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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Annie Malley

Planning for the Philadelphia Conference is going forward at a rapid pace. Nancy Stimson and the Program Planning Committee have put together a great slate of programs and there should be something for everyone. When Scientific Research and Ethics Collide: Exploring the Controversies, will certainly be an exciting program with Pulitzer Prize winning author Deborah Blum discussing the work of psychologist Harry Harlow, David Magnus providing an overview of the issues, and Doris Goldstein introducing us to electronic resources about bioethics. Michele Tennant is organizing and speaking on Molecular Biology Resources for Librarians.

The Contributed Papers Committee has selected speakers to address the topic The Publishing Revolution: How Information Professionals in the Life Sciences are Managing and Shaping Changes in Scientific Journal Publishing. Along a similar theme, the Sci-Tech Division is organizing a program that BIO is co-sponsoring on E-Materials: Barriers to Revolutionizing Scientific Information. The always popular Winners' Circle of Best Science Web Sites will be offered in Philadelphia.

The Publications Committee is sponsoring an informal Getting Published Roundtable and the Vendors Relations Committee is organizing a repeat of last year's very successful Vendor's Roundtable. The selected vendors include: Institute for Scientific Information, HighWire Press, EBSCO, and Cambridge Scientific Abstracts.

BIO is working with the Natural History Caucus on two programs: Museum Collection and Natural History Data on the World Wide Web and Philadelphia: The Birthplace of American Paleontology. The paleontology program will take place at the Academy of Natural Sciences and will include a tour of the Academy's Library and an introduction to their digital imaging center.

The Medical Section is organizing a program entitled The Transformation of Health Care in the Information Age and a reception at the Mutter Museum. Pamela Barnard provides detailed information about this program in this issue of *Biofeedback*.

Virginia Lingle and the Fund Development Committee are well on their way to obtaining funding for the BIO programs. Philadelphia should prove to be a very exciting conference.

MILLENNIUM REMINDER

Some BIO Division members have responded to the request for paper versus digital for packaging of *Biofeedback* (sounds like a grocery bagger). Please keep those responses coming.

Let us know if you prefer to receive the Division's newsletter electronically or through the Postal Service, or prefer just an announcement over the Internet that the newsletter is now loaded on the Division's web site.

We look forward to your suggestions and comments as we tackle this very big issue.

David Duggar, Editor

Biofeedback
Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
Special Libraries Association

Vol. 25, No. 2 Fall 1999
[Masthead](#)

Nominations & Elections Committee Update

November 1999

As reported in the previous issue of *Biofeedback*, the candidates for Division office for the Spring 2000 election are:

Chair-elect: Geeth Rao and Michele Tennant

Treasurer: Nancy Curtis and Janet Cooper Weiss

CV's and statements from each candidate are available on the [Division Website](#) and will also be furnished with the ballots mailed in early February 2000.

Per the revised NEC timetable approved by the Executive Board in Minneapolis (cf. *Biofeedback*, Summer 1999, [p.3, p. 5](#)) and the established Divisional Procedures, further nominations by written petition of 20 Division members and written acceptance by the nominee shall be filed with the Nominations and Elections Committee by January 1, 2000 to be included in the written ballot. (Note: this is one month earlier than last year and one month earlier than the date NEC noted in its summer update to you.) Send all materials to:

**Patricia Yocum
Chair, NEC
3720 Lamplighter Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48103**

Ballots will be mailed out February 1, 2000. For more information contact any NEC member: Fred Roper, Barbara Schader, Patricia Yocum.

**Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
1998/1999 Executive Board Meeting
Special Libraries Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 5, 1999**

Attendees: Wojcik, MacLean, Schiff, Boorkman, Kelland, Malley, Duggar, Schrader, Schmidt, Weiss, Nabe, Turner, Bronars, Barnard, Tebo, Perez, and Butler.

I. Meeting called to order at 7:45pm (Wojcik).

II. Approval of minutes from Indianapolis (Wojcik): Schiff moved to accept minutes as presented, Boorkman seconded, motion carried.

III. Ratification of Executive Board e-mail votes: The following votes were ratified by the Executive Board:

- a. Winifred Sewell Prize (\$250 and to be announced)**
- b. Nomination of Fred Roper for John Cotton Dana Award.**
- c. Co-sponsor of the Digital Libraries Program at Global 2000 in Brighton (\$1500)**
- d. Display officer candidate biographies on division web page.**

IV. Treasurers report (MacLean): The division is solvent with assets of \$32,010.74. A full report was submitted to the board and no further recommendations were

made.

V. Committee reports:

a. **Director (Schiff):** The Procedures Manual has been updated and while not available in print, it is available in html or pdf format from the Division Web page. Schiff will give Perez (incoming director) copies of chapters in "Word" format. A report has been submitted to the board and the Long-Range-Plan ad hoc committee will meet on Sunday and report to the new executive board.

b. **Awards Committee (Boorkman):** Fred Roper has been nominated for the John Cotton Dana Award and guidelines have been approved for the Winifred Sewell Prize which will be awarded to Naomi Broering. A report was submitted to the board and no further recommendations were made.

c. **Bylaws Committee (Kelland):** A revised report was distributed to the board. The proposed change to Article IX, Section 2 will be voted on by the membership at the business meeting. No further recommendations were made.

d. **Fund Development Committee (Malley):** \$7,500 was obtained from 17 sponsors. A report was submitted to the board and the committee recommended that the program chair attend the winter meeting and receive a travel stipend equivalent to that received by the chair and chair-elect. The motion was seconded by MacLean and carried.

e. **Membership Committee (Duggar):** The committee recommends that SLA inform the membership chair not only of new members, but of address changes as well. The timeliness and timeline of renewal notices is also of concern. MacLean suggested that Wojcik raise this question at the chapter cabinet meeting. The committee also suggested a change to the procedures manual and brochure and raised the issue of committee member term limits. The board received a full report.

f. **Nominations and Elections Committee (Schrader):** The winners of the election were Virginia Lingle (Chair-elect), John Tebo (Secretary), and Julia Perez (Director). The committee had \$371 in expenses and submitted a full report to the board recommending a continued investigation into alternatives to mailed ballots.

g. **Professional Development Committee (Schmidt):** This year, two tours are being co-sponsored with the Natural History Caucus. 15 people enrolled in the CE course. The committee recommended the use of a student intern to assist with the course as was done this year. They also recommend that the chair of the committee be appointed early in the spring. This suggestion was discussed and agreed to by the board. The Chair and Chair-elect will effect an appropriate change in the procedure manual.

h. **Public Relations Committee (Weiss):** A discussion of the division web site

took place. Lepzelter will now assume responsibility for the site and will consider moving the web pages to the SLA headquarters site (advertisements in the electronic version of *Biofeedback* may be a problem if we use the HQ site). The committee had two recommendations: that a web subcommittee is appointed and that the division is consistent in the use of the official acronym. A survey of Public Relations chairs from other divisions was undertaken. The distribution of "hearts" to the vendors was, by consensus, determined to be the responsibility of the Public Relations Committee. A discussion of other possible PR tasks were discussed including promotion of division activities via other listservs or promotion of the contributed papers session. A full report was submitted to the board and the incoming board will undertake a further discussion.

i. Publications Committee (Nabe): This committee has experienced a 100% turnover. Future contributions to *Biofeedback* will include a series of articles on how to get published and member biographies. A roundtable on the publishing process is planned for next year's conference and may require funds to bring in an editor or publisher.

j. Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee (Turner): Welcome letters were sent to 30 new student members. It is difficult to promote student involvement, but free tickets and a promotion for the CE course took place on both the listserv and the web site.

k. Vendor Relations Committee (Bronars): The committee organized the Vendor Roundtable. Many tickets to this event have been sold and it may be repeated next year.

l. Contributed Papers Session (MacLean): Next year the session will focus on some aspect of electronic journals. No recommendations were made.

m. Philadelphia Program Committee (Malley): There will be a planning meeting tomorrow. Schiff will take the lead on a program on dinosaurs (co-sponsor with NHC). Tenant will take the lead on a microbiology program and Nabe will take the lead on the publishing roundtable. Deborah Blum (bioethics author) may be requested as a speaker.

VI. Medical Section Report (Zipperer, delivered by Barnard): The section had 168 members as of January (more now). The business meeting of the section is scheduled for tomorrow. Schiff noted that there is nothing on the medical section in the procedure manual.

VII. MLA Liaison Report (Boorkman): The 100th anniversary of MLA took place during the meeting in Chicago with the theme "Present Tense, Future Perfect". The keynote speaker was Daniel Burris and the conference ended with a presentation by Clifford Lynch.

VIII. New Business:

a. *Biofeedback* (Tebo): Tebo recommended that *Biofeedback* be published electronically. When surveyed, only 9 members responded and two of those opposed elimination of the print. Duggar noted that 75% of the membership has email and Wojcik will query list to see if email reminders of electronic *Biofeedback* publication would be acceptable. Tebo noted that bulk mailings are low priority and are not delivered in a timely manner and if published electronically we may no longer require advertisement income to cover expenses. Duggar will attend the bulletin editors meeting. Aug.1, 1999 is the deadline for the next issue, Treasurer will now invoice vendors for their advertisements and MacLean will see that changes are reflected in the procedure manual. Barbara Crane who is retiring currently handles bulk mailing. Tebo will take care of transferring the bulk mail permit.

b. Ad Hoc Committee on Election Process (Schrader): Electronic ballots were not deemed acceptable by SLA. To conduct the election more efficiently, the committee proposes to use *Biofeedback* for ballots and candidate biographies. The committee suggested an alternative timeline. A full report was submitted to and accepted by the board.

c. Ad Hoc Long Range Plan Committee (Schiff): Discussion deferred until the next Executive Board Meeting

IX. Meeting adjourned (Wojcik)

**Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
Annual Business Meeting
Minneapolis, Minnesota
June 8, 1999**

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions:** Judy Wojcik called The meeting to order at 7:55 am. Vendors were thanked for their sponsorship of events at the 1999 conference: American Chemical Society, BIOSIS, CABI, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Chemical Abstracts, CISTI, EBSCO, Elsevier Science, Health Sciences Libraries of Minnesota, ISI, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Majors Scientific Books, Inc., Merck Research Laboratories, OVID Technologies, Inc., Rittenhouse, SilverPlatter, Springer-Verlag. Members of the outgoing as well as incoming board were introduced. Special guests, including the SLA board proctor Dottie Moon and student continuing education award winner Michelle Schewe were introduced.

- 2. Minutes of the June 9, 1998 Annual Business meeting were approved as submitted.**

- 3. Treasurer's Report: An "Account Balances Report" as well as a "Cash Flow Report" were submitted. Division assets totaled \$32,010.74. The division had \$22,302.24 in operating funds, and \$9,708.50 in the SLA pooled fund. Income from bulletin advertisements, contributions, dues allotments, interest income and sponsorships totaled \$14,270.62 and bulletin, committee and officer travel expenses totaled \$3,379.95 resulting in a total income (income minus expenses) of \$10,890.67.**
- 4. Election results: Lucy Rowland, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee announced the results of the election. Virginia Lingle will be chair-elect for 1999/2000, John Tebo will be Secretary and Julia Perez will be Director.**
- 5. Bylaws changes: Bylaws Committee Chair Larry Kelland read the revised text of Article IX, Section 2 of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division bylaws. A vote was taken and the proposed changes carried.**
- 6. Brief committee reports:**

Awards Committee (Boorkman, chair): Fred W. Roper, past Division chair and SLA Fellow will receive the SLA John Cotton Dana Award. The committee also developed guidelines for the Winifred Sewell Prize for Innovation in Information Technologies in Biomedical and Life Sciences Librarianship.

Fund Development Committee (Malley, chair): \$7,500 was obtained from vendors this past year (a record as noted by Wojcik).

Membership (Duggar, chair): The membership committee will now handle the landmark member certificates. This year six members were honored: Clara Cziske (45 years); Alice J. Kennedy (35 years); and Jane Rogers Bottoms, Natalie N. Owen, Cynthia H. Plockelman and Virginia R. Weiser (all 30 years). The membership now totals nearly 700 and a new brochure has been produced.

Nominations and Elections Committee (Rowland, chair): An ad hoc committee investigated the possible use of electronic balloting for division elections and as a first step candidate resumes are being posted on the division web site.

Professional Development Committee (Schmidt, chair and reported by Laura Osegueda): Surveys were distributed to the membership to solicit input. The committee this year offered a continuing education course on Online Resources in Alternative Medicine.

Public Relations Committee (Cooper Weiss, chair): The primary committee activity this year has been to maintain and move the division web site. They have surveyed Public Relations Committees from other divisions and have arranged to have a group meeting with members from these other committees.

Publications Committee (Nabe, chair): The committee will submit a series of articles for Biofeedback on the topic of "getting published". A roundtable on "getting published" will be offered at the Philadelphia conference.

Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee (Turner, chair): We currently have 60 student members.

Vendor Relations Committee (Bronars, chair and reported by Wojcik): The vendor round table was quite successful and over 100 tickets were sold for that event.

Contributed Papers Session, Minneapolis (MacLean, chair): The theme for the 1999 Contributed Papers Session is "Getting the message across: innovation in library instruction and training in biomedical and life science libraries". Five papers will be delivered during the session. 100 print copies of the proceedings will be available at the session and an electronic version will be made available on the division web site.

New Nominations Committee (Yocum, chair): The nominations committee will need candidates for Chair-Elect (3-year commitment) and Treasurer (2-year commitment). They will begin to search for candidates at the end of the summer. Please notify the committee if you will volunteer or know of someone to nominate.

Long Range Plan Ad Hoc Committee (Schiff, chair): The committee continues to refine the long-range plan of the division.

Election Procedures Ad Hoc Committee: (Schrader): This ad hoc committee investigated the feasibility of electronic balloting and as a first step will post member resumes on the web site (in lieu of first class mailings). A revised timeline for elections was also presented.

Liaison, SLA International Relations Committee (Fisher, Liaison): There was nothing to report from this committee.

Liaison to Medical Libraries Association (Boorkman, liaison): Carla Funk, Director of MLA was introduced. A description of the Chicago meeting and the development of a new corporate member section was discussed. During the report Fred Roper reminded the group that Boorkman has been named a Fellow of MLA.

Liaison, SLA Affirmative Action Committee (Perez, liaison): There was nothing to report from the committee this year.

Medical Section (Lori Zipperer, chair): There were 20 people in attendance at the business meeting. They hosted an informal education event and Pam Barnard will continue with a similar program next year.

- 7. Presentation of Awards: The "Distinguished Member Award" was given to Eleanor MacLean and the Winifred Sewell Prize was awarded to Naomi Broering.**

- 8. Chair's Report (Wojcik): She has been very impressed with the work done by all of the committees this year. In particular, she was pleased to see the development of the Winifred Sewell Prize and the willingness of the division to co-sponsor Global 2000 in Brighton next year.**

- 9. Announcements:**
 - a. Alesia McManus will now be the listserv manager.**

 - b. Michele Tennant is on the publication committee of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (publishers of Bioscience) and is seeking librarian input on pre-print and two/tier publishing options, archiving and aggregators.**

 - c. Possible programming for next year includes a roundtable on getting published, how the Internet has transformed health care, molecular biology resources, biomedical ethics, dinosaurs and biological exuberance (Malley).**

- 10. Installation of new officers: Annie Malley will be Chair, Virginia Lingle will be Chair-elect, John Tebo will be Secretary, Julia Perez will be Director and Eleanor MacLean will continue as Treasurer.**

- 11. Meeting adjourned at 8:50**

**Respectfully submitted
Barbara Butler**

FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE BRINGING IN THE DOLLARS!

Virginia Lingle
Chair-Elect and Fund Development Committee, Chair

The Fund Development Committee for Division Programming at the Philadelphia Annual Meeting in 2000 has been hard at work to contact potential sponsors. To date, over \$2,000 in pledges have been made and "we're not done yet!" The members of the committee include: Renee Bush (SUNY Buffalo); Linda Maddux (Willamette University); Heather Munger (University of Buffalo); Janet Weiss (Wyeth-Ayerst Research); Brian Westra (Montana State University); and Virginia Lingle (Pennsylvania State University). Any suggestions for potential sponsorship are welcomed. Please contact the committee chair, Virginia Lingle, with information. She can be reached at vlingle@psghs.edu or 717-531-8581. To date we have verbal commitments of support from the following companies: Springer, ADIS International, Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Majors, and the American Chemical Society. If you have any business dealings with these companies, be sure to thank them for their support.

NOTE ON VENDOR RELATIONS SURVEY

Lori Bronars
Vendor Relations Committee, Chair

In order to solicit vendor participants for the Breakfast Round Table, the Vendor Relations Committee designed and distributed a brief survey form. Those vendors who returned the survey form and some who were contacted at the exhibits were considered possible participants and communications with them ensured. Survey forms or communications received after the July 15th deadline will be kept on file for possible future use. The vendor presentations at the Minneapolis conference Division breakfast and those planned for Philadelphia have taken the place of the survey summary promised for *Biofeedback*.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

Jonathan Nabe
Publications Committee, Chair

The Publications Committee welcomes a new member, John Sisson, Biology Librarian at the University of California - Irvine. Below is his contact information:

John Sisson, Science Library, P.O. Box 19556, Irvine, CA 92623-9556; 949-824-4980; 949-824-3114 fax; jsisson@uci.edu

The Publications Committee continues its series on the ins and outs of getting published with a contribution from David Duggar. Last time, we learned about book publishing. This article, which will be published in three parts, addresses the possibilities of publishing in the state library association journals. As Mr. Duggar points out, there are frequently many opportunities of getting in print at this level.

To some, it may seem that this is starting small, but it's a good way to get the ball rolling. Once you have a history of publishing behind you, it becomes easier to find a venue for your written wisdom!

We are still looking for contributions from our colleagues. If you would like to help out with this series, contact me at jnabe@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

**Publishing at the State Level: Part One
by David Duggar**

One way of 'breaking in' to the publishing world is participating on the Editorial Board for a journal. Many state library associations have a journal as their main vehicle of information. For the Louisiana Library Association it was the *LLA Bulletin* which is in the process of changing its name to *Louisiana Libraries*. The Editorial Board for the *Bulletin* consisted of the Editor, Advertising Manager, and Section Representatives. There were seven Sections when I served, now eight, ranging from Academic to Public to New Members Round Table. Each Section had one member on the Board to represent their interests and make sure that the whole association was being covered by the *Bulletin* in its articles and columns. Each served a two year term, with half rotating off on alternating years. I was the Subject Specialists Section representative from 1993-1995 which covered Volumes 56 and 57 of the *Bulletin*.

Getting on the Board was easy. Every year there are postings for volunteers to serve on committees or consider running for office. Very few people volunteer to serve on the Editorial Board and I was the only one that year for my Section. It was a great learning experience.

Not only do you find out the financial aspects - printing and postage costs, differences in paper, numbers of ink colors useable, minimum and maximum number of pages can have in an issue - but also the meat of the issue - single articles, theme issues, cover illustrations, set columns, and specific association news that must appear in specific issues.

As the *Bulletin* was a peer reviewed journal, Editorial Board members also served as one of the reviewers for articles submitted based on their subject areas and Section represented. Members approved proposals for theme issues, approved cover illustrations, and selected the photos from the state conference that would be included in the annual conference report. Members also interviewed applicants for *Bulletin* Editor and Column Editors when positions became available. Board members also had the opportunity to participate as the Indexer for a Volume. Much of the work was done via regular mail with four quarterly meetings prior to the publishing of the four quarterly issues composing the *Bulletin*. Based on their experiences as an Editorial Board member, many later submitted articles or proposals for theme issues. Some have also served as Column Editors.

If your state library association publishes a journal, consider volunteering to serve on their Editorial Board. It is a great learning experience on how a journal works and can help you to better prepare yourself for submitting for publication.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS LIAISON REPORT

Barb Butler
Government Relations Liaison

On August 12th Commerce Secretary William M. Daley announced his intention to seek congressional approval to close the National Technical Information Service (NTIS). The press release and associated fact sheet can be obtained at <http://www.doc.gov/>. Specifically, the DOC proposal calls for the closure of the NTIS, transfer of NTIS archives to Library of Congress and calls for free public access to government technical and business reports via the Internet.

Established in 1950, and mandated to be self-supporting, the NTIS has served as a clearinghouse for technical, scientific and engineering information produced by government agencies. However, NTIS has failed to show a profit since 1993 and their sales of documents fell from 2.3 million units in 1993 to 1.3 million units in 1998. This may be due to the fact that federal agencies are beginning to bypass NTIS and offer their publications directly to the public via the Internet.

On September 14th, Caroline C. Long, AUL for Collection Services, George Washington University, testified before the Subcommittee on Technology of the House Science Committee. Speaking on behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries, American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, Medical Library Association and Special Libraries Association she made three distinct points:

"First, NTIS should not be closed nor its services transferred until there is a thorough assessment of the full range of NTIS services, of alternatives for providing each service, and of the current requirement that the NTIS program be self-supporting. Second, NTIS provides unique centralized services that are critically important to the ability of the public to locate and have access to the government's STI (scientific and technical information) resources, including the tangible collection and current agency web-based publication. And third, technology has not yet solved two key challenges in moving towards greater dissemination of STI reports through the Internet: those challenges are centralized bibliographic access and permanent public access." Her full statement can be obtained at http://www.sla.org/govt/ntis_one.html.

SLA Executive Director David R. Bender echoes these same sentiments in a letter to Secretary Daley (located at <http://www.sla.org/govt/daley.html>). He states: "The primary concern for SLA lies in the availability of present and future publications in printed format. SLA agrees with the shift in focus to electronic availability of NTIS products. However, special librarians and information professionals believe that their users will always require hardcopy products to meet certain needs." Another concern he expressed is that the library community was not given a chance to review and comment on this proposal. SLA would like your opinion on the proposed NTIS closure and you can forward your comments via email to Public

IFLA's Section of Biological and Medical Sciences

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) was established in 1927 as a small association of mainly national library associations and academic libraries. The federation was one of the first international non-profit, non-governmental organizations aiming to further the cause of librarianship. Today IFLA is an organization of worldwide scope representing more than 1600 members in almost 150 countries all over the world. Its purpose is to promote international understanding, cooperation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity, including bibliography, information services and the education of personnel, and provide a body through which librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest.

The IFLA Section of Biological and Medical Sciences Libraries was founded in 1978 to represent and act as a forum for special libraries concerned with all aspects of information dissemination and services in relation to the health sciences and biological sciences.

The Section's general aims include: the promotion of cooperation between biological and health sciences libraries; the facilitation of the development and application of new technology relevant to those libraries; the consideration of means for better provision of health care information to consumers; the promotion of cooperative activity between national and international library associations of biological and medical sciences libraries; and, the promotion of cooperation with the World Health Organization and other relevant international bodies.

IFLA's annual conference and exhibition is the largest international event for professionals within the library and information sector. This year, IFLA's 65th Council and General Conference took place in Bangkok, Thailand, 20-28 August. The annual conference provides an excellent opportunity for thousands of delegates, experts, and library and information officers from all over the world to exchange ideas and share experiences as well as to introduce new innovations and products.

The Section offers an open session at each annual IFLA conference, sometimes in coordination with the Science and Technology Libraries Section. Some of the programs offered in recent years were: *An Enlightened Citizen and His Health: Consumer Health Information Worldwide; Changing the Culture of Libraries: the Impact of Electronics; Improving Access to Electronic Scientific and Medical Information*; plus a full-day workshop, *Resource Sharing in Medical Libraries: Informatics and Human Aspects*.

You or your institution may become a member of IFLA; there are both personal and institutional memberships. IFLA also has two categories of voting members: Association Members and Institutional Members. Association membership is open to not only associations of libraries, librarians and library schools, but also to

associations of bibliographical and research institutes which are primarily concerned with the implementation of the purposes of the Federation. Additionally, there are two important categories of non-voting members: personal affiliates and sponsors.

All IFLA members and affiliates are entitled to register for Sections and Round Tables of their choice. When registered, voting members have the right to nominate experts for the Standing Committees of the Sections of which they are members. The Section of Biological and Medical Libraries is recruiting new members. Anyone who is a member of an affiliated association, such as SLA, may become a Standing Committee member if nominated by one association member, or nominated by two institutional or personal affiliates. No nominations are required to become a personal member. Please contact Ysabel Bertolucci (ysabel.bertolucci@kp.org), Chair of the Section, for further information.

Do visit the [IFLA web site](#) to learn more about the Federation and the [Section of Biological and Medical Libraries](#).

Renee Bush

SLA Delegate to the Standing Committee of the Section of Biological and Medical Libraries, 1997-2000.

BSDNET-L: The Division's Listserv

Alesia McManus
co-list-owner, BSDNET-L

I would like to encourage members of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division to subscribe to BSDNET-L to stay informed about current happenings in the Division as well as to communicate with your colleagues if have questions or need to disseminate relevant information. In the near future, the listserv will be renamed BIO-SLA to reflect the change in the division name. This change should occur with no disruption to the list.

The commands below should be sent to listserv@listserv.ncsu.edu. Remember to leave the subject link blank when you send commands to the listserver.

To subscribe to BSDNET-L, send the message: subscribe BSDNET-L firstname lastname

The subscription request is forwarded to me for verification of SLA membership so there may be slight delay between the time you send your message and the time you are subscribed.

To unsubscribe to BSDNET-L, sent the message: unsubscribe BSDNET-L

If you will be out of the office and use an automatic reply feature, please either postpone BSDNET-L mail or temporarily unsubscribe to the list.

To postpone mail, send the message: set BSDNET-L mail postpone

To resume mail, send the message: set BSDNET-L mail noack (or ack)

For assistance with other sendings, send the message: help set

To post a message to BSDNET-L, once you are subscribed, send the message to bsdnet-l@listserv.ncsu.edu. BSDNET-L is unmoderated so your message will be automatically posted to the listserv.

For assistance, please contact, Alesia McManus, am245@umail.umd.edu or Laura Osegueda, laura_osegueda@ncsu.edu

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

The Division Awards Committee is now taking nominations for the Distinguished Member Award. Applications, using the nomination form, are now being accepted until March 15, 2000.

The Biomedical and Life Sciences Division has many distinguished members. This award affords us an opportunity to recognize a member for his/her hard work and dedication. Please take a few minutes to read the selection of criteria and then nominate one of your fellow BIO members for this award.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1. The award honors a member who has been active in the Division for at least the past four (4) years.**
- 2. Particular attention will be given to contributions to the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division.**
- 3. The following broad criteria will govern the selection process:
Nominees must excel in one or more areas:**
 - Outstanding leadership in the Division, at meetings, and/or in committee work**
 - Special and notable service to the Division, such as participation in special projects**
 - Participation in workshops, seminars, teaching courses, public speaking activities, fund raising**
 - Publications and editorial contributions to Biofeedback and/or other professional literature**
 - Innovations in the work place**
 - Mentoring activities, which result in publicity and acclaim for the profession and/or the Division**
 - Other achievements indicating noteworthy dedication to the profession of special librarianship/information science.**
- 4. The Contributions made by the candidate shall have been made over an extended period of time and shall be deemed to have had an enduring effect on the Division and/or the profession.**

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Complete the Nomination Form. Attach documentation describing the outstanding professional achievements or contributions to the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of SLA and to special librarianship/information sciences. Include pertinent biographical data for the nominee. Forward the nomination form and description, in confidence, with your name, phone number and e-mail address to the chair of the Awards Committee.

Please use the Division Nomination Form (available in [html](#) or [pdf](#)) to submit names for either the Distinguished Member Award or the Winifred Sewell Prize.

WINIFRED SEWELL PRIZE FOR INNOVATION IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES LIBRARIANSHIP

The WINIFRED SEWELL PRIZE FOR INNOVATION IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES is granted by the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association to a member who has shown leadership and innovation in the development and/or use of advanced technologies in the organization or dissemination of biomedical and life sciences information.

The Prize is named in honor of Winifred Sewell, who has been a member of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division since 1946. Miss Sewell was Senior Librarian at Squibb Institute of Medical Research from 1946 until 1961. She was instrumental in the development of MEDLARS as Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) Specialist and later served as Deputy Chair of the Biological Services Division and Head of the Drug Literature Program at the National Library of Medicine. Miss Sewell served as President of the Special Libraries Association from 1960-1961, was President of the Drug Information Association from 1970-1971, and serves as Honorary President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in its 100th anniversary year in 1999-2000. She is the first woman and first librarian to be so honored. In addition, Miss Sewell is a Fellow of the Medical Library Association and is recipient of MLA's Eliot Prize for her book *Guide to Drug Information* (1977). In 1998 she was inducted into SLA's Hall of Fame at the annual conference in Indianapolis and currently serves on the Division's Awards Committee.

The Prize shall consist of an engraved plaque and a check in the amount of \$250.

The Division's Awards Committee shall select the conferee, based on the following criteria:

- Innovation in developing and applying new technologies**
- Commitment to educating others about new technologies**
- Ongoing and sustained interest in fostering, creation or adaptation of emerging technologies to improve access to information in biomedical and life sciences.**

The Winifred Sewell Prize will be awarded at the annual business meeting of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division at the annual conference, but not necessarily every year.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Complete the nomination form (available in [html](#) or [pdf](#)). Attach documentation describing the nominee's achievements in information technologies and life sciences librarianship. Include pertinent biographical data for the nominee. Forward the nomination form and documentation, in confidence, with your name, phone number and e-mail address to the chair of the Division's Awards Committee. Nominations will be accepted until March 15, 2000.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS NEWS

**Janet Cooper Weiss
SLA International Relations Committee Liaison**

NCLIS LAUNCHES SURVEY OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN

INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

The U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) is launching a survey of U.S. participation in international forums that address major policy concerns and issues of importance to the library and information (LIS) communities. A key objective of the survey is to create a database that can be used as a research and reference tool to help ascertain which individuals and institutions, if any, are already participating in international activities that are addressing such issues and concerns.

Over the years the Commission has become aware of many individuals who are actively participating in international library and information science (LIS) policy issue discussions and debates, and who have established and maintained contact with various kinds of international organizations to facilitate participating in and tracking those debates. NCLIS believes that it is very important, even critical, to ensure that a U.S. voice is heard in the increasing number of meetings, workshops, and seminars that are taking place around the world. A few of the many topics of keen interest to our field are information and telecommunication standards, intellectual property rights, privacy and confidentiality, security and encryption, evolution of the Internet and the global information superhighway, and difference in national information policies.

The end-result sought from the survey is to sharpen, strengthen, extend and make more cost-effective both the collective and individual future U.S. participation in these forums and activities. After the data have been compiled, the library and information communities will be able to access the inventory electronically.

If you or your organization participates in international organizations, please

complete the survey. It is available online (<http://www.nclis.gov/libinter/internat.html>), it can be downloaded as an HTML file, or it can be returned in hard copy form. If you have questions or would like a printed copy of the survey, contact NCLIS consultants Woody Horton (202-606-9200 or whorton@nclis.gov) or Barbara Whiteleather (202-606-9200 or bwhiteleather@nclis.gov).

Marydee Ojala
Chair, International Relations Committee

**Medical Section Business Meeting
SLA Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
June 6, 1999
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

The meeting was called to order by Section Chair Lorri Zipperer at 1:30 p.m.

Present were:

Pamela Barnard (Allina Health Systems), Julianne Beall (Library of Congress), Jo Anne Boorkman (U of California, Davis), Renee Bush (SUNY, Buffalo), June Carter (Northwestern U), Nancy Curtis (U of Maine), Tom Cutshall (U of Georgia), David Duggar (LSU Med Center), Mary Hay Glass (American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology), Carla Heister (Utah State U), Janet Hughes (Penn State), Larry Kelland (U of Rhode Island), Della Jacobson (Health Knowledge Network), Ramune Kubilius (Northwestern U), Wayne Loftus (SUNY, Buffalo), Doug Macbeth (The Jackson Laboratory), Barbara Olliges (Ernst & Young), Judy Wojcik (HPHRS), Lorri Zipperer (National Patient Safety Foundation)

Attendees were welcomed, and a sign-in sheet was circulated.

Lorri reported a good year for the Medical Section. It was noted that the upcoming Tuesday session was to be the only program instigated solely by the Medical Section at this year's SLA Annual Meeting. As the new Section Chair, Pam Barnard wants to carry on the tradition by planning future SLA sessions.

During this year the Medical Section has used the electronic mailing list BSDNET-L to communicate the activities of the Section. It was noted that the Section should continue to use the list to communicate and generate discussion. The initial strategic directions of the Medical Section were published in the previous Biofeedback.

Lorri introduced this year's new officers: Pam Barnard as Section Chair and June Carter as Secretary. The Section had not yet found a Chair-Elect. Brief informal self-introductions were made by attendees.

For the first time, the Medical Section included an educational segment as part of the Business Meeting. Janet Hughes of Penn State University presented a talk entitled, "Training others to search the Internet -- What you need to know - what

you need to show." Included in the talk were background information on the Web and search engines, how search engines work, what to look for in a search engine, and basic criteria for Web site evaluation. There was a handout covering these topics and including a webliography of sources about evaluating Internet resources and about comparing search engines.

The Minutes from the June 1998 Business Meeting (previously published in *Biofeedback*) were distributed, briefly reviewed, and accepted.

The Medical Section Strategic Initiatives (previously published in *Biofeedback*) were distributed and discussed. The question arose as to whether you must be a part of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division to be a member of the Medical Section, and the answer was yes. In reference to Initiative 6, regarding the Section's participation in and collaboration with the Medical Library Association, a question arose about the status of a corporate member division within MLA. It was reported that this division did meet this year at the MLA Annual Conference, and that next year it would have provisional status. An inquiry was made about the MLA Molecular Biology and Genomics Special Interest Group. June Carter reported that the SIG meeting went well at MLA. At the SIG meeting an overview of Molecular Biology was given, as well as new developments with NCBI resources. Renata McCarthy announced that she would be stepping down as convener of the group and was looking for those interested in taking over the role. Also, a question arose about cooperation between MLA and SLA. It was uncertain whether this type of relationship was permitted. It was stated that such a relationship was not prohibited, and a suggestion was made that during a national conference of either MLA or SLA, the local chapter of the other association could coordinate with the national association (to set up programming, generate interest, etc.). This would be a one-time commitment for the local chapter, and would show the value of participating in both associations. It was mentioned that MLA chapter meetings might allow the possibility for coordination with regional SLA meetings. A question was posed about the role of the Medical Section in programming for the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division, regarding medical topics. It was noted that the Medical Section Chair currently has a role on the BIO Programming Committee. An important factor mentioned in relation to programming possibilities was the multidisciplinary nature of the medical field. This might allow for the attraction of those working in related areas such as the insurance industry or the pharmaceutical industry.

Pam Barnard, as the new Chair, led a discussion of programming ideas for the Philadelphia Conference in the year 2000. One idea was to look at the role the Internet has had in transforming healthcare. This might be approached using a panel. The panel might include a physician to discuss how the Internet has changed their practice, an insurance provider to talk about things like what information they are disseminating through the Internet, and someone from a hospital to discuss how informatics are used there (specifically electronic patient records). Another idea for the panel was to have a speaker from the Healthcare Consortium. A comment was made that since nurses and health educators use the library more often than some of the other groups mentioned, perhaps it would be

good to hear from someone in that realm. As a separate programming idea, Larry Kelland suggested something related to the connection between MEDLINE, Entrez and GenBank. A third programming idea dealt with knowledge management with a focus on medicine. Speakers might include business people and librarians. The MLA Hospital Libraries Section could be contacted for possible cooperation. The Joint Commission (JCAHO) might be approached for sponsorship since they track information control in the hospital. In addition, Pam had an idea about for a bioethics program, and a program about how genetics is changing healthcare was mentioned. Pam requested that anyone with further ideas should call or e-mail her.

Finally, attendees were asked if the brief and informal nature of the Medical Section Business Meeting was acceptable and should continue. Attendees responded with a unanimous yes.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
June Carter, Secretary

MEDICAL SECTION UPDATE

Pamela Barnard
1999-2000 Chair, Medical Section

Plans are taking shape nicely for some thought-provoking, as well as fun, events related to medical and health care topics in Philadelphia for SLA 2000.

Lorri Zipperer, past-chair of the Medical Section, has been working very hard on organizing a social event in collaboration with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Medical Library Association. This local chapter of MLA is very enthusiastic about meeting with Medical Section members in a relaxed setting to network and get to know each other. Early Sunday evening, June 11th, there will be a wine and cheese reception at the famous Mutter Museum - College of Physicians. Called by some the weirdest museum by a mile, the Museum's goal is to educate the public about how medicine was practiced and taught in the past through the display of old medical equipment and real and wax teaching models. There should be plenty of topics for conversation in this setting. Plan to come and meet some new colleagues and enjoy the fun!

The program that the Medical Section is planning on the transformation of health care in the Information Age is also taking shape. Currently we have two confirmed panelists: Dr. Paul Kleeberg, a family practice physician and computer consultant, who will address how he uses the Internet in his practice, as well as his involvement in Allina Health Systems new consumer health site: medformation.com; and John Mack, president and co-founder of the [Internet Healthcare Coalition](#), a collaboration of individuals from both for-profit and non-profit environments whose common goal is to encourage quality healthcare information and services on the Internet. Watch for your preliminary program

and/or the SLA conference web site for details on the date and time of this exciting program which should be relevant to the information specialist working in a medical or health care environment, as well as anyone who consumes health care!

Finally, I would like to formally invite abstracts by any interested Medical Section member to present to their colleagues in an informal setting at the Annual Medical Section Business Meeting at SLA 2000 in Philadelphia. This is an excellent chance to "get your feet wet" at presenting on a topic of your choosing. Last year Janet Hughes of Penn State University presented on the topic of teaching Internet skills. Please send a brief abstract of your topic (250 words or less) to the Medical Section chair as soon as possible. The Medical Section officers will select one presenter from those abstracts submitted to conduct a 20-25 minute presentation during the Medical Section Business Meeting on Sunday, June 11, 11:00-12:30. The deadline for submission will be posted on BSDNET listserv. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the chair.

See you in Philadelphia!

Pamela Barnard, Medical Section Chair, Allina Health System, Information Services Division, Library Services, Internal Zip 14001, 800 E. 28 Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407. Phone: 612-863-3289; fax: 612-863-5695; email: barnard@allina.com

BIOLIFE: STUDENT COLUMN FOR *BIOFEEDBACK*

**Tom Turner
Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee, Chair**

As a library school student, you've probably already noticed that very few of your classmates have extensive past educational experience in the life sciences/health sciences. While there has been an increase in recent years in library school students with strong computer science and technology backgrounds, it's fair to say that library school students with strong life sciences/ health sciences backgrounds remain a minority.

A colleague of mine at a state university told me recently of his library's difficulties in filling a position for science librarian. Having been disappointed with the inadequate response to an earlier ad, the library was trying again. This time they were relaxing the position requirements in hopes of getting a better response. This library's quandary illuminated the challenges facing libraries involved in recruiting science librarians--while libraries want to ideally select a librarian with a strong science background, the marketplace often doesn't cooperate.

Let's step back for a second and look at the requirements of the job advertisements for science librarians, especially life sciences or health sciences librarians. As I mentioned in an earlier "BioLife" column, in looking at a job ad the first area of concern is the "Requirements" section. Your job application will quickly be discarded if you don't meet all of the requirements. And, yes, a number of academic libraries do require a second master's degree (highly probable with tenure-track positions) or an undergraduate degree in the sciences. If you don't have either of

these, there's no use in applying for those job ads (unless there is flexibility in the ad for the position being non-tenure and thus limited). If, on the other hand, a second science degree is listed as a preference, not a requirement of the job, you may be able to win an interview if you have skills or experience in the sciences that might prove as attractive to a search committee.

For example, if you don't have an undergraduate degree in the sciences, but took extensive undergraduate courses in the sciences, particularly in the life sciences or related courses, mention that in your application. If you took graduate level work in the sciences that's another bonus. Even non-library related job experience in the sciences, volunteer work in a science related area, or taking extracurricular courses and workshops in the sciences could help your application stand out. Don't try to over-inflate what experience you have in the sciences; if you do, it will surely come back to haunt you. But do an inventory of your experiences and interests; you might be surprised that there could be something you've already done that you can add to your job application.

Read the advertisement very carefully. You should address all requirements and as many preferences listed in the job ad based on your experience. Some advertisements try to allow some leeway in your responses. For example, an ad that indicates you should show "understanding of the information needs of scientists" may leave you an opening for you to include library school experience, say in designing a web page for a research lab. Likewise, "experience providing public service in a science environment" could include student intern experience working reference at a science library.

Nor can you rule out the value of your experiences in non-science areas. A library may be willing to overlook your lack of experience in the sciences if you have highly marketable skills or experience that they need, such as a strong background in computer support or web page development.

In preparing this column I did an informal survey of some of my colleagues in the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. I wanted to get a sense of the diversity of education and experience in the sciences from your fellow BIO Division members prior to getting their first professional librarian position in the sciences. As I had guessed, the answers ranged the whole spectrum from minimal undergraduate experience in the sciences to masters' degrees in range management and microbiology to doctoral degrees in biology and immunology. A number of librarians in the survey had undergraduate degrees in the sciences. Most indicated that they were able to start off their professional library career in a position where the job description specified responsibility for the sciences in some way-- bibliographic instruction, collection development, cataloging, etc. So they were able to successfully ply their science background into getting a science librarian position.

Getting your foot in the door for that first job as a science librarian can be challenging, no matter what your background is. If you have a strong background in the sciences as evidenced in additional degrees and course work, you can definitely use that experience to your advantage. But if you don't have such a background,

don't give up hope. Review your past experiences in the sciences as well as your other marketable skills and experience, and tailor these experiences to the job ad in question. Unless you don't qualify for the job based on the minimal requirements, you may be able to draw the attention of a search committee enough to make the final cut and thus meet your ultimate goal-- becoming a science librarian.

Thanks to all the BIO Division members who responded to my informal survey for this column: Barb Butler, Tom Cutshall, Lucy Rowland, Larry Wright, Larry Kelland, John Tebo, June Carter, and Eleanor MacLean. Heroes all.

I'd like to extend a big welcome to the newest member of the Student Relations/Career Guidance Committee, Wayne Loftus. Wayne is nearing the completion of his MLS at the University at Buffalo, and finishing his thesis for an MAH in English Literature. He expects to be done with both in the Spring of 2000. Weekend reference supervisor at the Health Sciences Library at UB, Wayne is also the president of the university's SLA student group and busily organizing the final touches on a new program this fall: "Preparing for the Job Hunt: A Workshop for Future Librarians." Having relocated from Minneapolis, where he completed his BA in English Literature at the University of Minnesota, Wayne is hoping to find employment in a medical library somewhere in the upper Midwest upon finishing his studies.

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Address Changes

If you have a change of address or phone number, please send this information to SLA so that they can be updated. You can mail those changes to: Membership Department, SLA, 1700 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009-2514

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

As of the end of September, the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division had 698 members. The membership totals are:

25 Associate Members
4 45-Year Members
7 Sustaining Members
7 Life/Honorary Members
570 Members
12 Retired Members
73 Student Members

Diane Schmidt
Membership Committee, Chair

SLA BIOMEDICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION OFFICERS & APPOINTEES, 1999/2000

MEMBER NEWS

Zana Etter is the editor of the International News Column for the Medical Library Association News monthly publication. If anyone has anything of international interest re: SLA that they'd like to see mentioned in the MLA News column, they can email her at etter@rwja.umdj.edu. Deadlines for the January issue of MLA News is November 25th.

Biofeedback

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