



Laboratory Information System and Medical Informatics Division Newsletter
March 2008

1. Our continued membership in HITSP is essential. We hopefully have been able to influence decisions and discussions during the development of interoperability specifications. We are moving along in the committee and have a significant role to play in helping to disseminate these specifications to our respective institutions and partners including our global colleagues. As your chair, I have been regularly attending the HITSP meetings, following the agenda and providing guidance as appropriate to the needs of the laboratory community. This membership is both costly to the division, approximately \$2500 dollars in travel expenses as well as to the chair's time estimated to be in excess of 30 hours per month. While this is not a major problem to a retiree like me, it could be problematic to a future chair. For these reasons, I am proposing that we request that the Board of Directors assume this responsibility and assign it as part of the task of the Information Technology department. In addition, I am proposing that a cross division group be formed, with members representing varied interest areas, to advise the IT department member on clinical concerns. In this manner we would still be actively supporting the activities of HITSP at a lesser cost to the division in terms of both money and time. I am open to discussing other ideas from the membership. From the perspective of the division, I would like a decision by the time of the Annual Meeting, so that we may forward our suggestions.

2. I don't know if many of you read the description of the LISMI division on the rear of the membership application.

“For current information on data processing in the clinical lab and new developments and applications. Develops guidelines for selection and implementation of LIS. Provides hardware and software information.”

I think that the division is more than this and it is probably time to rewrite this before the next registration material goes out. Suggestions would be appreciated.

3. We have arranged for a Saturday session at the annual meeting. Pam Banning and colleagues will be expanding on last year's program. We have also discovered that this session can be attended without registering for the Annual Meeting. It is an opportunity to invite colleagues who may live in the capital area who may not be attending the AM but are interested in clinical informatics.

Session title: The Languages of Information Technology in Laboratory
Medicine: LOINC, SNOMED and HL7
Saturday, July 26 5:30pm--8:30pm
Location: Renaissance (Unconfirmed)

Session description: This program will include a panel of experts
discussing the basics of the LOINC, SNOMED and HL7 vocabularies in
Clinical Laboratory Information Management Systems (CLIMS), other
Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) and Electronic
Health Record Systems (EHRS). It will demonstrate the importance of
these standards to the clinical laboratorian's contribution to healthcare.
Current and proposed implementations will also be reviewed.
Presentation title: The Languages of Information Technology in
Laboratory Medicine: LOINC, SNOMED and HL7
Speakers: Pam Banning, Elva Knight and Ulrike Merrick
Registration: AACC Member/Non-Member: \$15. Your registration
includes the scientific session followed by a reception at 7:30 pm.

4. The Capital Division and the LISMI are co-sponsoring a program at Villa Julie College, Owings Mills, MD on April 24, 2008 entitled:

Trends in Laboratory Medicine Informatics:

What Opportunities Exist for the Clinical Laboratory Scientist?

A Thank you to Steve Manzella, Ph.D. for the excellent program and inviting LISMI to be a co-sponsor. I have attached the flyer and registration to the newsletter.

5. The agenda for the annual meeting luncheon (again on Monday) will be published in the next newsletter. After last year's meeting there was a spirited discussion of security issues in laboratory systems. It would be great to have a speaker to spend perhaps 20 minutes giving us an update on the topic. Any volunteers?
6. Please consider the following issues:
 - a. Election of officers – We need to have a nominating committee. Please volunteer. I'll take them on a first come basis
 - b. We did not have a program in the regular schedule. We only had one brown bag session confirmed. What are we doing wrong?
 - c. We need to develop a method of producing abstracts for the annual meeting that are geared toward informatics.
 - d. We must continue to develop cross association links to keep the association at the forefront of clinical informatics.
 - e. I urge you to review the AHIC website:

<http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/usecases/>

In particular the Personal Health Record use case, speaks of many of our common concerns of standardized language. It also speaks of the need for a way for consumers to understand what they are reading. Our association's Labs Online would be an excellent tool to provide such a service, but we need to

engage those responsible for this product to work with the Technical committees at HITSP and our other cooperating partners to make this work. Perhaps, this is an issue we should take forward the division management group and present it as a common concern.

Al Jekelis, Ph.D.
Chair