

Contents

Chair's Message	1
Medical Section	2
Call for Papers	4
MLA Liaison	6
Member News & Publications	7

Message from the Chair

Chris Hooper-Lane

Time flies when you are having fun ... so the saying goes; yet I think it sails even faster when one is busy. It is hard to believe we have blown through the summer and the sun is setting on autumn and everyone, and I mean everyone, seems to be swamped at work. No doubt these days of austerity (i.e. lower budgets) and attrition (i.e. work-force reduction) leads to more on the plate. As the work mounts (while the calendar pages blow in the wind), we strive for efficiency by allocating our energy into tasks that will provide high ROI. What does this mean for professional organizations like SLA? When push comes to shove, should these orgs be pushed aside? I am convinced the answer is a resounding NO. In many ways, I think times like these warrant more personal investment in professional organizations. From my own perspective, my work with SLA DBIO has paid off severalfold:

- I have implemented improvements (efficiencies) at my library based on information from DBIO sessions and articles in *Biofeedback*.
- I have learned and applied new job skills including learning innovative software and novel approaches to challenges at work.
- I have been given a rare chance to develop and hone my inchoate leadership abilities.

And I have, most importantly, expanded my network of colleagues, co-conspirators, mentors, and friends. This reward alone makes the investment worthwhile. Because this is my final Message from the Chair, I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to my DBIO colleagues for their investment, dedication and service to the Division this past year. First, I want to recognize the DBIO Executive Board. I am grateful for their energy, commitment and wise counsel: **Howard Fuller**, Chair-Elect, **Nalini Mahajan**, Secretary, **Rebecca Kuglitsch**, Treasurer, **Nancy Curtis**, our multi-term Director, and **Nancy Dickenson**, Past-Chair (and mentor).

Our DBIO Advisory Board is a productive mix of youth (fresh ideas) and experience (organizational memory). A special nod goes to **Jonathan Nabe** (and the Program Committee) for the hours of effort that resulted in a superb program in Chicago; **Howard Fuller** (and his Fund Development gang) for maintaining our sponsorship levels; **Claudia Lascar** and **Monica Kirkwood** for the beautiful website; **Susan Kendall** and **Buzz Houghton** for keeping *Biofeedback* a vital platform for information and communication; **Janet Cooper Weiss** for wearing yet another DBIO hat and heading up the Vendor Relations Committee; **Christine Whitaker** for moving our CE initiatives forward; **Tony Stankus** for his stellar tenure as the DBIO blogger and his efforts leading the Awards Committee; **Eleanor MacLean** for chairing our Contributed Poster Committee; **Amy Donahue** for making the Medical Section relevant for our section members; **Jennifer McDaniel** for setting a new course for our diversity initiatives; **Diane Hummel** for leading our Publications Committee and her role as an SLA Ethics Ambassador; **Alicia Livinski** and her team for offering another strong slate of Contributed Papers; **Allison Scripa** for selecting an excellent Student Travel Stipend winner and convincing the DBIO Board to increase the award amount; **Dorothy Barr** for all of her work as the Membership Chair (and Convener of the Natural History Caucus); and **Carol Vreeland** for maintaining our email list, SLA-DBIO.

These are our leaders ... many, many more have contributed to make this a successful year for DBIO. I am very happy to report that despite difficult times for all professional organizations, our unit, DBIO, seems to be on terra firma with solid leadership, stable membership numbers, and fiscal solvency. Several initiatives were accomplished with the help and guidance of the DBIO Board. First, an outstanding conference program was offered this summer in Chicago, and we are well on our way to a successful sunny San Diego conference under the coordination of **Rebecca Kuglitsch**. We conformed to SLA's Operation Vitality without compromising our (association's-best, IMO) website and even added some improvements in design and content. Our fundraising team maintained a five-digit level of sponsorship for (and from) our events and publications, a particularly impressive task considering the belt-tightening measures of potential sponsors. We continued to sponsor a student travel stipend to this year's conference and have increased the stipend amount to encourage applicants and offset the rising conference costs. We have also set in place collaborative efforts with other SLA units to provide low-cost CE events on relevant topics and products for our membership. These are just some of the highlights, and I am very proud of what we all accomplished this year. In January 2013, **Howard Fuller** will assume the position of Chair of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division. I am looking forward to watching our unit move forward under Howard's leadership.

SLA headquarters has made it clear that several SLA units have had a great deal of trouble filling committee slots. But DBIO has about twenty committees and about fifty committee members participating (investing) in our division activities. We have thus far been so lucky to have so many great, committed members in our division. Many thanks to all of you! However, if you haven't volunteered for a committee assignment (and are able), please do step up to the plate and consider a small donation of your time. I guarantee the effort will pay dividends. Just let our incoming Chair, **Howard Fuller** (howard_fuller@heald.edu), know you are ready and willing to invest.

From the Medical Section

Amy Donahue, Medical Section Chair

This is my final *Biofeedback* column, as my term as Medical Section Chair wraps up. At this time, I'm working on a couple of leads for the next chair, and will announce the person who will be following me over the DBIO listserv shortly. (If you are interested in serving as chair, please feel free to contact me – nothing is set in stone yet! (amy.donahue@aurora.org.)

And this time around, I'd like to share with you an interesting way to stay involved in the latest conversations happening in the medical information world: Twitter Chats. A Twitter Chat is actually a conversation on Twitter. Everyone uses the same hashtag (“#” followed by a keyword, like #medlibs) and logs on at the same time to exchange ideas, ask questions, and to discourse in public. Anyone can contribute to the conversation, but you

have to know the hashtag and the time that the chat is starting! Twitter Chats can be a great way for librarians and information professionals to stay on top of the latest issues in our field, but they're also a great way to get embedded into the knowledge sharing that's happening within the disciplines we support.

The following is a list of some healthcare Twitter Chats that might be of interest. Much of the information here came from the [Symplur Healthcare Tweet Chat Calendar](#) (check it out for additional chats!):

#medlibs

The Medlibs Twitter chat is held every week on Thursday evenings at 6pm Pacific/9pm Eastern. Topics are selected and published at the [#medlibs chat blog](#). Past chat topics have included expert searching, embedded librarianship, ebooks, and more. #medlibs is coordinated by Nikki Dettmar (@eagledawg).

#hcsn

The #hcsn chat is a weekly chat on healthcare communications and social media. It claims that it's the first regular Twitter Chat related to healthcare, and it happens Sunday nights from 8-9pm Central. [Past topics and info for submitting new topics](#) can be found. (Past conversations have touched on questions such as whether health care organizations should be stewards of healthcare information and what is the difference between ehealth and healthcare social media.) The conversation is hosted by @HealthSocMed and moderated by @dan-amplewis.

#meded

As the tag implies, #meded is a regular chat where all things medical education are discussed. You can find [all kinds of stats](#) (such as top twitters) as well as transcripts.

Patient Safety

One of the subjects discussed at this year's Medical Section Session (held in lovely Chicago) on knowledge management (KM) was KM in patient safety. If you're interested in continuing this conversation, check out the various opportunities to join [patient safety-related chats](#).

Specific health conditions

Twitter chats for supporting and educating on specific health conditions abound on Twitter. Some examples include #BCSM (the intersection of breast cancer and social media) and #BrainTumorThursday. Check out the [Symplur calendar](#) discussed above, or just Google the condition plus "Twitter Chat". There's a lot out there that a crafty information professional can find!

And even if you aren't on Twitter (yet), the archives are generally available to the public. Check out some of them and just maybe you'll be inspired enough to join the conversation!

Thank you all for an excellent year. It has been an honor to serve as the Medical Section Chair. I look forward to seeing and chatting with you, whether in San Diego or online (find me as [@ultimatelibrarn](#)). Have a wonderful fall!

Biomedical & Life Sciences Division Special Libraries Association Conference

9 -11 June 2013
San Diego, CA

The **Contributed Papers Committee** invites proposals for papers presenting original research, innovative projects or other professional activities of interest to the SLA Biomedical and Life Sciences Division.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/badgopher/4062956948/>

Abstract: A **200-500 word abstract** should accurately convey the subject of the paper, its scope, and conclusions. The following website may be helpful for creating your abstract: <http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/faculty/bucholtz/sociocultural/abstracttips.html>. Abstracts will be scored on evidence of scholarship, methodology, originality, timeliness of the topic, compatibility with 20 min. presentation, and relevance to DBIO members and other SLA attendees.

Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: December 15, 2012

Papers: If chosen, acceptance of your paper reflects a commitment on your part to:

- 1) Submit the complete text of your paper to the program convener by May 15, 2013 for inclusion on the DBIO Contributed Papers website.
- 2) Present your paper at the SLA annual conference in San Diego, CA (max. 20 minutes)
- 3) Where appropriate and feasible, offer a brief demonstration or representation of your project during your presentation.

Submit Abstracts and Questions to:

Amy Donahue, Medical College of Wisconsin

Email: amy.e.donahue@gmail.com | Ph: (414) 955-8326

Please put SLA-DBIO Contributed Paper Submission in Subject line

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MLA Liaison Report

Darra Ballance, Liaison to the Medical Library Association

Call for Papers: *Journal of the Medical Library Association* Special Issue on New Century, New Roles for Health Sciences Librarians

Submitted by Susan S. Starr, Editor-in-Chief, Journal of the Medical Library Association

The advent of both digital content and new forms of communication has made radical changes in health sciences library users' expectations for access to information. Researchers and clinicians expect information at their desktops 24/7 in a format that can be easily digested and used. At the same time, in response to concerns over the increasing cost of health care, government funding agencies have changed their expectations for how health-related research is conducted. Funding agencies look for translational medicine and dispersion of information across disciplines and institutions.

Responding to the opportunities provided by these changes, some librarians and libraries have changed their focus, no longer emphasizing libraries as keepers of the information universe but instead stressing their ability to provide expertise supporting those who work in the health information universe. A number of new paradigms have been reported at conferences and in the media: embedded librarians, e-science experts, support for translational medicine, and data curation and management. To help us gain a better understanding of these new paradigms, the *Journal of the Medical Library Association (JMLA)* is planning to devote the October 2013 issue to papers that focus on the outcomes experienced by those who have taken on these new roles.

This issue will include invited papers summarizing the current state of the field. We also encourage submissions from those with new roles who are willing to share their successes, or failures, with their peers. To be considered for this issue, papers must be submitted by **February 15, 2013**.

We particularly welcome submission of:

Brief communications that describe evaluations of either the need for or success of new roles should provide a brief literature review and then describe the new role; the method used to assess the need for the role or to evaluate its success, such as a small scale survey, focus groups, or measures of user participation in services provided; and the results of that evaluation or assessment. Papers describing evaluations of education and training programs relevant to new roles are also welcome. Brief communications are 1,800 words or less.

Case studies that describe, in depth, new or innovative roles for librarians such as embedded librarians, e-science experts, support for translational medicine, or data curation should provide a brief literature review; describe the components of the new role and relate, if relevant, the institutional factors that supported the creation of this new paradigm; followed by an evaluation of the success or failure of the initiative and any lessons learned. Papers submitted as case studies must include evidence that allows the reader to judge the value of the librarian's contribution in this new role, independent of the author's opinion. Examples of evidence include results of a user survey, inclusion of the librarian in papers authored by a research team, improvements or changes attributed to a librarian in an open access journal, or continued financial support from or additional responsibilities assigned by the institution. Case studies are 3,500 words or less.

Full-length research papers investigating a research question related to new roles for health sciences libraries or librarians should use a standard quantitative or qualitative research design. Quantitative studies should employ a sampling methodology that allows extrapolation to the larger population. Examples in this category would be qualitative or quantitative studies evaluating faculty or clinician reactions to embedded librarians or illuminating the features of digital libraries that contribute to their success or a benchmarking study of librarian roles in Clinical and Translational Science Award grant-funded projects. There is a 5,000-word limit for research papers.

If you would like to discuss an idea for a paper, please contact [Susan Starr](#), editor, *JMLA*. Further details on procedures for *JMLA* submissions and requirements for brief communications, case studies, and full-length papers can be found on the [JMLA Information for Authors](#) page. All papers should be [submitted online](#).

Member News and Publications

Kudos

DBIO members have been busy as usual these past few months with impressive activities. **Amy Donahue**, who is Medical Librarian/Informationist at Aurora Health Care – Aurora Medical Center, Grafton, received the Best Hospital Librarian Research Award for her poster “Emergency Preparedness & Librarians: a Match Made in ... Hospitals!” Amy’s poster was presented at the Medical Libraries Association Annual Conference in Seattle on May 2012. **Wendy L. Roehlke**, Corporate Information Specialist at UCare, became Chair of the Health Science Libraries of Minnesota in June 2012. Her term as Chair goes until June 2013. Wendy had been incoming Chair prior to this appointment. **Carol A. Feltes**, University Librarian at Markus Library, Rockefeller University, with her colleague Donna Gibson from the library at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, has been invited as a consultant to the Pasteur Institute in Paris, France. Carol’s work as consultant relates to a survey instrument that she and Donna developed. They will be conducting a needs assessment with the Pasteur Institute library staff and selected members of their research faculty. Their sessions should help the library (Mediatheque) fine tune their strategic directions for the 21st century.

Member Publications

Carol A. Feltes also published a [biographical profile of Rockefeller University’s latest Nobel Prize winner](#), Dr. Ralph Steinman, in the June 2012 issue of *Science and Technology Libraries*. Dr. Steinman was awarded the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.



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ndickenson@stanfordmed.org

For a complete list of current board and committee members, see the Division Website at: <http://units.sla.org/division/dbio/inside/officers/officers.html#exec>

Biofeedback

Special Libraries Association

Volume 37, Number 4

Fall 2012

Biofeedback (ISSN 1060-2488) is published quarterly by the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Libraries Association, 331 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-3501. The Special Libraries Association assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the official position of the Special Libraries Association. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by the Special Libraries Association. The newsletter is published four times a year: February, May, August and November. The deadline for submission of materials is the first of the month prior to publication.

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