

THE

PITTSBURGH PULSE



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NEWSLETTER OF THE PITTSBURGH REGIONAL CHAPTER, MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, INC.

From the Chair...

Once again, as the year winds down, we can't help but review our experiences, both personal and professional. This year, as a chapter we celebrated the retirements of long-standing, valued members – a loss to their libraries and their patrons, but a wonderful opening of other doors and new opportunities. We saw other long-standing, accomplished members choose to change careers and enter professions entirely unrelated to librarianship. It's so exciting to think of starting anew, and I, for one, am quite thankful that librarianship, by its very nature, encourages this continuous growth and reaching and connecting to the rest of the world, as well as the strength to risk change.

There is quite a lot to look forward to in the coming year. Soon we'll be electing new Board members, awarding our Eakin/Shapiro Scholarships for the first time (Thank you, Ellen Detlefsen!), and organizing new, pertinent Continuing Education classes for our members (Thank you, Jan Petrak!). So many classes to take, so little time! Thanks to our hardworking committees, we've also created more ways for our members to earn Continuing Education credits, whether at our own Chapter-sponsored events, at national events with the help of a new Pittsburgh MLA Eakin/Shapiro Scholarship, or through MLA CE course DVDs available through our own Chapter at no cost to members (Thank you, Heidi Marshall!).

Earning CE credits is one of the key reasons to join a professional organization like MLA and your own Pittsburgh Regional Chapter, but it takes a lot of teamwork to make CEs available to our members. The more participation we have, whether in serving on a Committee, as a Board member, or simply communicating opinions, interests, or needs, the more we all benefit.

This coming new year, don't be shy! Join your fellow members in making the Chapter as responsive and rewarding to our members as we possibly can!

**Andrea Ketchum, 2006-2007 Chair
Pittsburgh Regional Chapter of MLA**

Continuing Education Committee and Member Survey

**By Jan Petrak, Program Chair, Excelsa Health
Westmoreland Hospital**

Bette Rembert has joined me to form the Chapter Continuing Education Committee. Now we would like to invite at least two other members to help plan future programs. Student members are encouraged to participate as well. If you would like to join us, please contact me at jpetrak@excelsahealth.org or 724-832-4087.

Even if you cannot serve on the committee, we need your ideas. The committee recently emailed a brief survey to members as well as to all attending the Fall CE program. Ideas received to date range from technology topics to communicating the worth and value of libraries to hospital administrators. In order to provide a good course on technology, we will need to focus on a few of the topics suggested. Some of the technologies cited include PDAs, RSS, electronic document delivery, Adobe PDF creation, blogs, wireless devices, and electronic medical records. We would like to hear from additional members about the technologies most important to them. Just let me know if you did not receive the survey or need a fresh copy. Our thanks go out to members who have already completed the survey.

Last, in order to select a date for the annual Pittsburgh Regional Chapter meeting, it would help the committee to know if you are planning to attend this year's MLA annual in Philadelphia in 2007 (May 18 – May 23, 2007). Please contact Bette (Bette.Rembert@stclair.org) or me if you know your plans already.

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Fall CE Program and Meeting

By Jan Petrak, Program Chair, Excelsa Health Westmoreland Hospital

Host Bette Rembert provided a comfortable, welcome setting for the Fall CE event and business meeting at St. Clair Hospital on November 10. Attending members enjoyed the camaraderie and networking as always, while the program topic focused discussion on career matters.

West Virginia University's Jean L. Siebert, who is also a member of Pittsburgh Chapter, made the inaugural presentation of her course: *Marketing Yourself for Career Advancement*. Participants

received useful ideas and relevant tips for career advancement (and four MLA contact hours). Jean ended the program with a challenge and homework! Participants listed three skills that they planned to learn in the next year to help them work towards career advancement. The lists will be returned in November 2007, as a reminder to participants and to assess their skill development and to see whether the skills helped them to make a positive career or major life change.



Program Chair Jan Petrak, CE Host Bette Rembert, CE Presenter Jean L. Siebert, and Chapter Chair Andrea Ketchum

Time to Join or Renew

Joni Melnick, Treasurer/Membership Chair, Torrance State Hospital

'Tis the season again. This year, give yourself the gift of fun, knowledge, and friendship. Registration for 2007 membership in the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter of the Medical Library Association is due January 31. A check for \$25 is your ticket to becoming a member of this dynamic group of professionals.

The membership application is found on the Chapter's Web page at <http://pmhslibraries.org/pghmla/>. Don't forget: you can also give a future medical librarian the gift of reduced debt by contributing to the Chapter's Scholarship fund on the same form. Have a great holiday and enjoy a Happy 2007 in the Pittsburgh MLA!

TechLine: Keeping Data from Escaping is No Easy Task

By David Brennan, Barbour Library, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary



David Brennan

I had originally intended to write a brief article about securing data on the now ubiquitous flash drive, but after I looked into it a little bit, it made more sense to muse about portable storage devices in general. Think about all of the gadgets that have the capability of connecting to one another and storing data: flash

drives, laptops, memory cards for a myriad of devices, and cell phones. Add to that the multitude of devices (removable and otherwise) that can capture data and move it somewhere else: networked fax/scan/copy multifunction machines, digital cameras, cameras built into cell phones, etc. It's no wonder data security is a nightmare!

Is this more of a social engineering problem than a technical one? After all, the technology to capture and move information has been around for a long time – the Hiss microfilms were stashed in a pumpkin [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whittaker Chambers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whittaker_Chambers)]. The order of magnitude is the biggest difference these days. Pumpkin or no, you can store thousands of documents in even the smallest device and dump them to other devices instantly.

There is an old saying among net users that “data wants to be free,” and from a technical standpoint, this is becoming more and more true every day. When you can connect to your VPN through a wireless connection on your Palm at a coffee shop, and the guy sitting at the table behind you can snap a picture of your screen with his cell phone, the whole notion of data security is stretched to the breaking point.

The stories of data loss from many sources, like the Los Alamos labs or the VA, illustrate that the ease with which data can be moved around presents huge opportunities for loss due to malice or plain old incompetence. Given the importance of maintaining privacy with medical data, it is no surprise that regulations such as HIPAA [<http://www.aamc.org/members/gir/gasp/>] have developed to address how and to whom information is distributed.

There is no security, however, without serious technical and personal development. On the technical side, the systems have to be secure to the point of restricting data loss, but not so secure that they can't be used [<http://www.aishealth.com/Compliance/Hipaa/RPP12Hipaa.html>] [<http://www.it-director.com/content.php?cid=8751&tag=itdm2>]. On the personal side, there has to be a real commitment to fair use and security, which often presents conflicts: A doctor wants to get data on her Blackberry. Do you grant her that right? What happens when it's left at the gym? The medical records coder that works from home is burglarized and his PC stolen. Or he buys a new PC and puts the old one out on the curb. What sensitive data still resides there?

Down to the library end of things, can we do anything to help the situation? From the technical side, make sure that the library PCs can't be used to aid data loss. On the personal side, use the library instruction and support materials to reinforce good data security practices. Practice some good data policies yourself and model them to others. Realistically, data, like water, will find a way to run downhill. We should try to not let the dam burst, though.



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of the Medical Library Association
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Stethoscoop

By Marilyn Daniels, Latrobe Hospital, part of Excelsa Health

- ◆ Despite the fact that the usual work of Pittsburgh Chapter members focuses on medicine and other health care issues, we do occasionally get those reference questions that stretch the boundaries of that domain. What are the first names of the Smith Brothers (as in the cough drops)? Can you find a picture of a Malyasian pit viper (whose venom is used to make ancrod, a possible treatment for acute ischemic stroke)? Who is the patron saint of healing?

Should the last question come up, you might want to consult **ANDREA CHANCEY**, Manager, Library Services / CME for the Heritage Valley Health System in Beaver, PA, whose recreational interests include Byzantine chanting, lap swimming and hagiography, the study of saints and their lives. Originally from the Columbus, OH area, Andrea completed her MLIS in June via the University of Pittsburgh's FastTrack (online) program. Specializing in medical librarianship/informatics, she chose the position at Beaver, recently vacated by **CINDY ROBERTSON KOVAL**, due to Heritage Valley's size, the opportunity to take the library system electronic and the CME component. The Pittsburgh area appealed to her since, as she describes it, "Pittsburgh is a great city for music and art."

Certainly, her new position seems a far cry from her undergraduate studies at Ohio Dominican University in Easton, Ohio, where she obtained her BS in Cross-Disciplinary Studies (Polymer Science and Engineering with Humanities). Her first library position was at Mount Carmel West's Health Science Library, where as a library associate, she was the program coordinator for the orthopaedic and OB/GYN residency programs. She also did an internship at Columbus Metropolitan Library.



Andrea Chancey

By the way, according to the website *Catholic Answers*, the possibilities for the patron saint of healing are "endless" since "...there are saints to pray to for just about every ache and pain known to man. ...for a saint with a special interest in praying for those involved in the healing sciences, there are several choices: Luke (patron of physicians), Camillus de Lellis (patron of nurses), and Raphael the archangel (whose name means 'God has healed')." For details, ask Andrea!

Continued on Page 5

Share Your News with the Chapter via Stethoscoop!

Here's How - Contact Marilyn Daniels, Stethoscoop Editor via:

Email: mdaniels@excelsahealth.org

Phone: 724-537-1275

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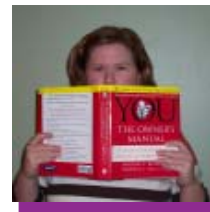
Please include your news item, name, business address, and phone number.

New Member Profile: Heidi Patterson-Orlando

By Joni Melnick, Torrance State Hospital, Treasurer/Membership Chair

As membership chair, I would like to extend a warm welcome to new member Heidi Patterson-Orlando, who hails from Youngstown, Ohio, deep in the heart of Cleveland Browns territory. While new to librarianship, Heidi is not new to the medical field as she has been involved in various areas of medical research since 1999. Her resume includes positions at the Cleveland Clinic's Radiation Oncology department, Pittsburgh's Montefiore Hospital's Pulmonary Sleep Lab, and invivodata, a company that develops research software for Palm Pilots, where she served as a trainer and site coordinator. Currently Heidi is doing double-time as a University of Pittsburgh MLIS student and a full-time Cancer Registry Specialist at

the UPMC Shadyside Cancer Registry. Heidi is married, is the proud owner of three cats, and is looking forward to working in a hospital or medical school library after graduation. If you would like to reach Heidi, you can contact her by email at heidi.orlanderson@gmail.com. We are very pleased that Heidi has joined us and look forward to her future involvement in our chapter!



Heidi Patterson-Orlando

Stethoscoop Briefs

Compiled by David Nolfi, Duquesne University

- ◆ Please join me in extending heartfelt sympathy to **MARILYN DANIELS**, Director of Library Services at Excelsa Health, and Stethoscoop Editor for the *Pittsburgh Pulse*. Marilyn's mother, Mrs. Louise Piovesan, passed away on November 3, 2006. If you would like to extend your condolences to Marilyn her address is 1021 Whitehead Lane, North Huntingdon, PA 15642. To learn more about Marilyn's mom or for details on where personal contributions may be made, visit the online obituary at: <http://tinyurl.com/ye3n9m>. The Chapter has made contributions in Mrs. Piovesan's name to the Norwin Public Library and the Chapter Scholarship Fund.
- ◆ **MARCY BROWN** was appointed adjunct instructor for the Drexel University iSchool. Beginning in January, she will spend six months working with instructional support staff in the iSchool to design and develop an online version of Drexel's INFO 675 course, an introduction to medical bibliography. The online version, which Marcy will teach, will be offered for the first time in the Summer 2007 quarter.

Apply Now for Eakin/Shapiro Scholarships

By Ellen Detlefsen, Chair, Scholarship and Awards Committee, University of Pittsburgh

It's now time to apply for the Eakin/Shapiro Scholarships, which honor Laurabelle Eakin and Ruth Shapiro, two of the Chapter's distinguished early members. In 2007, two awards of \$250 each will be granted to two individuals, chosen from these categories:

1. A student enrolled in the ALA-accredited master's degree program at either the University of Pittsburgh or at Clarion University preparing for a professional career in medical librarianship
2. A member in good standing of the Pittsburgh Regional Chapter of the Medical Library Association seeking continuing education activity

Applicants should submit a letter of application stating the reasons their plan for educational activities should be considered for the award, plus an up-to-date resume, by March 1, 2007. Letters and resumes should be sent to Ellen Detlefsen, 613 SIS Building, University of Pittsburgh, 135 North Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260.