

Biofeedback



Special Libraries Association

Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
Special Libraries Association

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Michele Tennant

Welcome to the pre-conference issue of *Biofeedback*. Various DBIO Committees have been working hard to put together a fabulous slate of activities for our annual meeting in Los Angeles, and you'll see the fruit of their labors described in this issue. From natural history, molecular, and medical programs and continuing education opportunities to field trips, social events, and business meetings, L.A. is going to be anything but laid back for DBIO members! Thanks to all of the folks who are making this possible - Laura Osegueda and the 2002 DBIO Program Committee, David Duggar and the Fund Development Committee, Barbara Hedges and the Professional Development Committee, Laurie Scott and the Contributed Papers Committee, John Tebo and the Vendor Relations Committee, and Mary Glass and the Medical Section programmers. Thanks also to all of the DBIO members who will be speaking at the conference in our various programs - these speakers (as well as all of our DBIO volunteers) perform this important service with no compensation from the division. Then there are all of our non-SLA speakers and our DBIO conference attendees, who have made the commitment to travel to Los Angeles in these uncertain times, and our marvelous vendors, who have come through with more support than I could have dreamed possible in this difficult year. So, please enjoy the conference in Los Angeles, and when possible, thank our volunteers and contributing vendors for their hard work and amazing support. See you in L.A.!

This is my last *Message from the Chair*; I'm happy to say that I leave the division in the capable hands of David Duggar. I can't believe how much has been accomplished in this last year, and how many wonderful people I have had the privilege of working with. Thanks to all of our wonderful officers, appointees, committee chairs, and liaisons.*Continued on Page 2*

Chair's message continued...

Special thanks go to Jonathan Nabe and Carolyn Mills for moving us to an online-only version of *Biofeedback*, to Anna McGowan and the Nominations Committee for finding such excellent candidates for Chair-elect and Treasurer; to Diane Schmidt, Nancy Stimson, John Tebo, and Larry Wright for running for office; and Treasurer Nancy Curtis for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

Now on to what's new. News from SLA Headquarters:

- Roberta Shaffer resigned from her position as SLA's Executive Director effective February 22, 2002. Lynn Smith, Deputy Executive Director, will serve an Interim Executive Director.
- 237 SLA leaders attended the 2002 Winter Meetings, held in Chicago January 24-26. Minutes and other documents from the meeting may be found at <http://www.sla.org/content/leadership/resource/wintermeet/2002wm/>.
- Potential changes to the Association's Bylaws were discussed at length at the Winter Meeting, and will likely be voted on at the annual conference in Los Angeles. Documents concerning the bylaws changes have been placed on the SLA website:

Proposed Bylaws Changes Introduction

<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/Structure/recbylaws/propbyintro.cfm>

Revised Proposed Bylaws

<http://www.sla.org/documents/propbylaws.htm>

Proposed Bylaws Comparison

<http://www.sla.org/content/SLA/Structure/recbylaws/propbylawscomp.cfm>

- SLA's Leadership Development Institute will be held in Los Angeles on Sunday, June 9, and will include:
 - Leadership training for incoming Division Chair and Chair-elect (9:00-12:00)
 - Ticketed Event Lunch (12:00-2:00)
- DBIO Committee Chairs and Officers: Information and discussion sessions for archivists, advocacy/public relations chairs, bulletin editors, fund-raising chairs, discussion list owners, membership chairs, professional development chairs, treasurers and webmasters (between 2:00-4:00; variable times depending on office/committee).
- For more information, see <http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/2002annual/whatsnew/ldrday/index.cfm>
- Endowment Fund Grants Due July 1, 2002. If the division is to submit a grant by the deadline, we will need to move quickly. If you have ideas for an endowment please contact David Duggar or me ASAP. For more information on the SLA Endowment Grants, please see <http://www.sla.org/content/leadership/endowment.cfm>

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**VISIT THE BIOMEDICAL & LIFE SCIENCES
DIVISION WEB PAGE**

<http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/index.htm>

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**Biomedical and Life Sciences Division
Los Angeles Program Highlights**

With twenty division-sponsored events, including two receptions and two breakfasts there are plenty of opportunities for members to learn, network, and have fun in Los Angeles. Here's some program information to lure into our division's wonderful programs and a couple of programs that we are co-sponsoring with other divisions. Hope to see you there!!

Check the DBIO website closer to conference for a handy program listing which will include program locations. More complete details on the Conference Papers Session and CEs can be found later in the bulletin – read on!

Sunday, June 9

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

CE Course: Patents 101: An Introduction to Patents for the Non-Patent Librarian.

The development of the Web has made patent information more widely available and more heavily used than ever before. Patents are useful for a myriad of business purposes beyond the protection of new technologies. However, patents remain a mysterious and intimidating resource for many librarians unfamiliar with intellectual property. This course will cover the basics of patent documentation, classification and online search tools. Participants will learn how to: 1) identify and interpret the component parts of a patent; 2) use the patent classification system, including indexes and class definitions, to conduct a basic patent search; 3) and effectively search online patent database systems. Cost of this course: \$195.00 SLA members.

9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Vendor Roundtable

This program moves away from the breakfast mode to focus on vendor presentations. Come hear updates on specialty databases and other products from Chemical Abstracts, EBSCO, ISI, and John Wiley and Sons, Inc. Check the website for more particulars closer to conference.

1:00PM to 5:00 PM

CE Course : Basic Immunology for Biological Information Specialists

The professional development committee has been hoping to offer this course for several years and is very glad to be able to offer it at conference this year as a complement to our molecular biology course. The course will cover basic concepts of immunology and relate them to the types of questions we may encounter on the job. Come and learn how the immune system works, broaden your vocabulary and update your biomedical knowledge. Cost for SLA members: \$195.00

Monday, June 10

7:00AM to 8:30AM

Academic Roundtable Breakfast : Communicating with Generation Y

(Co-sponsored by Education Division)

Join academic colleagues for a lively discussion of intergenerational communication styles.

11:30AM to 1:00PM

Molecular Medicine in the Genomics Age

Gene therapy has advanced to a highly targeted way to treat AIDS, cancer, as well as other diseases. Featured speakers and talks include:

- Kevin Scanlon, Keck, Professor, Graduate Institute, "*Cancer Gene Therapy in the 21st Century*";
- John Rossi, Chair and Professor, Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope, "*Ribozyme Gene Therapy for AIDS*";
- Michele R. Tennant, Bioinformatics Librarian, University of Florida, "*Information Resources in Molecular Medicine*"

1:30PM to 3:00PM

Bioterrorism: Information and Resources for Uncertain Times

(Co-sponsored by the Military Librarians Division)

Before September 11, 2001 American citizens felt safe from the world of terrorist attacks, security alerts, and bomb threats. Unfortunately, we can no longer afford to be complacent and need to become informed about possible forms of terrorist attacks. Bioterrorist attacks could prove devastating on both a small and large scale. Two disaster specialists will provide essential information. Cheryl Starling, Emergency Medical Services Authority, Sacramento, CA, will provide a clinical perspective. Greg Banner, Emergency Response Preparedness Coordinator, Rhode Island Dept. of Health, will discuss resources and assets available to the professional community.

3:30PM to 5:00PM

PDAS : Life in the Palm of Your Hand

No longer just a day planner or memo pad, these handheld devices are now being used to access the Web and email. Publishers are creating pda versions of reference materials. Pamela Corley from the Norris Biomedical Library at University of Southern California will present an overview of PDAs. A special web page is being developed in conjunction with this program by Joe Williams from the Veterinary Medical Library at NC State University, which will provide links to biomedical library-related sites.

6:00PM to 8:00PM

Medical Section Reception

Come and socialize with colleagues and meet local MLA members at this annual get together.

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INFORMATION TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Tuesday, June 11

7:00AM to 8:30AM

DBIO Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast

The business meeting is as usual but we have included a note here to let folks know that we are having a hot breakfast this year. Due to good vendor support and the small price difference between a continental and hot breakfast, the section decided to provide a bit of protein at one of the conference breakfasts.

9:30AM - 11:00AM

Dietary Supplements and Functional Foods

(DFAN program co-sponsored by DBIO)

The scoop on supplements. Consumers spend billions on dietary supplements and “functional foods” for both disease prevention and treatment. A biochemist will explore the nature of these products, issues regarding their safety and efficacy, and the U.S. government's role in regulating them.

1:30PM to 3:00PM

Winner's Circle of Web Sites

This popular program keeps getting bigger and better. This year we concentrate on toxicology, medicine and pharmacy/pharmacology.

3:30PM to 5:30PM

A Conversation about Conservation

A diverse panel of speakers has been assembled for this program on species conservation. The speakers and talks are listed below as the website could not accommodate talk titles.

- Don Buth, Prof., Organismic Biology, Ecology & Evolution, UCLA
- O.J. (Jim) Reichman, Director, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, UCSB, “The role of data, information, and knowledge at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis”
- Lois Lippold, Professor of Anthropology and Director of Douc Langur Project, San Diego State University, “Primate Conservation in the Field and Zoo”
- Anne Marie Malley, Academy Librarian, California Academy of Sciences Library, “Toolbox for Conservation Professionals and Researchers : Biodiversity and Endangered Species Information Resources”

Wednesday, June 12

12:00PM - 1:30PM

Genomics, Proteomics and Sequence/Structure Resources

(DCHEM program co-sponsored by DBIO)

Secrets learned through the study of the genome and proteome are transforming biochemistry, medicine, and related scientific disciplines. Join us as a molecular biologist explores the science of sequences and sequence information. Two librarians will then introduce and discuss the major sequence information resources freely available over the web.

2:00PM to 3:30PM

Contributed Papers Session

This year's theme is technology and its ability to free the user from restrictions of library hours and facilities. Now, users expect resources to be available 24/7 at the click of a mouse button. The papers presented in this program will explore how libraries deal with these expectations:

“SearchAssist: Revisiting the Mediated Search--A New Model for Assisted Searching”

Carol E. Vreeland, Karen Stanley Grigg, and Eleanor M. Smith

North Carolina State University

“Optimal Information Foraging and Key Resources for Undergraduate Biology Students”

Heather Cunningham and Rea Devakos

University of Toronto, Gerstein Science Information Centre

“Integration of a librarian into the curriculum via WebCT”

Locke J. Morrissey

University of San Francisco, Gleeson Library/Geschke Center

4:00PM to 6:00PM

Marine and Oceanographic Expedition Collection and Reception at USC

(Co-sponsored by the Museums, Arts and Humanities Division)

Hop on a DASH bus or take a taxi down to USC for an opportunity to view original documents from early marine expeditions. Collection specialists will share their knowledge of the history behind this collection. Stay for a reception and tour of the Hancock Museum.

Thursday, June 13 - Tours

FYI: There are two aquarium tours offered at the conference. DBIO is going to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach (a half hour away), **not** Scripps (over two hours away).

Aquarium of the Pacific at Long Beach

8:30AM to 4:00PM

A half-hour from the Convention Center and water everywhere! Take a trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific at Long Beach. We'll have a guided behind-the-scenes tour of the \$117 million, new breed aquarium with 12,000 ocean animals, representing over 550 species. The aquarium focuses on the marine life and seascapes of the Pacific Rim's three regions: Southern California & Baja, Northern Pacific, and Tropical Pacific. In the Tropical Reef habitat, scuba divers equipped with microphones will swim, talk with visitors, and answer questions. A box lunch is provided. We'll eat at the cafe with a view across the bay to the Queen Mary and downtown Long Beach waterfront. There'll be plenty of time to explore. Price of tour is \$52.00.

Huntington Gardens and Library

9:30AM to 4:00PM

Sleep in late and enjoy this relaxing tour of the Huntington Library and Gardens. There will be a presentation by the Library and a tour of the Garden included in the tour price. There is a unique collection of the work of early 20th century California architects Charles and Henry Greene. A special exhibition scheduled for June 2002 is “William Morris: Creating the Useful and the Beautiful.” Lunch on your own in the Café. Price of tour is \$40.00

DBIO Continuing Education Courses Sunday, June 9

Basic Immunology for Biological Information Specialists

Sunday, June 9, 2002 1:00PM - 5:00PM

Instructor: **George McGregor**, Director, Information Services Center, Chiron Corporation, Emeryville, CA

This course covers basic concepts of immunology including specialized cells and organs of the immune system, innate immunity, adaptive immunity, diseases of the immune system, and relates these concepts to the types of questions clinicians, researchers and students may ask of librarians. This course will provide an overview of the field of immunology, how the immune system works, and key research areas to watch out for in collection development in your library. McGregor co-developed an 8 hour course in immunology at the request of the Medical Library Association. Approval for MLA CE credit for the 4 hour course is in process. He teaches immunology and molecular biology to the Chiron sales force and to non-scientific staff, through his "Science Made Simple" noon time seminar series. McGregor holds a B.S. and M.S. in Biology, and an M.L.S., all from the University of Illinois at Urbana.

Patents 101: An Introduction to Patents for the Non-Patent Librarian

Sunday, June 9, 2002 8:00AM - 12:00PM

Instructors: **Michael White**, Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program; and **Kevin Harwell**, Business Library, Pennsylvania State University.

This course covers patent basics including patent documentation, classification, and online search tools. Participants will learn how to: 1) identify and interpret the component parts of a patent; 2) use the patent classification system, including indexes and class definitions, to conduct a basic patent search; and 3) search online patent database systems effectively. White has been a Librarian with the Patent and Trademark Depository Library Program, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, for five years, and worked with patents for over nine years. Harwell has provided patent library services from 1986 to present, since 1990 at Pennsylvania State University. Both gentlemen have made numerous presentations related to patents. This will be the second chance to take this well-received course.

For more information on the Continuing Education courses contact the Professional Development Chair, **Barbara Hedges**, at bhedges@bama.ua.edu.

CALLING ALL STUDENT MEMBERS!

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Business Meeting / Breakfast of the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division, which will be held on Tuesday, June 11 in Los Angeles, CA during the SLA Annual Conference. Free tickets will be provided for student members of the BIO Division upon advance request. If you plan to attend the Annual Conference and are looking for free food and a terrific opportunity to network and job search with like-minded colleagues, please send an email to Janet Weiss at weissj2@war.wyeth.com

ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2002 – 2003

The BLSD Nominations and Elections Committee is pleased to announce the results of the 2002 election. Our new officers are:

Chair-Elect: **Nancy Stimson**

Treasurer: **John Tebo**

Nancy and John will assume their new offices at the Annual Division Business meeting in Los Angeles on Tuesday, June 11, 2002. The members of the Committee would like to thank all of our candidates, Larry Wright, John Tebo, Nancy Stimson, and Diane Schmidt, for their willingness to run and their enthusiasm to serve. We are very fortunate to have such excellent candidates.

Jo Anne Boorkman
Fred Roper
Anna McGowan
(2001-2002 Nominations and Elections Committee)

SECOND CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

The 2002-2003 year will be here before you know it. Many committees within the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division will have openings as some of our able membership end their terms of service. If you've always wondered what a particular committee did or wanted to serve on a committee but were not sure where to start, now is the perfect opportunity. Committee appointments are two years in length and may be renewed for another two years. There are also some appointed positions, which may have vacancies in the near future. Check out the Division's Procedure Manual for a description of any committee, liaison, representative, or other appointed position at <http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/procedur/procedure.pdf> or <http://www.sla.org/division/dbio/procedur/contents.htm>. Contact any of the Committee chairs or members listed at the end of the newsletter to find out what a committee's workload is like. Then fill out the Volunteer Form in the Winter issue of Biofeedback and mail it, fax it, or e-mail your choices to the Division's Chair-Elect.

Meet new colleagues, share and/or expand your knowledge, skill, and experience, and participate in shaping the future of the Division and librarianship!

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Science Online's *Signal Transduction Knowledge Environment (STKE)*
<http://stke.sciencemag.org>

Reviewed by

Susan Kendall

Michigan State University Library

Member, Vendor Relations Committee

A new breed of product for life science professionals has been appearing more and more in the last few years. This kind of product is a sort of online networking community as well as resource, bringing together information from several sources in one convenient package geared toward a specific customer. A prime example is MDConsult for physicians. Science Online is attempting to do a similar service for biomedical researchers and has coined the term "knowledge environment" to describe their product which is a collaboration between the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Stanford University Libraries and The Center for Resource Economics/Island Press. The goal of the development of these kinds of resources is to capitalize on the best features of the Web environment to bring together ideas and research from diverse sources and assist the information-overloaded biomedical researcher in remaining current and knowledgeable.

Signal transduction is the study of how cells communicate with each other and affect changes through molecular signaling. Many different researchers including endocrinologists, immunologists, physiologists, developmental biologists, neuroscientists, and other cell biologists study signal transduction. The literature on this topic, therefore, is spread out over many different kinds of journals, and researchers of signal transduction are dispersed into many different departments and societies. The *Signal Transduction Knowledge Environment (STKE)* brings this literature and the researchers together so that they can learn from each other.

STKE is many different things. First, it is an electronic journal with original content in the form of perspectives or opinion columns, review articles, and protocols contributed by leading experts. These articles are exclusively electronic and are now being indexed in MEDLINE. Second, *STKE* is a virtual journal, pulling together and providing the full text of articles on signal transduction from many different participating journals, most of them society publications. Third, *STKE* is a database of signal transduction information available in the form of maps of signaling pathways continually updated by experts and representing the consensus knowledge of the field. The community aspect of *STKE* is seen in the online discussion forums, comments, and directories of people, events, and jobs. Of course, a quick and advanced search are provided as is a "My *STKE*" option for individual subscribers to customize the site.

Science Online hopes that tools like their knowledge environments (of which *STKE* is one of three now) will become an integral part of biomedical research, fostering exchange of information and collaboration and helping scientists gather together important information from diverse sources. With many different respected participants, *STKE* is quite impressive in scope and quality, and, I imagine, would be quite useful for a researcher in this area. Simply doing the same MEDLINE search for a particular topic each week would keep a researcher current in his or her own small area, however, *STKE* attempts to broaden the scope of literature the researcher might consider relevant. The increasing amount of original content indexed in MEDLINE will

also make *STKE* harder to ignore. Of course, the project is limited by participation of publishers. Notably, Elsevier Science is not a participant, which means many relevant papers are excluded. Institutional site-wide access is \$2500 with a special discount available if the institution already has a subscription to Science online. Individual members of AAAS can subscribe for only \$49. Librarians may begin to get more and more requests for institutional subscriptions to these sorts of products and may want to consider whether they can afford them and whether they fit into their library's collection development policy.

New York, New York! It's a Wonderful Town!

New York City will host the SLA Annual Conference June 7-12, 2003. I am happy to announce that Peggy Jones has volunteered to Chair the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division's 2003 Program Committee. Peggy and I attended the 2003 Conference Planners meeting at the SLA Winter Meeting in Chicago. A manual, deadlines, timetables, tips, hints, and educational/social/continuing education/tour program idea were tossed around tables and a room of eager planners from all of the Divisions and Caucuses.

Already we have two members in New York who volunteered to serve as part of the 2003 Conference Program Committee. A big thanks to Claudia Lascar from the City College of New York and Polly Beam, a new library graduate, at the Levy Library of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine for taking a big step forward! But more members are needed for this committee. You do not have to be from New York City to serve on the Program Committee. So pick up that phone, fountain pen, or keyboard and drop me a line.

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Program Planning for New York 2003

Peggy Jones
pmjones@childrensmemorial.org
773-868-8041

As BIO's program planner for 2003, I attended the program planning meeting at the SLA winter meeting in Chicago this January. David Dugger was there to offer advice and moral support, and he has already helped much by recruiting for the 2003 BIO Program Planning Committee.

At the meeting, Agnes Mattis, Chair of the SLA Program Planning Committee, divided the planners into groups by specialty (David and I were in the "Science" group) and called upon us to generate ideas that were shared with the larger group. Individuals were asked to pick topics of interest to them, and then the most frequently selected topics were compiled into a list.

Here are some of the topics that the Science group generated:

1. Proteomics, Genomics & Bioinformatics (we talked about planning one general session for all the “Science” divisions then having breakout sessions that are more specific to each group’s interest – e.g., Pharm could plan a session on the human genome and drug discovery)
2. Peer-to-Peer Computing
3. Copyright and Electronic Issues
4. Post-merger: Reorganization, Survivors, Technology, Downsizing
5. Disaster Preparedness
6. Researching Outside Your Box (we talked about offering legal research for non-legals, etc.)
7. Getting Published (this was suggested via email)
8. Group attending the Today Show or Good Morning America
9. Field trip/tour of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
10. CE course on GIS (we discussed whether the NN/LM office in NYC might allow us to use its computer training room, and getting data from the CDC to use as an example of mapping.)

Quite a few other topics were discussed. I would like to ask YOU, the BIO members to suggest programs you would like to see in 2003. Send your recommendations (with an explanation of what you’re thinking) to pmjones@childrensmemorial.org.

Sponsors of DBIO Conference Programs

Despite a year of drastic changes globally, we have been fortunate to receive the commitment of funds from twenty-four companies as sponsors of Biomedical and Life Sciences Division programming during the SLA Annual Conference in Los Angeles. They have promised, many already having sent in checks, \$14,550 to assist in the expenses of programs (educational, social, business). Please be sure to thank these sponsors when you see them in Los Angeles and as you do business with them.

Sat., June 8	Outgoing Executive Board Meeting	Wiley-VCH
Sun., June 9	Vendor Roundtable	Chemical Abstracts Service EBSCO John Wiley and Sons ISI
	Medical Section Annual Business Meeting CE Course – Basic Immunology for Biological Information Specialists	Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins Cell Press
Mon., June 10	Academic Roundtable Breakfast Molecular Medicine in the Genomic Age	Elsevier Science Annual Reviews Bentham Science Publishers CISTI
Mon., June 10	Bioterrorism	ASM Press BIOSIS

	PDA's: Life in the Palm of Your Hand Medical Section Reception	Swets-Blackwell Merck Research Laboratories OVID Technologies, Inc. DIALOG Corp.
Tues., June 11	Annual Business Meeting and Breakfast Past Chair's Luncheon Winner's Circle of Web Sites A Conversation about Conservation	MDConsult Divine/Faxon BIOSIS Ingenta Sinauer Associates, Inc., Publishers Elsevier Science
Wed., June 12	Incoming Executive Board Meeting Genomics, Proteomics and Sequence Databases (DCHE is lead) DBIO Contributed Papers Session Marine and Oceanographic Expedition Collection & Reception at USC Hancock Library	Gale Group American Chemical Society Springer-Verlag, Inc. Sinauer Associates, Inc., Publishers

This year for the first time ever the Military Librarians Division (DMIL) is co-sponsoring one of our programs. DMIL is contributing \$500 to the program 'Bioterrorism'. We are co-sponsoring Food, Agriculture & Nutrition Division's (DFAN) program on 'Dietary Supplements' along with Chemistry Division's (DCHE) program on 'Genomics, Proteomics and Sequence Databases' listed above. Environment & Resource Management (DERM) is co-sponsoring our 'A Conversation about Conservation' with \$500. Museum, Arts & Humanities Division (DMAH) is co-sponsoring the 'Marine and Oceanographic Expedition Collection & Reception at USC Hancock Library'. Please thank each of these Divisions as you network with colleagues from around the world.

As they did for the SLA Annual Conference in San Antonio, Sinauer Associates, Inc., Publishers is again donating books. These will be raffled off during one of the programs they are sponsoring (I think at 'A Conversation about Conservation' but keep your eyes open). This year, however, those lucky recipients will be REQUIRED to submit a BOOK REVIEW about their prize for publication in Biofeedback. Look to the Publications Committee for information regarding format and deadlines for these book reviews.

I want to thank Laura Osegeuda, our Division's Program Chair for the Los Angeles Conference, Michele Tennant, our tireless Division Chair, and most especially the members of the Fund Development Committee (Renee Bush, Peggy Jones, Eleanor Maclean, Heather Munger, Janet Cooper Weiss, Brian Westra) and liaisons Mary Hay Glass and Irene Laursen for all their hard work! Y'all rock!

David Duggar

Report from the Bylaws Committee Gin Lingle and Anne Malley

The Board of SLA is in the midst of conducting a major review of the Association bylaws and is proposing significant changes. The information below is taken from the March 26, 2002 issue of SLA's electronic newsletter "BOARD.COMmunicate."

Association Bylaws

The current and proposed bylaws, in conjunction with the invaluable input received from the members over the past two months, was given the greatest attention. A certified parliamentarian assisted the Board in determining a governance strategy that balanced simplification, responsiveness to change, and members' desires. The Board will adhere to the following timeline in moving forward with proposing a revision to the membership.

April 5—A draft of the proposed revised bylaws will be released to the full membership for comment. The document will be in three-columns explaining the current bylaws, proposed revisions, rationale for each revision and each component that remains unchanged. The documentation will also be available in multiple formats. On April 5, a threaded discussion list will be created for members to provide their comments. President Hope Tillman will respond to all questions after consulting the full Board in order to have a response consistent with the Board's thinking. This discussion will be open until April 19th.

April 19th—The threaded discussion list will be suspended while the members' comments and desires are incorporated into the final draft as appropriate.

May 1st—The proposed bylaws revision and notice of the Annual Business Meeting will be mailed to the full voting membership in accordance with the current bylaws. The threaded discussion list will be re-opened in order to provide a vehicle for membership feedback.

June 9th—A Q&A session on the proposed bylaws revision will be conducted for the Leadership Development Institute at SLA's Annual Conference in Los Angeles.

June 11th—The President's Series session on the proposed bylaws document at the annual conference will give attendees the opportunity to voice their concerns and support.

June 12th—Bylaws will be on the agenda of the Annual Business Meeting in Los Angeles. This session will be conducted within standard rules and facilitated by Certified Parliamentarian Collette Collier Trohan. The voting members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting will determine whether the proposed bylaws document is forwarded to the full voting membership.

August—If the proposed bylaws revision is passed at the Annual Business Meeting, a full mail ballot will be issued to the voting membership at the end of August.

October 15th—Final return date for the bylaws ballot.

October 25th—The Board of Directors will ratify the results of the vote. The Board will share the result to the membership through **BOARD.COMmunicate**.

**It is important to note that the membership has the ultimate voice in this process.

Michele Tennant, in a message to BSDNET-L in February 2002, listed the highlights of the proposed changes that include:

- Name change from Special Libraries Association to SLA, Inc.
- Membership dues could be set by the SLA, Inc. Board of Directors (no membership input required).
- Division and Chapter Cabinet Chairs would no longer be part of the Board; instead two Board members would serve as liaison to the division and chapter cabinets.

- Voting by proxy for those members who cannot attend the annual meetings.
- Members would elect only Directors, and the other SLA officers (president, secretary, treasurer) would be elected from among the Directors, and by the Directors only - not the membership at large.
- Annual Conference planning would significantly be changed.

A section of the SLA Web site at <http://www.sla.org> has been created to provide the membership with a centralized location to review and comment on SLA's proposed Bylaws changes. (Click on the "Proposed Bylaws Changes" box to the right of the home page.) According to the Web site, the goal is to develop bylaws that will best support SLA as it moves to become responsive, flexible, and nimble. As the Board continues to discuss this issue with the membership, the Web page will change to factor in member input and the deliberations of the Board. E-mails can be sent to SLABylaws@sla.org or members can participate in the threaded discussion list to share thoughts and comments on the proposed changes.

Questions or comments can also be sent to Boardfeedback@sla.org.

BIO Members' Publications List **(January 2002-March 2002)**

Curtis, N.R. 2002. Review of "El Niño: Unlocking the secrets of the master weather-maker." *Library Journal* 127(3): 175.

Duggar, David C. 2002. Review of "Digital reference service in the new millennium: Planning, management, and evaluation." *Journal of the Medical Library Association* 90(1):116-7.

Garfield E. 2002. "Demand citation vigilance." *The Scientist* 16(2):6.
<<http://garfield.library.upenn.edu/papers/demandcitationvigilance012102.html>>

Garfield E. 2002. "Introduction to a lecture by E.O. Wilson at the Free Library of Philadelphia," February 7, 2002.
<<http://garfield.library.upenn.edu/papers/wilsonintroduction2002.html>>

Malley, Anne Marie. 2002. "CalFlora: Library of California plants." *California Wild* 55(1):3.
<<http://www.calacademy.org/calwild/winter2002/stories/calflora2.htm>>

Markham, J.W. 2002. "The clothes they wore." *BioScience* 52(3):216.
Note from the author: "It is only a letter to the editor, but it was solicited by the editor and has an interesting story. There was an article in the January issue of *BioScience* about the clothes women aquatic biologists wore in the field in earlier times. That reminded me of a wonderful quotation in the frontispiece of a book of mine on British Columbia green algae, from a Victorian lady about the "necessary draperies" she had to wear to collect seaweeds in 1872. I sent the quotation to the authors and they were thrilled and sent it on to the editor of *BioScience*. The editor said this was so good that I should rephrase my message as a letter to the editor, so everyone could enjoy it, and I did. In the process I also tracked down the publication details of the book where the quotation had originally appeared, along with information about the Victorian lady who had written it."

Rowland, Lucy M., Ed. 2002. "On environment: Unintended consequences: New urbanism and environmentalism conflict at CNU IX." *New Urban Post III*, 8pp.

Schmidt, Diane, Elisabeth B. Davis, and Pamela F. Jacobs. 2002. *Using the biological literature: A practical guide*, 3rd ed. New York: Marcel Dekker. 488 pp.

Please send citations for materials published this quarter (April-June 2002) to Nancy Stimson at nstimson@ucsd.edu for inclusion in the next issue of *Biofeedback*. Thanks to Claudia Lascar for maintaining the cumulative BIO Members' Publication List.

BIO Public Relations Committee:

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Claudia Lascar
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Book Reviews

Ivan A Ross

Medicinal Plants of the World : Chemical Constituents, Traditional and Modern Medicinal Uses – Vols. 1 (1998) and now II (2001)

Approx. 1000 pages, color and black and white illustrations, \$99.50 each
Humana Press, Totowa, NJ 07512

Reviewed by Frederica G. Scott

A wealth of information is found in this two-volume compendium of 50 plant species. For each plant the book provides its common name, origin and geographical distribution, botanical description, traditional medicinal uses, list of all known chemical constituents, and all enzymatic properties. The intended audiences are many and diverse including pharmacologists, herbal medicine practitioners, drug developers, clinicians, toxicologists, chemists of all sorts, public health workers, ethnobotanists, general botanists and researchers.

As consumer, academic and research interests in alternative therapies evolve, new reference works with this amount of well-documented scientific data and global inclusiveness are finding their ways into our general reference collections. Mr. Ross' choice of plants to discuss was determined by the distribution and level of use in developing countries where the plant was needed as a primary source of medicine, the amount of information available about a plant, and consumer interest. A major strength of this work is a comprehensive bibliography at the end of each plant's discussion that allows the reader to identify the original research from diverse international publications.

These two volumes are well suited for public, medical and academic libraries. The exhaustive amount of information found in these volumes can be overwhelming, but the fact that it is all located in one set of books is invaluable. Sources suggest there are more volumes to come.

Leslie H. Nicoll, PhD, MBA, RN

Nurses' Guide to the Internet

3rd Edition

242 pages

Copyright 2001 by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins Publishers. Philadelphia, PA 19106.

Reviewed by Rose A. Guerrieri

Written by the editor-in-chief of *Computers in Nursing*, this book contains four introductory chapters that discuss what you need in terms of a computer and an Internet access method. It also covers basic features of the Internet such as email, listservs and the World Wide Web. Though long on text and short on illustrations, the book contains several tables and lists including a glossary of common Internet terms and abbreviations. Also examined are shopping-online and Internet telephony. The largest part of the book consists of the directory of websites. It is fairly comprehensive and the author explains her criteria for what is and is not included.

The book appears best geared to the reader who is already acquainted with basic computing and networking concepts. An HTML document on the accompanying 3 ¼ in. diskette contains the hyperlinked addresses of the websites named in the book. This is a convenience that saves the reader from having to type in the address of every website she wishes to visit online. At least a few links were outdated, pointing up the short life span of books on Internet and computing topics: the field changes so fast that even new editions run the risk of inaccurate or outdated information. While this book itself is timely at present, it will need to be replaced by new editions every few years to keep its' content up to date.

Are you an Informationist - and what's an Informationist, anyway?

These were just two of the questions posed at the Medical Library Association's Informationist Conference, held April 4-5 at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD.

In case you haven't kept up with this controversial topic, here's a brief history. In June of 2000, Davidoff and Florance published an editorial entitled "The Informationist: A New Health Profession?" (*Ann Intern Med* 2000;132:996-998). In this paper, they reviewed the history of "Clinical Librarianship" programs, in which librarians go on medical rounds with clinicians, retrieve information, help clinicians formulate questions, and affect clinical decisions and outcomes. They argued that a "national program, modeled on the experience of clinical librarianship, to train, credential, and pay for the services of information specialists" be established, and that these professionals should "ultimately become a part of almost every clinical staff and service, as ubiquitous as head nurses or office managers". They go on to describe some of the skills needed for librarians to undertake this "new" role, the opportunities to improve patient care and gain "information on information", as well as potential barriers to implementation. They coined the term "Informationist" to describe this profession. In the last paragraph of their paper, they "challenge everyone involved in health care to transform" the informationist concept into reality.

This short paper sparked a flurry of e-mails and publications by medical librarians, split down the middle between those who embraced the "informationist" model, and those who took

exception to the article. Many of those opposed indicated that medical librarians are already filling these types of roles and providing "informationist"-like services, or believe the opposite, that these "librarian-plus" services are beyond the scope of medical librarianship.

T. Scott Plutchak, editor of the *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association*, followed up in October of 2000 ("Informationists and Librarians", *BMLA* 88(4): 391-392) with a charge to medical librarians to "... not let one more year go by before we respond to that challenge" posed by Davidoff and Florance. In his editorial, Plutchak referred to an earlier article by Giuse et al. ("Clinical Medical Librarianship: the Vanderbilt Experience", *BMLA* 1998 July;86(3): 412-416) which discussed many of the same concepts as the later Davidoff and Florance paper, and described Vanderbilt's response to the information needs of their clinicians. The January 2002 issue of the *Journal of the Medical Library Association* (formerly *BMLA*) includes several articles from the recent symposium "Patient-centered Librarianship: The Informationist and Beyond". One article in particular, "Information in Context: Integrating Information Specialists into Practice Settings" (Florance et al. *JMLA* 2002 Jan.; 90(1):49-58) moves the discussion past the purely clinical context, into the molecular/bioinformatics research arena as well.

April's Informationist Conference was meant to respond to the challenges posed by Davidoff, Florance, Giuse, and Plutchak. The goal of the conference was "to facilitate a national discussion, derive a consensus definition and develop recommendations for an action agenda for the 'informationist' professional in clinical and research domains". Seventy-five medical and life science librarians and other professionals (clinicians, researchers, health administrators, bioinformaticians, educators, association leaders) interested in the informationist concept participated in the invitational conference, with SLA DBIO members J. Michael Homan, Rosalind Lett, Joanne Marshall, and Linda Watson presenting or moderating sessions. Several issues were discussed, including potential roles for professionals in this area; knowledge, skills and abilities; career path; necessary education; financing and implementation models; and promotional vehicles. Although the final recommendations for action have not yet been formulated, a wrap-up of the event will soon be available on the MLA website. Pre-conference information, including a reading list and presenter biographies, as well as slides of some presentations, are available at <http://www.mlanet.org/research/informationist/index.html>.

Although an obvious connection to the conference exists for our Medical Section members, the discussions surrounding the "informationist" concept can likely be applied to any librarian in the biomedical and life sciences. MLA has already extended its discussion to include librarians who work in research settings. At the April conference a molecular biologist spoke on how the concept could be applied to meet the information needs of the molecular biology community. Additionally, I was asked to describe the value-added services that I provide as Bioinformatics Librarian at the University of Florida (extensive instruction and consultation in non-literature genetics databases; retrieval, filtering and summarizing of the genetic literature for a variety of audiences; data-mining). Surely these types of activities can be applied to many of our settings.

MLA is looking for partners in the definition, implementation, and publicizing of the "Informationist" concept. At the April conference, representatives from the Medical Library Association, American Medical Informatics Association, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and the National Library of Medicine signed on as partners. It seems that the Biomedical and Life Sciences Division of SLA has a role to play as well. Please let me know what you think about the "Informationist". Feel free to send me your ideas on how DBIO might partner with MLA in this endeavor. Perhaps a session or two at a future annual

conference? Keep in mind that the 2004 conference is in Nashville, home to Vanderbilt - one of the most successful informationist programs in existence.

**Medical Library Association Annual Meeting -
Molecular Programs**

MLA's 2002 annual meeting will be held in Dallas, May 17-23. The Molecular Biology and Genomics Special Interest Group is involved in several programs that may be of interest to SLA DBIO members. Here's what we have planned:

Saturday, May 18, 8:00-noon

CE Course - "Molecular Biology and Genetics for Librarians" (4 MLA CE contact hours; this is the same class that was offered at SLA 2000 in Philadelphia)

Sunday, May 19, 4:00-5:30

Section Program - "Delivering Genetic Information to Health Care Consumers"

Speakers:

- Dr. Angela Scheuerle, University of Texas Southwestern, title to be determined;
- Gail Hendler, New York Medical College and Kristine Alpi, Cornell Medical College, "DNA demystified: online resources in genetics and cancer genetics for consumers".

Monday, May 20, 5:45-7:00

Joint meeting and reception for Molecular Biology and Genomics and Cancer librarians.

Tuesday, May 21, 3:00-4:30

Section Program - "Participating in the Genomics Age: Pharmacogenetics"

Speakers:

- Dr. Corinne Aragaki, University of Texas, title to be determined;
- David Owen, University of California, San Francisco, "New vistas in drug therapy and scholarly communication";
- DBIO member Claudia Lascar, City College of City University of New York, "Research collections in pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics";
- James Andrews, University of Kentucky, "New perspectives and challenges of genetics information seeking".

Tuesday, May 21, 4:30-6:00

Molecular Biology and Genomics SIG Business Meeting

For more information on MLA 2002, see <http://www.mlanet.org/am/am2002/>. For additional information on molecular programs at MLA, or the Molecular Biology and Genomics SIG, contact SIG convener (and DBIO member!) Jennifer Lyon (jennifer.lyon@Vanderbilt.Edu).

Hope to see you in Dallas!

Michele R. Tennant

Chair, SLA's Biomedical and Life Sciences Division

Past-convener, MLA's Molecular Biology and Genomics SIG

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