



PDI Alert

MLA Pharmacy & Drug Information Newsletter
<http://www.lib.uconn.edu/~sgiovenale/mlapdi.htm>

Volume 11, Issue 1

Fall 2000

Greetings from the Chair

Penny Coppernoll-Blach
PDI Chair

Welcome to the 2000/2001 year of PDI activities and opportunities. I would like to offer a **big** thanks to all the volunteers who helped coordinate the PDI events at the MLA Annual Meeting in Vancouver last May. We had a successful EMBASE Lecture (see article on page 3), and PDI also co-sponsored an invited paper session and a contributed papers session. Vancouver was a great location for our meeting, and I think we all learned a lot from the program and from each other.

I recently submitted to MLA Headquarters the goals for the Section and the directory information for our officers. We do not currently have a Governmental Relations Committee Liaison, so please let me know if you would be willing to serve the Section by taking on this role. We are always looking for volunteers who would like to get more involved in PDI business, so do not be shy about announcing your interest in participating.

Bonnie Snow, PDI Chair-Elect /Program Committee Chair is hard at work on the program for **MLA Orlando 2001, An Information Odyssey**. I know she would be interested in any ideas you might have for the EMBASE Lecture or for other programming that would be of value to our members.

If you have not subscribed to the Pharmacy distribution list, please join today by sending an email to Heidi Marleau at hmarleau@library.wisc.edu. It is important that you join in our discussions, and you can send your news to this list at pharm-lib@pharmacy.wisc.edu.

Also, check out the PDI Section webpage at <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/~sgiovenale/mlapdi.htm>. I am sure that Webmaster Sharon Giovenale would love to hear from you with your suggestions for content.

Let's make this an exceptional year of sharing and learning for all PDI members. Let me know what you would like to see accomplished by emailing me at penny.coppernoll-blach@monsanto.com.

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**EMBASE Lecture, May 7, 2000
MLA Annual Meeting, Vancouver**

The EMBASE Lecture held on May 7th was attended by about 40 persons. After a shaky and delayed start due to a last minute room change, our lecturer located the group and gave a very interesting presentation that held our attention on a late Sunday afternoon.

Dr. Noel Buskard is Safety Officer at QLT PhotoTherapeutics Inc. in Vancouver. His lecture was entitled "Development of Photodynamic Therapy for Oncology, Ophthalmology and Other Medical Indications at QLT PhotoTherapeutics." He told of the state of the art of photodynamic therapy (PDT), which is a minimally-invasive, two-step medical procedure that uses light-activated drugs called "photosensitizers" to treat a range of diseases involving rapid cell growth. The advantage of PDT in treating malignant and non-malignant diseases is that it is highly selective for abnormal tissue growth and often spares normal tissue almost completely (unlike chemotherapy and radiotherapy).

The photosensitizer drug is administered intravenously and, once in the bloodstream, attaches to molecules called lipoproteins. Because rapidly dividing cells require more lipoproteins than normal cells, a higher concentration of the drug accumulates in these tissues. In the second step, the drug is activated by exposure to a pre-calculated dose of light at a particular wavelength. Once activated, the drug converts oxygen found in the cells into a highly energized form which disrupts normal cellular function, thereby killing the cells. Lasers and fiber optics are used to deliver light when treating deeper internal organs.

What makes PDT a safe treatment is its selectivity. Without exposure to light, the drug has no effect. Because the therapy accumulates primarily in targeted cells, the effects on surrounding health tissue are minimized. PDT is used for cancerous tumors such as brain tumors and melanomas, as well as for abnormal blood vessels in diseases such as age-related macular degeneration. PDT is also being evaluated for use in autoimmune disorders such as psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis.

QLT developed PHOTOFRIN (porfimer sodium), a light sensitive drug that is approved for oncology applications in many countries. Visudyne (verteporfin) is under development for a variety of eye diseases and has been approved by FDA for optical uses.

Dr. Buskard was presented with the Elsevier honorarium and an engraved plaque at the end of the lecture. PDI thanks Elsevier Science for their continued support of the EMBASE Lecture at the MLA annual meetings.

Reported by:

Penny Coppernoll-Blach

PDI Chair

Editor's Notes

Thank you to all of you who contributed articles to this issue, and for doing so promptly. Please take a few minutes to complete the Access Survey on page 6 so we can determine if this is a path to pursue.

Submissions for the Spring issue are requested by April 1, 2001. E-mail them to Gina Kaiser, Newsletter Editor, g.kaiser@usip.edu.

Herbs and the CAM Citation Index (CCI) Database

In 1992 the Federal Government created the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). One of its central goals is to “distribute scientifically based information about CAM research, practices, and findings to health care providers and consumers.” The epithet “scientifically based” is important, for one of the main criticisms leveled against CAM therapies is that their efficacy is unproven, with little or no scientific evidence for their usefulness. A good deal of information about complementary and alternative medicine is lacking in scientific data, is often just anecdotal, and much of it is written by individuals lacking appropriate credentials. NCCAM has therefore initiated several novel projects to improve and increase dissemination and use of the CAM journal literature.

The Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Citation Index (CCI) was designed to make it much easier for consumer and health professionals to locate CAM information in the primary journal literature. The CCI database is basically a subset of citations from MEDLINE, extracted using Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) primarily in the "alternative medicine" section of the MeSH tree structure, but supplemented with additional words and phrases. The index represents nearly four decades of published research, consisting of approximately 180,000 bibliographic citations (as of September 2000) dated from 1963 through 1999.

The database supports both novice and advanced searchers. The default Search interface is an easy-to-use, straightforward method of searching, where the user just types in a relevant term or terms. Search results are sorted by relevance. The Expert Search interface uses Boolean searching, and the user can enter up to three search terms, and employ various combinations of AND, OR, and NOT. The systems use of “natural language” is designed to allow fairly scientifically illiterate users to describe topics in their own words, with the resulting citations being ranked by relevance.

One of the strengths of the CCI database is a unique search interface designed to allow users to find and browse articles of interest without necessarily knowing medical terminology -- see Figure 1 on page 5. Using a menu-driven **Browse** interface, citations can be retrieved by CAM system, method, or disease. CAM “System” refers to alternative healing systems such as Homeopathic Medicine and Chinese Traditional Medicine. “Method” represents some of the more commonly used CAM-related treatment methods such as acupuncture and yoga. “Disease” includes 27 of the more commonly researched illnesses, ranging from acne to warts. Selections in the three boxes may be combined as a Boolean AND search. Search results can be further narrowed by limiting by date and Report Type: such as *Basic Science*, *Laboratory Research*, *Observational Studies* and *Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses*.

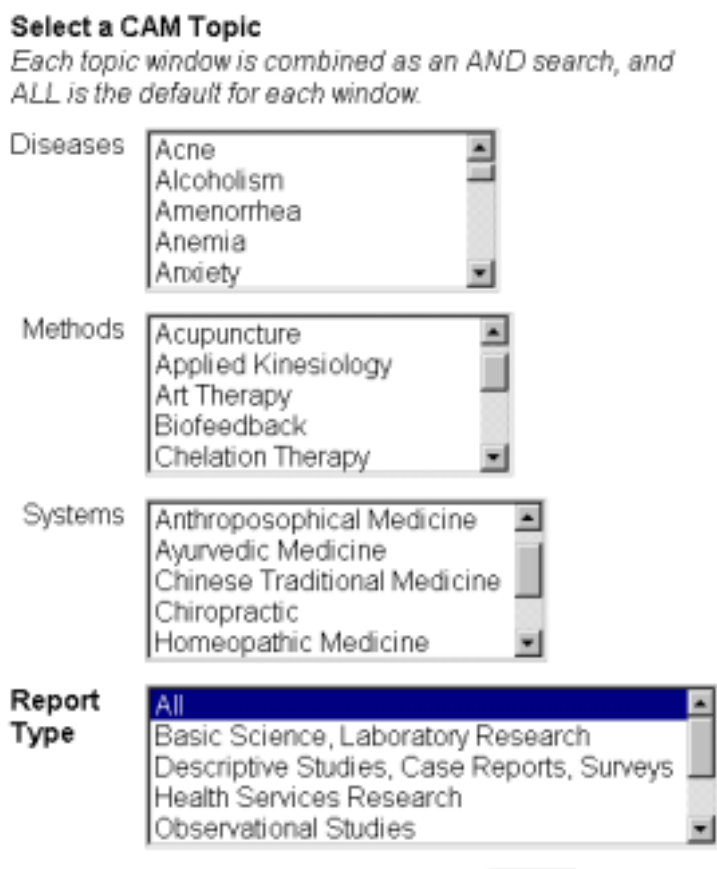
The Browse interface is unfortunately of little help when searching for information on herbs and other dietary supplements such as vitamins and minerals. CAM “Method” includes areas such as Yoga, Biofeedback and Therapeutic Touch, but nothing that pertains to herbalism or herbal medicine. The Systems options are somewhat more useful, for they include Naturopathic Medicine, Ayurvedic and Chinese Traditional Medicine, but again, nothing that would cover what we think of as Western herbal medicine. It’s useful for locating Chinese herbs used to treat migraine or finding homeopathic treatments for warts; not so useful, however, for browsing recent citations for “Western herbs” such as St. John’s Wort or Valerian.

So how useful is this database for finding information on herbs and other supplements? Health professionals and consumers will all find the database easier to search than MEDLINE since it is only a subset of citations and is restricted to CAM information. Simply type in the term Echinacea, then click on

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the search button to retrieve a set of 60 relevant papers. The CAM Citation Index, however, is not just designed exclusively for the casual user with little knowledge of bibliographic databases. With the Expert Search interface a knowledgeable user can use MeSH terms and Boolean operators to construct powerful search strategies. (To access the database go to the homepage for the **NCCAM** at <http://nccam.nih.gov/>, then under **For Consumers and Practitioners** select **Complementary and Alternative Medicine Databases**.)

Figure 1: the CCI database **Browse** screen.



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PDI Alert Access Survey – Print or Electronic?

In the interest of providing information in a timely manner and curtailing production costs, we are considering the idea of publishing **PDI Alert** in electronic format only. A number of other groups within the Medical Library Association have already made this switch. Notice of publication would be by email to the MLA distribution list, medlib-l, and to the Pharmacy distribution list, pharm-lib, with a hyperlink to the web-based issue. For those without web access, a print version of the newsletter could be sent. For those with web access who would still like a print copy, the newsletter can be printed from the web. Please let us know your thoughts, particularly if you do **NOT** have web access.

Send your responses to the Newsletter Editor by mail:

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or by email: g.kaiser@usip.edu

Would you be able to access a web version of **PDI Alert**?

_____ Yes _____ No

Which format do you prefer?

_____ Print _____ Electronic

If you prefer print, please tell us why:

Comments or suggestions:

Optionally, include your name, institution, and email address.

Thank you for your feedback!

MLA Section Council Meeting Highlights

Vee Kwon

MLA/PDI Section Council Chair

The MLA Section Council (22 Sections) met twice on May 6, and May 10, 2000 in Vancouver, Canada during the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting. I attended the Wednesday, May 6 Section Council Meeting as the PDI Section Council Chair, Sharon Giovenale attended the May 10 meeting as the PDI Section Council Alternate. The following provides some highlights of the meeting:

Saturday, May 6, 2000 (12:00–4:00 pm), Vancouver, Canada

Ratification of Email votes:

1. The proposal for the formation of the Corporate Information Services Section received a fax vote, 12 approved-0 did not approve. A motion to ratify the vote was made and seconded. The vote was ratified.
2. The name change of the Medical School Libraries Section to Library Management and Leadership Section received a fax vote, 15 approved-2 did not approve. A motion to ratify the vote was made and seconded. Two Sections opposed the ratification (Medical Society, Nursing and Allied Health). The vote was ratified.
3. The proposal for the formation of the Voyager SIG was approved by a fax vote. A motion to ratify the vote was made and seconded. The vote was ratified.
4. The proposal for the formation of the African American Medical Librarians Alliances SIG received a fax vote, 12 approved-1 did not approve. A motion to ratify the vote was made and seconded. The vote was ratified.

Council Committee Reports:

- CE Committee Liaison reported that the monies for the Estelle Brodman Award were collected quickly. Instructors for the MLA Continuing Education courses may be asked to voluntarily complete a self-evaluation process, in addition to a peer-review evaluation process. Suggestions were received regarding the length and timing of the CE courses for upcoming meetings.
- MLANET Liaison G. Perry reported that an audit of MLANET was completed this year. The MEB (MLANET Editorial Board) is responsible for improving the visibility of the Section and Chapter Councils on the MLANET site. A suggestion was made that a review be done of where Section websites are hosted. Representatives were asked to check with their Sections regarding the need for this review, and provide a report of the result at the next Council meeting (May 10).
- NPC 2000 Program Planning Liaison Report:
 - 32 programs were scheduled
 - 194 contributed papers were submitted, 90% of them electronically, of which 78 were accepted – a 40% acceptance rate.
- Greetings from incoming MLA President Michael Homan. Michael stressed the importance of “Promoting a Passion for the Profession-Keeping Our Eyes on the Prize” – the prize being quality information for improved health.
- Greetings from MLA President Frieda Weise. Frieda briefed Section Council members on the accomplishments of this past year, including the importance of research and advocacy priorities, the comparative analysis of Librarian salaries to other information personnel salaries, and future directions.

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Wednesday, May 10, 2000 (1:00–3:00 pm), Vancouver, Canada

- Formation of the Internet SIG: A petition for the formation of this group with the required 27 MLA member signatures was presented to Council. The Section/SIG Review Committee will review the petition and determine if the group meets the necessary criteria.
- Continuing Transition to new Section Council Structure: By-Laws changes will need to be implemented this year by Sections, but Sections need to wait to do this until they receive information from the MLA By-Laws Committee regarding the changes that need to be made.
- Election Results: Peg Hewitt was elected to serve as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Communications Committee for the upcoming year. Section Council MLA Nominating Committee winners are: Janis Brown, Jody Guenther, Virginia Lingle, Faith Meakin, Neil Rambo, and Jean Sayre.
- NPC 2001 Programming Changes: In response to the question presented at the first Council meeting by Frances Lynch, NPC Liaison, regarding the removal of one SIG informal meeting slot from the program (2001) to provide an additional business slot. Three Sections responded no, 10 responded in favor of the proposal (with some reservations). Additional information regarding the responses should be conveyed to Frances following the meeting.
- Section Council Table: Nancy Henry asked the membership if the Section Council Table at the Annual Meeting should be continued. Responses from Council members indicate that it is a very useful tool for recruiting new members and other promotions.
- Nancy Henry briefly reviewed MLA priorities and Section Council Objectives. Lastly, committees met to transfer files and discuss their plans for the coming year.

If you have any specific questions on the Section Council Meetings, please write to me directly at the following email address: mkwonn@pwcg.com.

Election Time (Again)
Bob Schrimsher
Nominating Committee Chair

The PDI Section will be electing a Chair-Elect/Program Chair, a Section Council Representative, and a potential candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee. As a reminder, the term for the Chair-Elect/Program Chair is basically two years: one year as the Program Chair and the next as the Chair. As Program Chair, all activities are planned for the next MLA meeting.

Some of you voiced an interest in being a candidate for the Section Council Representative at the last MLA meeting (Vancouver, 2000). Those of you who expressed this interest, would you please re-verify your interest by emailing me. I certainly don't want to place someone on the ballot who now has no interest or whose situation has changed so that it would be difficult to serve in that capacity.

A member of the PDI Section can be elected and the name submitted to the Section Council as a potential candidate for membership on the MLA Nominating Committee for a one year term. The Section Council then selects the names to be placed on the MLA ballot.

If you are interested in having your name on the ballot for any of these positions, please notify me via email: rhschrim@samford.edu or by phone: 205-726-2161. Ballots will be sent to all PDI members in early January or February 2001.

Pharmacy & Drug Information Section of the Medical Library Association Business Meeting 7 May 2000 7:30 - 9:00 am Vancouver BC

Attendees:

Peg Hewitt, Tufts CSDD, Lauren Benevich, Solvay Pharmaceuticals, Natalie Kupferberg, Ohio State University, Sherrill Cohn, Amgen, Dennis Ritchey, Kaiser Permanente Drug Information, Judith Emde, U of Kansas, Vee Kwon, Physicians World, Jean L. Seibert, West Virginia U, Win Sewell, consultant, Elizabeth Wood, OHSU, Sharon Giovenale, U Conn Pharmacy Library, Penny Coppernoll-Blach, Kelco Biopolymers, Janet Nelson, USC Norris Medical Library, Rita Neri, Long Island U, Brooklyn, Bob Schrimsher, School of Pharmacy, Samford University, Gina Kaiser, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

Chair Bob Schrimsher called the meeting to order at 7:25 am.

The 1999 minutes were approved (Win Sewell so moved and Jean Seibert seconded). The financial report was approved.

Reports of Officers and Committees

Penny Coppernoll-Blach, Chair-Elect attended the Section Program Planners meeting for Bonnie Snow, who could not attend. Six potential PDI Section events are in the planning stages:

- the EMBASE Lecture (invited speaker),
- a joint program with the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual SIG on travel medicine (invited speaker)
- a joint program with the Molecular Biology and Genomics SIG (invited speakers)
- a joint program with the Veterinary Medicine Section on bioethics in gene therapy (invited speaker)
- a joint program with the Veterinary Medicine Section on environmental contaminants/toxicology (invited speakers)
- state of the art development in pharmacy libraries (possible contributed paper session)

Vee Kwon, Section Council Representative, reported on Section issues. One new Section was

formed: the Corporate Information Services Section. One Section changed its name: Medical

School Libraries changed to Library Management and Leadership Section. Two new Special Interest Groups (SIGs) were formed: Voyager SIG and African American Alliance Librarians SIG. There is a new manual for SIGs, created by the Section Council Sections/SIG Review Committee that should help SIGs understand and use the existing MLA structures. It is available on MLANET. A new Web Committee will oversee Section Council's webpage move from a university site to MLA headquarters. Gerald (Jerry) Perry, MLANET Liaison, will chair the new committee. In his dual capacity, Jerry wants input on any MLANET issues. The fees for hosting Section webpages will be addressed by this new committee, as well as timeliness, search engine questions, SIG webpages, and webpage design.

The Continuing Education Committee is seeking developers for short courses and Internet courses. The committee is working on instructor evaluation questions. The Credentialing Committee for the Academy of Health Information Professionals outlined simplified procedures, available on MLANET.

The 1999 Section programming received 194 abstracts for contributed (peer reviewed) papers, with a 40% acceptance rate. Discussion took place concerning the "fixed program grid" and the limit on the number of Section program slots.

Section Council was greeted by Michael Holman, President-Elect of MLA. The theme for MLA 2001 is "2001 Information Odyssey." Michael's priorities for the year include "promoting a passion for the profession: keeping eyes on the prize," technology issues, and revising the MLA strategic plan to reflect how we view ourselves in the future. He wants MLA to become a more

virtual association, to publish more on MLANET (for example, the contributed papers and poster sessions from the annual meeting), and to use evidence-based librarianship. He proposes a link with a firm such as Microsoft to provide certification in computer technology, and CE courses with a technology track.

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Frieda Weise, MLA President, reported on her presidential year. Research and Advocacy were her themes. Reports on the research and media coverage are reported on in her talk and in MLA publications. Carla Funk reported on changes at MLA Headquarters in Chicago. Kate Corcoran, longtime MLAHQ Membership Director, is now Director of Research and Information Systems. Beverly Bradley is the new Coordinator for Member Services. Overall, there is a staff reduction of .75 FTE. Meeting registration was outsourced this year. There is a new annual meeting planner. There is a big jump in new members, and 50% join on MLANET. MLAHQ is working on recruiting new members and on advocacy efforts, and the firm helping MLA, PCI, received an award this year for their work.

Nancy Henry, Section Council Chair, outlined some MLA Board issues: Hospital Library standards will be re-visited. Should the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association* change its name? What should MLA be doing about career services, recruiting, diversity? The Benchmarking Network

Peg Hewitt
Secretary/Treasurer
1999-2000

(formerly a task force) will look at advertising. Is sponsorship of an event advertising or not?

Judith Emde, PDI Nominating Committee Chair

presented the new officers. Bonnie Snow is Chair-Elect, Kimberly Lyons-Mitchell is Secretary/Treasurer.

Jean Seibert, Membership Committee Chair reported that we have 215 members.

Sharon Giovenale, Liaison to Section Council Standards Committee, reported on the ongoing process for MLANET standards.

Gina Kaiser, PDI Newsletter Editor, says "send reports!" Deadline for the fall issue is October 1.

Bob Schrimsher, Chair, suggests members use the PDI email listing and webpage. Sharon Giovenale, Webpage Editor, reported that the webpage is still at U Conn, saving our small Section the cost of moving to MLANET. She welcomes suggestions for webpage improvements.

Other discussion revolved around the new Section Council Representative structure, the MLA Nominating Committee, and the role of the Chair-Elect. Sherrill Cohn also informed the group about Copyright Clearinghouse's extra electronic copyright changes.

