our own Kathy Moeller). Despite a difficult year, HSLANJ was able to offer 12 CE credit hours in only two programs, on topics important to our members.

This year also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HSLANJ (1972–2002). In April I had the pleasure of welcoming many of you to our anniversary event, as NJ Medical Librarians celebrated 30 years of providing quality health information (see story, page 3). It turned out to be a wonderful occasion, and most people had a great time (including me, despite the fact that I was still recovering from a bad intestinal virus!).

We enjoyed remembering our history at the anniversary, but now we have to deal with 21<sup>st</sup> century issues. So at last month's Board retreat we began working on new initiatives. Comet's sudden demise (reminiscent of when Login Brothers closed their doors a few years ago) and the reduced hospital length of stay inspired a group of our members to form the Electronic Document Delivery Task Force. The Board adopted their report on the technology needed & their recommendation that we work toward 90% of ILLs being delivered digitally by December 2004. EDD information for our members and a technology day are in the works for this year. The new MLA/HLS Hospital Library Standards (at <http://www.hls.mlanet.org/>) will be sent to the Medical Society of NJ, which was considering dropping the requirement that CME-accredited hospitals have libraries. We also just started a task force on Group Licensing of Electronic Resources, to explore the possibility of consortial purchasing of databases or online books & journals, with help from the expertise and clout of the UMDNJ libraries.

I have been continually amazed by the vision, energy and commitment of so many HSLANJ members, who are working very hard on these issues. This is a wonderful group to work with, and your dedication is truly inspiring! ▶

## 2002 Board Retreat

by Madeleine Taylor, St. Joseph's Regional  
Medical Center

The HSLANJ Board Retreat was held on August 13, 2002 at the Olde Mill Inn in Basking Ridge, NJ. The Board Retreat is a working meeting, and enables the Board to discuss and plan for the future activities and directions of our association in a casual atmosphere.

After approving the minutes of the April 10, 2002 Board Meeting, brief reports from officers, committee chairs, and ex-officio members were presented. A discussion of the 2002-2003 budget was held. The budget is expected to be voted on at the September HSLANJ meeting.

Barbara Reich of Hackensack University Medical Center presented the report of the Electronic Document Delivery Task Force. The Board discussed this report in some detail, and asked that the members create a summary for all of our members. This summary can be found on the HSLANJ website at <http://www.hslanj.org/EDDTable.pdf>.

Judy Cohn of UMDNJ announced that UMDNJ had decided to assist HSLANJ in consortial purchasing of electronic resources. A task force was created to investigate the existing resources and possible avenues to pursue.

Vicki Sciuk, HSLANJ's president discussed the new HLS Hospital Library Standards from MLA. Vicki also requested that the Board members review the Organization Manual for updating and publishing on the HSLANJ website.

▶

## Hospitality Corner

by Lia Sabbagh, Englewood Hospital &  
Medical Center

The Hospitality Committee would like to welcome the following new HSLANJ members:

Ronna Archbold, EBSCO

Pauline (Polly) Beam, Mt. Sinai School of  
Medicine, New York

Shirley Chapin, Public Health Research Institute

Jian (Carol) Chen, Hackensack University Medical  
Center

Donna Lee D'Ragone, Ingenix Clinical  
Communications

Kathy Rohr, student

Donna Z. Soultoukis, Our Lady of Lourdes School  
of Nursing

During 2002, the Hospitality Committee has sent cards, flowers, and gift baskets on behalf of the HSLANJ membership to seven librarians for condolences and get well wishes. The gifts and cards were purchased with monies allocated from the HSLANJ budget and the Sunshine Fund collections. The Committee would like to express its thanks to Lena Feld for her efforts in managing these funds.

▶

## History of the Health Sciences at UMDNJ

The UMDNJ University Libraries presented "History of the Health Sciences: A Two-day Overview" on May 31 and June 1, 2002. The speakers for the course were Patricia E. Gallagher of the NY Academy of Medicine, and Stephen J. Greenberg of the History of Medicine Division of NLM. A number of HSLANJ members attended this continuing education course, along with physicians, archivists, academic librarians and others.

Through the contribution of an anonymous donor, 8 MLA CE credits were offered at no charge. A small registration fee included a dinner on May 31, and lunch on June 1. The overview covered the period of 1500 BC to the present in eight hours. The 3500 years were presented along with wit, illustrations, and anecdotes.

After the conclusion of the course, attendees were invited to the Special Collections Department to view some of the rare books on medicine.

▶

# HSLANJ's Festive 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at PNC Arts Center

By Tricia Reusing, Bayshore Community Hospital

On April 18, 2002, HSLANJ's members, friends and notable guest speakers celebrated the organization's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at an elegant luncheon at the Robert B. Meyner Reception Center of the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel. The theme of the anniversary celebration was "HSLANJ - New Jersey Librarians Celebrate 30 Years of Providing Quality Health Information."

Addressing the gathering were: the First Lady of New Jersey, Dina Matos McGreevey, the New Jersey State Librarian, Norma E. Blake, and Robert Cassidy, M.D., Director of Bioethics and Social Planning at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Schneider Children's Hospital, in New York. The First Lady noted that health sciences librarians play an essential role in the delivery of quality healthcare. She also presented a proclamation from her husband, Governor James McGreevey, which designated March 18 to March 22, 2002, as Health Sciences Library Week. Ms. Blake commented on the importance of health libraries within the New Jersey State Library Network. In addition, she complimented HSLANJ librarians on their important work as consumer health educators and advocates. Dr. Cassidy, a noted speaker in the area of bioethics, presented an entertaining and informative multimedia program entitled, "Truth and Consequences: Should We Admit Our Mistakes?"

In addition to celebrating its thirty years, the following annual HSLANJ awards were made: HSLANJ Librarian of the Year, HSLANJ Administrator of the Year, and HSLANJ Library Support Person of the Year.

The many achievements of Catherine Boss, Coordinator of Library Services, Jersey Shore Medical Center, in Neptune, were honored when she was presented with the HSLANJ Librarian of the Year award. JoAn Peterson (formerly of Union Hospital and now "retired" in Maine), who nominated Cathy for his award, gave a speech brimming with anecdotes and information about Cathy's accomplishments during her 30 years of tireless work for HSLANJ and for the profession. JoAn noted that Cathy had become the director of the Elizabeth General Hospital directly after graduation from library school. Cathy held that position for 25 years. One of the highlights of Cathy's career was in 1979 when she received a National Library of Medicine grant to produce a Tri-Hospital Audiovisual catalog for Elizabeth Hospital's three libraries. In 1990, Cathy was awarded the Consumer Health Contract for the Infolink Region of the New Jersey State Library Network.

Cathy has also contributed a great deal to the work of HSLANJ. She has served as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President of the organization. Cathy has also been active in creating posters for the Medical Library Association's annual conference poster sessions. She submitted entries in 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2002. In addition to these publications, Cathy had the following book chapter published in 2000: "Cyberspace: The New Culture." (In: *Understanding Cultural Diversity: Culture, Curriculum and Community in Nursing* by Mary Kelley. One of her most recent accomplishments was overseeing the successful renovation of the Booker Health Sciences Library at Jersey Shore Medical Center. The new library is a merger of the Medical Library and the Nursing Library and also has a strong consumer health collection. The new library's design is a stunning model for other health sciences libraries. Most amazingly, Cathy was able to achieve such great things while simultaneously being married, raising three daughters and, for much of her career, commuting long distances.

The HSLANJ Administrator of the Year award was presented to Catherine Henderson, Ph.D, Vice President, Medical Administration, Raritan Bay Medical Center. She was honored because of her continuous support, promotion and advocacy of the medical library. Dr. Henderson was nominated by Catherine Hillman. The HSLANJ Library Support Person of the Year honor was awarded to Ellen Donoghue, a volunteer at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Ms. Donoghue logged more than 2,200 hours of library service, with special efforts in maintaining Overlook's consumer health collection. She was nominated by Vicki Sciuk and Kathy Moeller.

At the conclusion of the celebration, HSLANJ members and guests each received a lovely gift -- a rosewood writing pen in a rosewood box, which were both engraved with the HSLANJ logo. Also at the end of the program there was a candle-lighting ceremony, during which each former HSLANJ president (or a representative) came forward to light one of thirty candles on a cake. ▶

(See photos, pages 9-10)

# PDAs and the Health Sciences Library

By Cynthia McClellan, UMDNJ at Stratford

PDAs--or "personal data assistants"--they are every-where, the familiar "click click click" of stylus on screen tapped out by a growing number of enthusiasts. Offering a handy repository of personal management tools, PDAs comprise such basics as calendars, to-do lists, note pads, and address books. Numerous applications targeting the healthcare community help to expand the PDA's capabilities in support of busy clinicians and students.

Physicians have been quick to embrace these devices, and have been at the forefront in pioneering relevant applications. Now, a doctor can carry volumes of relevant medical texts or Web resources to a patient's bedside, all within a tiny PDA. She can also manage patient information and monitor the care process, capturing relevant "real time" data, which may be synchronized ("synced") to the user's PC, and/or shared with remote colleagues through a satellite or Web connection. External devices, such as keyboards or barcode readers that link to hospital information systems, can also be added. Better access to resources and integration of patient information has great potential to positively impact the care process.

Medical librarians, too, are embracing the PDA, and the possibilities afforded by this technology are exciting and challenging. As we come to understand our patrons' needs in relation to this technology, we will need to make decisions on how to best support this use in our individual libraries. We will need to educate ourselves, and become comfortable with these innovations. Librarians will be confronted with decisions about how to best support PDA users, and adapt library services as the technology evolves. In February of this year, the MLA has addressed this issue, presenting the aptly-named satellite conference, "Sync or Swim: Managing the Flood of PDAs in Health Care." (The handout from this meeting is available at <http://hubnet.buffalo.edu/syncmanual.pdf>). HSLANJ librarians too have been following PDA developments closely, with Robb Mackes and Barbara Reich contributing a "PDA Bibliography/ Webliography" to ePulse in 2001 (Spring issue, v.45, p. 10-12).

Much has been written to help potential users gain an understanding of PDA technology, and to assist with the selection process. In a nutshell, the Palm and PocketPC are the industry leaders. The Palm is the most popular among physicians, is very easy to use, is compatible with numerous software applications (many of them free), and costs approximately \$100-400. The PocketPC, on the other hand, runs on the Microsoft operating system, includes a faster, more powerful processor (which can easily accommodate external devices, such as voice dictation and video options), and costs roughly \$400 or more. While there is currently less software available for the PocketPC, more is constantly becoming available as demand increases.

On the Stratford Campus of UMDNJ, we have developed a webpage (<http://www3.umdni.edu/stlibweb/pda/index.html>) to assist patrons considering a PDA purchase, as well as to direct those seeking relevant software or web-based applications. Here, users will find links to general and background information, buyers' guides, leading healthcare software, plus a link to PubMed that will execute a current search in Medline on the topic of PDAs. In the future, we hope to increase PDA user groups throughout the University, and take an active role in supporting PDA use within our own organization as the technological wave of the 21<sup>st</sup> century rolls forward. ▶

ePULSE is the electronic newsletter of the Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey (HSLANJ), Issue N. 48, Autumn 2002. The statements and opinions in ePulse are solely those of the individual authors and do not reflect any endorsement by HSLANJ, its agents, or contributors.

Contents of ePulse may be reproduced in whole or in part, provided that credit is given to the author. Notice of such reproduction is appreciated.

All articles and original images are copyright of the respective authors/owners.

EPulse is distributed electronically to the membership of HSLANJ via its website: <http://www.hslanj.org>

Please direct all inquiries to Madeleine Taylor, MLS, Editor; St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Health Sciences Library, 703 Main Street, Paterson, NJ 07503. Phone 972-754-3590; Fax 973-754-3593; email [taylor@m@sjhmc.org](mailto:taylor@m@sjhmc.org)

## December Meeting Sneak Preview

The December HSLANJ meeting will focus on management strategies for the Solo Librarian. Our speaker will be Judith A. Seiss, a nationally-recognized expert on solo librarianship, and author of a number of books for solo librarians. This topic was one of the most requested by our members. Many of our members are currently, have been, or may be solo librarians. The management strategies that will be discussed can also be helpful for librarians who are not solo-ists! The meeting will be on December 11th, and will provide 8 MLA CE credits. Details and registration forms will be sent at a later date. ▶

## Librarian Spotlight: Kathy Lindner

By Terry Cuddy, Capital Health System/Fuld Campus

Kathy Lindner is currently Director of the Dr. Walter Phillips Health Sciences Library, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center where she has just received her 25-year service award. She has also been Director of the Bellevue Hospital Medical Library and worked as a supervisor and Librarian at St. Clare's Hospital Nursing School Library. Her first librarian job was one night a week at the Cornell University circulation desk. Kathy has a BA from Montclair State University with a major in Science and an MLS from Pratt Institute. She is a member of AHIP at the Senior level.

Kathy is also an RN, having received her Associate degree from Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ. In an article which Kathy recently wrote entitled "Nurse and Librarian—A Winning Combination," published in the April 8, 2002 issue of *Nursing Spectrum*, she describes her experiences. *"After graduation I chose to remain a library director realizing that my nursing knowledge and expertise in medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, diseases and conditions, my ability to listen, and assessment skills—were a perfect fit for this expanding career opportunity".* A favorite activity of Kathy's is to deliver personally a package of material that she prepared for a patient and then discuss with the patient other information needs. *"Based on my experience, creative opportunities for a medical librarian/nurse are virtually limitless."*

She also published "A Piece of my mind: Encourage information therapy" in *JAMA* 1992, 267(19), where Kathy describes the development of guidelines for providing information to patients and the public at the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center. *"Every scrap of information leading patients in the direction of discovering more about their disease becomes 'information therapy'".*

Kathy describes the Dr. Walter Phillips Health Sciences Library as a very active library which can be accessed at the website <http://www.EnglewoodHospital.com>. The library has about 3,000 books, 100 journals, a strong collection in the area of Alternative Medicine, and nine total computers. The library utilizes all the usual medical databases and also has access to MDCONSULT through their affiliation with Mt. Sinai and access to CINAHL through their affiliation with the UMDNJ College of Medicine/Ramapo College BSN Nursing program. They have recently purchased UpToDate for their residents and also have Health Reference Center which is utilized for patient questions by their affiliate—the Meland Foundation (<http://www.melandfoundation.org>).

Kathy has been active in HSLANJ, serving on the Education Committee and organizing a program on Alternative Medicine. She was also the Membership Secretary, designing the membership database on a simple "mysoftware" program that made the records somewhat more manageable.

Over the years she has also been involved nationally in MLA, serving as Chairman of the Consumer and Patient Health Information Section, Chairman of the Relevant Issues Section, and as a Member of the MLA Task Force to develop the professional Code of Ethics for Health Sciences Librarianship. She presented a paper at a significant meeting at MLA in 1990 in Detroit, Michigan titled, "The intellectual freedom of the patient." This tract of papers opened the way for the development of the Ethics Code, the first statement of which says: "The health sciences librarian promotes access to health information for all..." That statement (the full text is on the MLA website) took about 10 years of constant revisions to the MLA Code of Ethics by various committee members. *"I was determined to get it through and the endless conflicts about whether medical libraries could provide patient education information."*

Kathy's "biggest" hobby is watercolor painting; she enjoys attending watercolor workshops during the summer months. She is also a certified Kripalu yoga teacher. Although not presently an active teacher Kathy does yoga every morning and keeps track of many alternative medicine practices both in the library and for personal wellness. She also has a certificate in flower design, and has made vase

*Continued on page 6*

arrangements, baskets, wedding and funeral arrangements, corsages and her favorite, silk arrangement. *"There is something very therapeutic about flowers!"*



*Kathy at work in her flower design class*

Kathy's special moment was at MLA in 1990 when MLA conflicted with the date of her nursing graduation. *"At the final dinner, my friend, Margaret Bandy, from St. Joseph's Hospital in Denver, Co. arranged to give me my nursing pin and have a little celebration. It was a very memorable 'combined careers' moment. I have always felt very supported by all the friends I've made nationally in the Medical Library Association and recommend to all newcomers to get involved, be on a committee; try something new."*

▶

## NJ Decontamination Information: What you need to know

By Kathy Moeller, Overlook Hospital

In an attempt to do something positive and somehow be a part of the September 11 commemorations, I have just taken an all-day course given by the Union County Office of Emergency Management to become a HAZMAT Level I Awareness First Responder. The course complies with OSHA training requirements. I found the information fascinating and want to pass it along. There is a lot to be learned, basic terminology, hazard and risk assessment, decontamination procedures, personal protection procedures, etc. At first the real examples from Union County were frightening, but later it was reassuring to learn of the system already in place.

There are four levels of HAZMAT responders. A Level 1 Awareness responder has four safety responsibilities: be AWARE that hazardous materials may be present, attempt to identify the hazard, secure the scene, but do not enter either the "hot zone" or the "warm zone", and obtain further HAZMAT aid or assistance.

There is an Incident Command System in place for each county. The ICS is usually set up by the county's Office of Emergency Management and has five components: Command - who's in charge; Logistics; Finance - who will pay; Operations; and Planning. Incident Management by Objectives is used and includes: understanding the agency's policies and directions; establishment of incident objectives; selection of appropriate strategies; setup of performance tactics and directions; and at the top of the triangle, achieve goal. Limitations are set on the span of control, so that no one person has more than 5 people reporting to him. More than that is regarded as ineffective and possibly dangerous.

Site control is the primary concern in Scene Management, which can be a responsibility of Level 1 responders. The three zones used to establish site control are: the HOT zone - the center (ground zero) and surrounding areas where the incident occurs; the WARM zone - a transition area used to establish entry to and exit from the hot zone and decontamination areas; and the COLD zone - where the incident commanders and level 1 responders usually work. Anyone in or near the hot zone must be decontaminated.

Basic Chemistry, Radiology and HAZMAT terms include;

**Asphyxiants** are materials that deprive the body tissue of oxygen. Their action can be simple or chemical. Simple asphyxiants act by displacing oxygen in the air you breath. This can cause headache, unconsciousness, and eventually death. An example is Freon. Chemical asphyxiants cause death by affecting the body's ability to use the oxygen in the air you breath. For example, carbon monoxide prevents the transport of oxygen in the bloodstream.

**Carcinogens** are those substances that cause cancer.

*Continued on page 12*

# MY FIRST TIME AT MLA!

By Rekha Gandhi, Morristown Memorial Hospital

This year for the first time I attended the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association in Dallas. The Conference was scheduled for mid-May and usually runs for about a week. My manager and I had agreed that it was time for me attend this year. I had planned on arriving in Dallas on the evening of May 16<sup>th</sup> and returning home on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

But getting to Dallas was no easy matter. I thought I had a confirmed flight reservation departing Newark Airport on Friday afternoon around 3:20 pm. Well, as soon as I arrived at the airport I learned that my flight had been cancelled!! When I tried to check in for the next flight I was told that I would be put on "Stand-by" status. However, my luggage was checked in and was on its way to Dallas... regardless of where I was going to end up! This was rather an unexpected turn of events to which I reacted emotionally and was told by the ground crew to relax and wait. As many anxious moments ticked by, my name was called and I was able to get on the 5:45 flight. Every seat on that flight was taken and I ended up in a middle seat sandwiched between two burly men. Due to heavy traffic, we had to wait in line and we did not take off until over an hour later. We landed in Dallas around 9:15 pm. I managed to get to the hotel around 10:30 pm. At least I had made it to Dallas and things had to get better.

I had registered for a half-day class on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The class was titled, "Face to face: Strategies for Effective Consumer Health Communication". It was taught by an experienced and savvy instructor named Michele A. Spatz. I learned new techniques in dealing with patients and/or their families. I discovered that body language plays an important part in interactions with patients and their families. Two HSLANJ members were also signed up for this class. I was pleased with the class and the registration fee of \$185.00 was well spent!

That afternoon I went into town with Michelle Spatz and Barbara Reich. We walked around and visited the Sixth Floor Museum at the Texas Book Depository Building. This museum documents the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in exquisite detail with myriad photographs and audio recordings. The visit was an eye-opening experience for the History major in me. There was also an exhibit about Pulitzer-Prize winning photographs on another floor. We rushed back to the hotel to attend the Opening Reception and the opening of the Hall of Exhibits. Wine was plentiful but in terms of food, there were only bite-size appetizers and snacks. I walked around taking in all the sights and sounds. It made me feel like an eight-year old at her first carnival! Along with other librarians I started picking up freebies such as pens, totebags, and other small items.

The next morning I had to be up early to attend the "First Time Attendees Breakfast". The ambience was friendly and welcoming. As an icebreaker, we all took turns introducing ourselves. The room was filled to capacity and we had the privilege of meeting quiet a few of MLA's officers up close. Actually they were actively recruiting new members to join their section and I found myself being courted by the History of Medicine Section's Chairperson!

After that I attended a Plenary Session. The highlight was a talk by C. Beck Weathers, a pathologist and a mountain-climbing aficionado. He is also the author of "[Left for dead: My journey home from Mount Everest](#)". Quiet a vivid narrator, Dr. Weathers' tale was powerful enough to give me goosebumps! I vicariously experienced the breathtaking excitement and the ever-present danger of this treacherous avocation.

The next morning I attended a CINAHL Sunrise Breakfast Seminar. June Levy, Library Director and Diane Pravikoff, Director of Research, spoke about evidence-based nursing and how to search for those articles in the CINAHL database. I learned that the design and structure of a database are always evolving to meet the needs of the clients.

I also attended an "Award Luncheon" since it was included as part of my registration fees. Then I made my way to a workshop on Interlibrary Loans and QD Portal where I finally had my chance to see Jay Daly. Well, he did not look like I had imagined him to be. I finally got a chance to check out the Posters and they were pretty neat! What I noticed was that the academic librarians, much more than hospital librarians, were fond of documenting user studies and creating posters. I picked up a number of flyers and business cards.

That evening I did not want to dine with a group so my roommate and I decided to check out a good Tex-Mex restaurant on our own. We asked the Concierge for a few recommendations and located a good restaurant in the downtown area. We had a nice meal and then walked around the downtown area, taking in the Kennedy

*continued from previous page*

Memorial (a rather typical example of 1960's architectural style) and a model of a log cabin. There was also a castle-like building which appeared to be somewhat out of place in Dallas.

Next day it was time to return home. I checked out of the hotel early and made it to the airport on time. After an uneventful flight, I was back home safe. This had proved to be a successful and memorable first conference for me. I advise, or rather exhort any librarian who has not had a chance so far, to try and get to San Diego to attend the 2003 Meeting. Despite a difficult beginning at Newark Airport, I enjoyed my trip to Dallas and the camaraderie of kindred spirits. Overall, I had a positive experience at this annual gathering of librarians. ▶

## HSLANJ Student Award Appreciated

Dear Members of HSLANJ:

Many thanks for honoring me with the 2002 HSLANJ student award for achievement in promoting health sciences librarianship. I felt very proud when the award certificate was presented to me at the Rutgers SCILS convocation in May. I was also delighted to receive the attractive engraved award and the award check at the HSLANJ Board meeting in August.

I am enjoying my new career as a medical librarian and I look forward to many years of working with all of you in HSLANJ. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Tricia Reusing  
Bayshore Community Hospital, Holmdel ▶

## Kudos to Our Members

By Patricia May, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center

**Carol Chen** is the new associate librarian at Hackensack University Medical Center.

**Roberta Bronson Fitzpatrick**, UMDNJ – Newark, wrote a chapter entitled "September 11, 2001: Special Web Sites," which appears in the book *Bioterrorism and Political Violence: Web Resources*, (M. Sandra Wood, ed.), Haworth Information Press, 2002, and has been published simultaneously in *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* 2002: 6(3-4):59-72.

**Elisabeth Jacobsen**, Trinitas Hospital, was guest speaker in July for the Rotary Club in Elizabeth. Elisabeth's presentation was entitled "Health Care Information on the Net: Tips for Becoming a Health Wise Consumer."

**Kathy Lindner**, Englewood Hospital & Medical Center, wrote an article titled "Nurse and librarian – a winning combination," which appeared in *Nursing Spectrum*, April 8, 2002; 14(7).

**Robb Mackes** is now medical librarian at the Schering-Plough Library of Science and Medicine at Union Hospital.

**Betty Jean Swartz**, UMDNJ – Camden, wrote a chapter entitled "Nuclear Terrorism: A Selection of

Internet Resources," which appears in the book *Bioterrorism and Political Violence: Web Resources*, (M. Sandra Wood, ed.), Haworth Information Press, 2002, and has been published simultaneously in *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* 2002: 6(3-4):87-98.

**Madeleine Taylor**, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, received a Level I Designation in the Consumer Health Continuing Education Program sponsored by the Medical Library Association. Madeleine also authored "LinkOut<sup>®</sup> for libraries: accessing electronic journals via PubMed." *Journal of Hospital Librarianship* 2002: 2(1):87-95.

**Madeleine Taylor** and **Patricia May**, St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, described the inception of the library's electronic newsletter in "ELI's Coming!" *National Network* 2002:27 (1): 10.

**Michele Mary Volesko**, NJHA, wrote an article titled "It Wasn't Raining When Noah Built the Ark: Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals and Medical Librarians Post September 11." It has been published simultaneously in the book *Bioterrorism and Political Violence: Web Resources*, (M. Sandra Wood, ed.), Haworth Information Press, 2002, and has been published simultaneously in *Internet Reference Services Quarterly* 2002: 6(3-4):99-131. ▶





# ANNIVERSARY THANKS!

HSLANJ would like to thank the following  
for their generous contributions to our Thirtieth Anniversary:



*New Jersey Hospital Association Library*



Basch  
Subscriptions



**CROWN TROPHY**  
TROPHIES • PLAQUES • MEDALS  
LAMINATIONS, BRONZE CASTINGS  
EXECUTIVE GIFTS, CORPORATE AWARDS  
**LASER ENGRAVING ON PREMISES**  
**RUSH SERVICE**  
**WE DELIVER**

DOMINIC MAY - (Owner)  
973-808-8400  
973-808-0404 - Fax

101 ROUTE 46 EAST  
PINE BROOK, N.J. 07058



## The Libraries of UMDNJ

George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, Newark  
Robert Wood Johnson Library of the Health Sciences, New Brunswick  
Robert Wood Johnson Media Library, Piscataway  
Health Sciences Library at Stratford  
UMDNJ and Coriell Research Library, Camden

[www.umdj.edu/librweb/index.html](http://www.umdj.edu/librweb/index.html)



Thanks also to:

Elsevier/Saunders/Mosby (Ginny Doyle)  
Library Bindery Co. of PA  
Rittenhouse Book Distributors

Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical  
EBSCO Publishing

**Chemical warfare agents** include Nerve Agents that affect the transmission of nerve impulses, Blood agents which are inhaled and affect blood enzymes to prevent cells from using oxygen, Toxins which are non-living substances produced by living organisms (Snake venom), and Pathogens, which are living, reproducing microorganisms that cause disease (Anthrax, HIV). Blister agents produce local irritations and damage to the skin, eyes and respiratory tract (Mustard gas). Choking agents affect the lungs and result in the accumulation of large amounts of fluid. Irritating agents cause tearing, shortness of breath and coughing within seconds after exposure (Riot control tear gas). Effects decrease and disappear after 15-30 minutes in fresh air.

**Corrosive substances** can be acids or bases (caustics). They are materials that burn or otherwise damage body tissue, metal, plastics or other materials as a result of contact.

**Explosives** are materials like nitrates used in the manufacture of fertilizers, TNT, or blasting caps. They are all materials that undergo a very rapid chemical transformation. This rapid reaction produces a dangerous shock wave.

**Flammable substances** include organic solvents, finely divided metals and powders, some classes of fibers, textiles or plastics and chemicals that evolve or absorb oxygen during storage and constitute a fire hazard.

**Hazardous materials** are substances or materials that are capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce.

**Hazardous substances** are substances regulated by the EPA as posing a threat to waterways and the environment when released.

**Oxidizers** release oxygen and produce heat on contact with organic substances thus constituting a fire hazard.

**Radioactive materials** are substances that emit ionizing radiation.

**Radioactivity** is the spontaneous disintegration of unstable atomic nuclei accompanied by the emission of ionizing radiation, which can be either particles or pure energy. Alpha Particles are large in size and travel a few inches. Uniforms, and even paper can stop these particles. Beta Particles are more energetic and less massive. They travel 100 feet from their source. They can be stopped by 1mm. of aluminum. Gamma Rays are a form of pure energy and can travel great distances from their source. Their rays can only be slowed by 3 inches of lead.

Union County's Office of Emergency Management had its first Anthrax call on October 9, 2001. Since then they have had over 500 anthrax calls, and none turned out to be positive. The most memorable call was one from a woman who declared, "Someone just faxed me Anthrax!"

Another incident in Union County involved a call from a store in Elizabeth. They opened a steel corrugated box and had 4 workers pass out. It was on a day that President Bush was visiting New York. The package was delivered from a company in Port Elizabeth that also delivered to New York. The person calling in described a strong garlic odor. Mustard gas has a garlic odor. The firemen and police got there first and went in. Several of them also passed out. 28 people were down by the time HAZMAT arrived. HAZMAT had to be prepared for a terrorist attack that was headed for New York but delivered to Elizabeth by mistake. They also had to go in with the highest level of protective equipment since so many people were down and the substance could be dangerous. It turned out that a ship's container had ruptured during a bad storm, and pure garlic oil had leaked and saturated the box. Very strong fumes escaped when the box was opened.

Several different types of monitors can be used for HAZMAT control. A HAZCAT kit is used to sample water and air. Drager tubes are used to detect chemicals. These are glass tubes that fit into a pump. The pump is used to pump air into the tubes. Tubes are available for detecting cyanide, ammonia, chlorine and sulfuric acid. The tubes have a built-in scale which indicates how much of the chemical is present. The White Kit (comes in a white box) contains a variety of radiological meters. They detect different levels of radiation and determine if the release is Alpha particles, beta particles, or gamma rays. The HAZMAT technicians always use at least 2 different meters. The kit also contains batteries, and a dosimeter charger, which sets the meters back to zero. There is no way to detect biological warfare releases with monitors. The detection of biological attacks comes from calls to 911 and EMS responses, hospitals and Dr's offices, and epidemiologic sources.

To protect yourself from biologic agents, use masks, clothing, sanitation measures, decontamination, medical treatment, and universal precautions. HAZMAT personnel use a variety of PPE (personal protection equipment). First is the typical fireman's "turnout" suit. It's heavy, warm and fire resistant, but provides no protection from chemical or biological agents. This is level D PPE. Level C provides the same suit but adds a respirator, which has canisters of air and air filters.

Level B has a different suit, which covers more but is lightweight mylar. Gloves and boots are taped on with duct tape. HAZMAT people Love duct tape and even said to buy stock in it! A self-contained breathing apparatus, SCBA, is used at Level B. This consists of a tank of air attached to a full-face respirator with a hose. Only air from the tank is breathed in. The tanks are carried on the back and weigh 27 lbs. They are called 60 minute tanks, but really only last 30-45 minutes, due to the increase breathing rate during hard work.

Level A PPE provides the highest level of respiratory and skin protection. The SCBA is carried inside the Level A suit. The suit is heavy and thick and can build up to 110 degrees inside. HAZMAT personnel must pass a rigorous physical each year to be sure they can withstand the effects on their bodies. Putting the suit on is a 2-man operation, since they have to be taped into it. Duct tape is put over zippers, on the three pairs of gloves worn, and between the suit legs and boots. The person inside can't get out without help. Hearing and vision are impaired, and communication is limited. The goal is to get in the hot zone, stop or contain the release, go to the warm zone, be decontaminated and get the suit open immediately. Level A suits cost \$1200 each and are discarded after each use. Level B suits cost \$40 each, and are also discarded after one use. HAZMAT people call the level A suit a "body bag with a window".

For decontamination involving only a small number of people, a 7 step "decon" unit is set up. Stage one is a tool drop. Any tools coming out of the hot zone must be left here. This looks like a child's plastic swimming pool with outside rings and a plastic bottom. Stage two is a gross decon, where the person in a HAZMAT suit tries to wash off or brush off as much as possible. This is an arms-up, spin around for 15 seconds while spraying with water procedure. Stage three is gross decon and scrub. This is a manned stage with sprayers, brushes and buckets. The person is washed from the top down. Stage 4 is an outer glove and boot removal station with a chair. Stage 5 is another wash and SCBA removal from the person's back. Stage 6 is for suit removal and inner glove removal. The suit is peeled off inside out. Stage 7 provides a final field wash of face and hands.

For mass decontamination, several different methods are used. Sometimes, two fire trucks are parked side by side, 10-12 feet apart, and people either walk or are rolled on stretchers down the center as they are being sprayed. Most New Jersey hospitals either already have or are getting decon tents. These are inflatable tents that are usually divided in half by vinyl panels that look like shower curtains. One side has a table with rollers for rolling stretchers with non-ambulatory people through, and the other side holds two sets of three walk-through chambers. First is the undress chamber, where instructions say to strip off all clothes and put them in the bag supplied. Going through to the next chamber, one finds a pull down shower head to rinse off. The next chamber has soap, brushes and another shower head. The tents have bladder units to collect and store the water used until it can be removed. They also have heaters, and cables and tarps used to provide privacy screens. Decon tents are usually setup right outside the hospital's emergency room. There needs to be electrical connections for lights around the tent. More modern tents have mixing valves on the shower heads to provide warm and hot water. The tents inflate in 3-4 minutes.

One case in Union County where the decon tent was used, (besides 9/11/01), involved an American Express delivery man who walked into an ER with a package in his hands. He said that he was fine until he picked up this particular package, and then he felt sick. He did not know what was in the package. Since he had now potentially exposed the patients, families and healthcare workers to a dangerous substance in the ER, they all had to be decontaminated.

In the next issue, I will provide a list of HAZMAT resources that we should have readily available. ▶

## HSLANJ Calendar

October 23, 2002	Board Meeting, Peer Review Organization of NJ, East Brunswick
December 11, 2002	General Meeting/CE Program, NJHA, Princeton
November 20, 2002	Pub Med "Refresher", Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
November 21, 2002	Pub Med "Refresher", Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
February 12, 2003	Board Meeting, NJHA, Princeton
March 19, 2003	General Meeting/CE Program, NJHA, Princeton
April 9, 2003	Board Meeting, NJHA, Princeton