



PDI Alert

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

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Fall 2001

Message from the Chair

Bonnie Snow
PDI Section Chair

As you'll see in the following pages, we're off to a good start in this Association year. Natalie Kupferberg, Chair-Elect, has already completed arrangements for our EMBASE Lecture program at the 2002 annual meeting in Dallas and has been busy coordinating plans with other MLA Sections for other prospective, co-sponsored programs. Jill Nissen is working on revisions to our bylaws necessitated by changes in the Section Council representative election process and revised terms of office. Jean Siebert is preparing a new edition of PDI's descriptive brochure to be used in promoting membership in our Section. Terry Ann Jankowski will be plying her needle on our behalf in creating a PDI quilt square for the 2002 MLA Section Quilt project. Sharon Giovenale has updated our webpage directory, at the same time handling her new responsibilities as MLANET Liaison to the Board.

Speaking of MLANET, it will serve as the sole platform for the Association's membership directory from 2001 forward. The hardcopy (traditional, printed) directory will no longer be published and automatically distributed to all members. Instead, you'll be able to access current directory listings in the Members-Only portion of the MLA website. This change is part of the "virtual organization" initiative begun a few years ago.

While the PDI Section has certainly demonstrated its commitment to support members in the e-environment, we also plan to continue communicating on paper. Those of us who have experienced temporary unemployment, and consequent interruptions in email, know that hardcopy backup is still very important. At times, it's also simply more convenient to refer to paper copies than trying to track them down online. Thus, after discussion at the Section Business Meeting in May, we've decided to publish *PDI Alert* in both hardcopy and electronic format for at least another year.

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Medical Library Association – Pharmacy & Drug Information Section Goals & Objectives – 2001-2002

Goal: Professional Development

Objective: Promote education and professional growth among members by disseminating information about pharmaceutical issues and resources and by providing opportunities for exchange of ideas and expertise.

Implementation: Arrange for EMBASE Lecture to be presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting, featuring a speaker prominent in the pharmaceutical field addressing a key topic in the subject specialty area. Continue to encourage contributions from members to the *PDI Alert* (Section newsletter) focusing on new information resources.

Goal: Advocacy

Objective: Maintain liaisons with other organizations of pharmaceutical and drug information professionals to encourage cross-membership participation in programs and projects of sister groups.

Implementation: Exchange information about activities through submission of brief announcements to each group's newsletter and online discussion list. Invite members of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy-Libraries & Educational Resources Section and of the Special Libraries Association-Pharmaceutical & Health Technology Section to join the Pharm-Lib electronic discussion list. Develop and disseminate a new PDI Section brochure outlining our purpose and the benefits of membership.

Goal: Enhanced Technology Applications

Objective: Continue development of PDI website as a tool for communication and education.

Implementation: Expand content to include Section objectives, semiannual and annual reports, and a downloadable membership brochure. Maintain e-archives of *PDI Alert* newsletter issues available to all site visitors.

Submitted 27 July 2001

by Bonnie Snow, PDI Section Chair, May 2001-May 2002

Election Time for 2002/2003 Officers

*** Volunteers Needed ***

Penny Coppernoll-Blach
Nominating Committee Chair

The PDI Section will be electing the following officers for 2002/2003:

- Chair-Elect/Program Chair – 2-year term (first year as Program Chair and second year as Chair)
- Secretary/Treasurer – 2-year term
- Potential Candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee

The Program Chair plans the PDI activities for the MLA Annual Meeting in 2003. The name of our Potential Candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee will be submitted to MLA Section Council, and the Section Council then elects the final candidates to be placed on the MLA ballot.

I am sure that there are many of you out there just waiting to volunteer yourself or a friend for these positions. Don't make me find you! Being an officer looks great on your resume. Please contact me via email (penny.coppernoll-blach@cpkelco.com) or telephone (858-467-6478) to volunteer. Ballots will be sent to all PDI members in early January or February 2002.

Basic Resources for Pharmaceutical Education

Vicki J. Killion
Secretary, Libraries/Educational Resources Section
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

The list of *Basic Resources for Pharmaceutical Education (2001)* is now available at http://www.aacp.org/Resources/basic_resources.html. Developed by members of the Libraries/Educational Resources Section (LERS) of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP), the list includes print and electronic resources judged to be essential in supporting current pharmacy school curricula. Each year a third of the list is re-evaluated; those categories reviewed in 2001 include: drug design, pharmacology, oncology and hematology, and sciences basic to medicine.

Users may view the list either alphabetically or hierarchically. A list of core journals is also available.

Comments, criticisms and suggestions will be welcome and should be addressed to Winifred Sewell (email: winswll@crosslink.net; regular mail: 6513 76th Place, Cabin John, MD 20818; telephone: 301-229-5008; fax: 301-229-3788) or Nancy F. Fuller (email: ulfuller@cypress.mcsr.olemiss.edu; regular mail: Head of Science Library and Associate Professor, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677; telephone: 662-915-7381; fax: 662-915-7549).

Message from the Chair

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Gina Kaiser, our current newsletter editor, has graciously agreed to see us through the Spring 2002 issue, but we need a volunteer to step in as new *PDI Alert* Editor commencing next June, in preparation for the fall issue to be published one year from today. Please contact me if you are interested in this position. It's a wonderful opportunity to enhance your writing and desktop publishing skills, at the same time fulfilling a vital role in helping the Section meet our goals.

What are those goals? In common with past Chairs, I've had to submit our objectives to the MLA Board of Directors in time for their fall meeting. They are included under a separate title in this issue of *PDI Alert* [see p. 3].

Reading between the lines of these somewhat formal statements, you'll see that their accomplishment requires voluntary contributions of time and effort not only from officers and committee chairs, but from all members willing to participate. We need articles for the next issue of this newsletter, paper proposals for future programs, and people to stand for election as Chair-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee.

By way of follow-up to this call to action, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Penny Coppernoll-Blach, our immediate Past Chair, for her dedicated service to us all during the past two years. I owe her a personal debt of gratitude for her assistance in arranging the EMBASE Lecture for the May meeting in Orlando. As many of you probably know, I had a very difficult few months last year, following a sudden layoff from my job with a Web-based information service (now bankrupt). Coincidentally, I also had to move house a few months later (I'm still not totally unpacked). In the midst of this came news of serious family illness. Penny was unstinting in her support and understanding throughout all of these personal trials. Thank you, Penny! All of us are fortunate to have you as a professional colleague and friend.

Pharmacy & Drug Information Section of MLA
Business Meeting Minutes
May 29, 2001, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Orlando, FL
Kim Lyons
Secretary/Treasurer

Attendees:

Penny Coppernoll-Blach, Jean Siebert, Charity Karcher, Sharon Giovenale, Sarah McCord, Win Sewell, Terry Ann Jankowski, Rita Neri, Natalie Kupferberg, Anne Prussing, Dennis Ritchey, Rae Jesano, Peg Hewitt, Bonnie Snow, Vee M. Kwon, Kathleen Flores, Pauline E. Hicks

1. Chair Penny Coppernoll-Blach called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.
2. The 2000 meeting minutes were approved with one correction that Jean Siebert's name was misspelled in the list of attendees. The approval was moved by Peg Hewitt and seconded by Vee Kwon.
3. Bonnie Snow thanked Penny Coppernoll-Blach for her assistance over the past year with the Section's program activities. The consensus by the members of the Section was that this year's EMBASE lecturer (Paul L. Doering, University of Florida, Gainesville) was an excellent speaker. Penny described the other two programs at this year's meeting that the Section had co-sponsored: "Gene Therapy: We're Only at the Beginning" and "Medicine for International Travel: State of the Art, 2001."
4. Jean discussed the PDI Section membership flyer and possible revisions such as larger font, including the history of the Section, and linking the brochure to the Section's webpage. We will keep the Section's logo on the brochure. There is still a question as to the date of establishment of the Section, possibly as far back as 1948. Penny will check with MLA Headquarters on the date. A suggestion was made to add a note in the brochure on how to join the Pharm-Lib distribution group.
5. Treasurer's report - The Section had 201 paid members as of 1/31/2001. There is excess money in the Section's treasury that we should spend soon to maintain our non-profit status. It was decided to keep the Section dues at \$10 for next year. There was some discussion on how to spend the extra money in the treasury.
6. Section Council report [*Editor's note: A full report will be published in the spring issue of the newsletter*]
- Vee Kwon reported on the formation of two new special interest groups: Internet Librarians SIG was approved and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Health Sciences Librarians SIG had a name change. SIGs can have no funds and cannot have websites of their own. Sections may host sites for SIGs in the future. PDI should appoint a Continuing Education Committee Liaison.
Congratulations to Sharon Giovenale, who is the new Section Council Liaison to the MLANet Executive Board.
Terry Ann Jankowski generously offered to create a quilt square for PDI for next year's MLA Section quilt. She will use the mortar & pestle from the *PDI Alert* masthead. It was suggested that we might want to use this design to make stickers to place on conference badges next year to publicize PDI. Twelve sections out of the twenty-one total have their own logos.
Mentoring articles are needed for the *MLA News*.
7. Newsletter - The Section has two issues of the newsletter each year, in the spring and fall. The Section is looking for a new editor to begin with the Fall 2002 issue. There was a discussion on whether the Section should keep publishing the newsletter in both print and electronic format. The consensus was that the Section should continue to put out a paper version at this time. The suggestion was made that Gina Kaiser could use Section money to save her time and effort by paying Kinkos to produce, stuff, and mail the newsletter.

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Business Meeting Minutes

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8. Listserv of pharmacy librarians - Heidi Marleau at the University of Wisconsin currently maintains Pharm-Lib, which includes pharmacy librarians who belong to PDI and/or to AACP LA/ER (American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, Libraries and Educational Resources Section). Anyone can belong to the list, with membership in PDI or AACP being voluntary. The decision was made to keep this list exactly as it is since it is an "active informative list." It is a good way for potential members of PDI to check out the Section before joining. Someone suggested having an article about the listserv in *MLA News* to give it more publicity.

9. Bylaws - Jill Nissen will continue to work on the PDI bylaws, mainly on the Section Council representative elections changes and the terms of office for the reps.

10. Nominating - The Section is seeking new volunteers for officers for 2002/2003. There will be a call for nominations in the next issue of the newsletter [see p. 3] for Chair-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and Candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee.

11. Program Planning Ideas for Next Year - Natalie Kupferberg discussed possible program ideas for the 2002 meeting in Dallas. Ideas include nutraceuticals, drug compounding, contributed papers by PDI members, and corporate intelligence. [See article on p. 7.]

12. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

EMBASE Lecture, May 27, 2001 MLA Annual Meeting, Orlando Penny Coppernoll-Blach PDI Section Past Chair

The 2001 EMBASE Lecture held on May 27th was attended by about 50 persons. Our lecturer, Paul L. Doering, gave a captivating presentation that held our attention on a late Sunday afternoon. Those of us who attended the lecture could quickly tell why Mr. Doering has won many teaching awards.

We are fortunate that he was willing to share his PowerPoint presentation with all of us, and it should be loaded on MLANET at www.mlanet.org/am/am2001/program/e_present/. There are 84 slides with some very entertaining graphics (for example, check out slides 11 and 14).

Mr. Doering is Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Co-Director, Drug Information Services, College of Pharmacy, University of Florida at Gainesville. His lecture was entitled "Drug Information in the Electronic Age." He presented historical facts about the first drug information center (University of Kentucky, 1962). The University of Florida Drug Information Center was founded in 1972, and it has handled over 90,000 questions since its inception.

Paul started online searching back in the middle '70s, using ELHILL and a dumb terminal. He also used the Paul de Haen Information Systems on microfiche. He experienced many of the same problems with search questions that we all have lived through as librarians, and it was interesting to hear real-life mysteries that he has solved.

Paul gave us many of his favorite pharmaceutical websites. He feels that the Internet is great for finding drug company information, and he finds some of the government sites, such as the FDA and CDC, to be

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EMBASE Lecture

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outstanding. However, he has many misgivings about the advent of online ordering of prescription drugs.

Paul also talked about the Virtual Drug Information Service, VDIS, which is a free service for healthcare professionals and state legislators of Florida.

Mr. Doering was presented with the Elsevier honorarium and an engraved plaque at the end of the lecture. The PDI Section thanks Elsevier Science for their continued support of the EMBASE Lecture at the MLA Annual Meetings.

PDI in Dallas-MLA Program Plans Natalie Kupferberg Chair-Elect/Program Committee Chair

Thanks to all of you who gave me suggestions about possible topics for the MLA Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas. It's interesting that pharmacy librarians have such a wide range of interests spanning many different disciplines. Our role goes way beyond just providing information about drugs. Here are the events our Section will be involved in:

- **EMBASE Lecture** – Dr. Loyd Allen, the editor of *International Journal of Pharmaceutical Compounding* and professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center College of Pharmacy in Oklahoma City will be speaking on “Contemporary Pharmaceutical Compounding.” This session will present the history, current status, and possible future of the preparation of individualized medications. The reasons for the increase in compounding as well as the legislative and regulatory activities will be detailed. Current resources will be described as well as examples of compounded prescriptions. Loyd Allen “is a highly sought-after reviewer and lecturer and serves as a consultant to several pharmaceutical companies.”
- **Participating in the Genome Age: Present Research on Pharmacogenetics** – This program will feature invited speakers and contributed papers about the topic of pharmacogenetics and its implications for future health care. Participants may also talk about finding information in this controversial interdisciplinary area. PDI will be working with the Cancer Librarians Section and Molecular Biology and Genomics Special Interest Group.
- **Eyes on the Competition!** – Who will launch the next allergy pill? How can a pharmacy school compete for grants? Most such information is public if you know where to find it. Learn more about competitive intelligence information strategies from a panel of invited speakers and authors of contributed papers. PDI will be helping the Corporate Information Services and Hospital Libraries Section with this program.

We will have specific days and times for these sessions later. Hope to see you all in Dallas, May 17-23, 2002.

Editor's Notes

Thanks to all of you who contributed articles for this issue. Please consider sending news, short pieces and articles for the spring issue. The deadline is April 1, 2002. Email items to Gina Kaiser, Newsletter Editor, g.kaiser@usip.edu.