

NAHSL : North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries
A Chapter of the Medical Library Association

Annual Report / May 2003 – April 2004

Professional Development:

“Lighting the Future” was the theme of the 2003 Annual Meeting, held October 26-28 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center on Cedar Lake in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Over 200 individuals including participants, vendors and speakers attended the three day conference. Keynote speeches were delivered by John Halamka, MD, CIO of Boston’s CareGroup Health Network and Harvard Medical School and Judy Foreman, syndicated health columnist of the Boston Globe. Pat Thibodeau, MLA President, and Mark Goldstein, NN/LM NER Network Coordinator facilitated an open forum on scholarly publishing. Kent Smith, NLM Deputy Director, delivered the NLM update. Conference participants were also able to choose from three workshops on online medical publishing, creating a business plan and/or change management.

The Continuing Education Committee offered seven classes, all which offered MLA CE credit. Classes included “*Concepts in Renal Medicine*” (the continuation of the successful “Concepts in...” series.), “*Professional Presentations*”, “*Data Detective: Finding the Jewels of Public Health Datasets*”, “*PDA’s and the Medical Librarian*”, “*Licensing Electronic Resources*” and a hands-on “*Expert PubMed*” class that was taught post-conference at the U Mass Medical School Lamar Soutter Library Computer Training Lab in nearby Worcester, Massachusetts.

Advocacy

NAHSL member Debbie Sibley received the NAHSL Achievement Award at this year’s Annual Meeting. After serving NAHSL as Conference Chair 1998, Chair 1998-1999 and Chapter Council Representative, Debbie left the region this past spring for a new position at Thomas Jefferson University’s Scott Memorial Library. As Debbie was unable to attend the NAHSL conference, she was presented the award by MLA President Pat Thibodeau at the “Quint Essential” five chapter meeting in Philadelphia. A certificate of recognition was also awarded to ARIHSL (Association of Rhode Island Health Sciences Libraries) in celebration of their 50th anniversary. ARIHSL is believed to be the oldest state health sciences library associations in the country.

NAHSL members Ralph Arcari (Lyman Maynard Stowe Library, U CONN Health Center) and Ed Donald (Pyrttek Learning Center, Hartford Hospital) received the ISI/Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award at MLA 2003 in San Diego for their work in establishing the Electronic Funds Transfer System (EFTS). EFTS began in New England in the mid 1990’s as a way to streamline document delivery charges. EFTS is now a nationally recognized entity culminating with the recent joining of the system by NLM.

In order to further advance the educational and networking opportunities available to NAHSL membership, a sub-committee was formed to review the current scholarship awards process and make recommendations for changes. Following the report on this sub-

committee, the Executive Board formally approved a) the changing of the name of the “Scholarship Committee” to the “Professional Development” committee and b) the initial funding of eight scholarship awards for MLA-member inclusive registration or continuing education expenses for MLA 2004 in Washington, D.C. The Professional Development committee has also been charged to a) continued supporting scholarship awards to the NAHSL Annual Meetings and b) in tandem with recommendations from the Finance Committee, award future scholarships like the above. The following NAHSL members have received this first round of scholarship awards:

- Robin Devin, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI
- Amy Frey, Hospital for Special Care, New Britain, CT
- Patty Kahn, Penobscot Bay Medical Center, Rockport, ME
- Lisa Palmer, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA
- Mary Piorun, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA
- Alice Reed, Exeter Hospital, Exeter, NH
- Brenda Wong, Johnson Memorial Hospital, Stafford Springs, CT

Organization

There are 132 current (2004 new and renewal-to-date) members of the North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries chapter.

No specific actions beyond the election of new officers (see below) were taken at the Annual Business Meeting, held on Monday, October 27, 2003.

Current assets of the organization (per the 3/1/04 Treasurer’s report) are \$96,205.

Since May of 2003, the Executive Board has met on 6/6, 9/5, 12/5 and 3/5 at the NN/LM NER offices in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. A brief meeting was also held at the Annual Meeting on 10/27. An online meeting and subsequent vote was held online pursuant to the scholarship activity mentioned above.

The 2004 Annual Meeting “Sea Change: Riding the Tides” is scheduled to be held on October 3-5, 2004 at Sebasco Harbor Estates, Maine. Program highlights to date include keynote presentations from T. Scott Plutchak, Director of the Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences University of Alabama at Birmingham and Editor, Journal of the Medical Library Association and Sue Stableford, Director of the Maine AHEC Health Literacy Center at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. A panel discussion with novelists will also take place. They will discuss the role that the health sciences library plays for them in the development of medical thrillers and mysteries. The 2005 Annual Meeting (dates not yet published) will be held in Providence, Rhode Island.

Research

Evelyn Breck Morgen, CAHSL (Connecticut Association of Health Sciences Libraries) representative to the Executive Board, undertook a study to explore virtual

reference services in the region and the role that NAHSL might play in such an initiative. A preliminary meeting of interested parties was held at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in the spring. While some of the academic and resource libraries expressed interest in pursuing such a venture on the regional level, primary access libraries felt that this type of project at the current time might produce a negative impact on staffing and resource budgets. Another potential problem was in the type of patrons each participating institution was prepared to handle (i.e., questions from consumer health patrons). This project was tabled at the NAHSL level for the present time while these issues continue to be explored.

Information Technology

PayPal® continues to be used for collecting membership dues and registration fees. The registration committee for Conference 04 is exploring another online service that could streamline the registration process by having registration forms and fee collection occur at the same site.

The NN/LM NER continues to host the NAHSL web site, NAHSL-L discussion list and the NAHSL-EXEC discussion list.

MOTION

This report is informational and requires no action from the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,
Len Levin, MS LIS, MA, AHIP
Chair 2003-2004

North Atlantic Health Sciences Libraries, Inc., a chapter of the Medical Library Association

Elected Officers:

- Len Levin, *Chair*
- Edward Donnald, *Past Chair*
- Katherine Brunjes, *Chair-Elect*
- Fran Becker, *Treasurer*
- Happy Copley, *Secretary*
- Shirley Gronholm, *Chapter Council Representative*
- Evelyn Breck Morgen, *Chapter Council Alternate*

Committee Chairs:

- Carole Foxman, *Archives*
- Patricia Kahn, *Bylaws*
- Katherine Brunjes, *Conference 2004*
- Ruthann Gildea & Janet Crager, *Conference 2005*
- Joan Yanicke, *Credentialing*
- Andrew Dzaugis, *Education*
- Lida Douglas, *Electronic Communications*

- Fran Becker, *Finance*
- Barbara Ingrassia, *Governmental Relations*
- Jill Livingston, *Marketing*
- Penny Glassman, *Membership*
- Janet Cowen, *Program*
- Javier Crespo, *RML Representative*
- Happy Copley, *Scholarship*

State Representatives:

- Janet Crager, *ARIHSL (Rhode Island)*
- Evelyn Breck Morgen, *CAHSL (Connecticut)*
- Claire LaForce, *NH/VT*
- Janet Cowen, *HSLIC (Maine)*
- Cindy Hutchison, *MAHSLIN (Massachusetts)*

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