



INTERFACE

SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN ANESTHESIA

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STA Active in Planning for the Future

Jan Ehrenwerth, M.D. STA President

I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on the affairs of the Society.

Transition to New Management Group

I am happy to report that the transition to our new management group, headed by Beverlee Andersen at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, is proceeding smoothly. The transition is taking somewhat longer than I had anticipated, but it is better to go slowly and get it right the first time. I think they are a first-rate team and that Beverlee and her group will streamline the operations of the Society a great deal.

Election Results

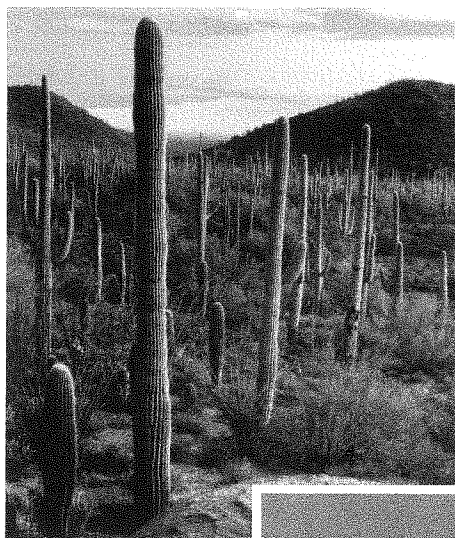
The results of the election for the at-large seat on the Board of Directors have been tallied. Mr. John Robinson of Hewlett Packard has won the election. John has been a long time member and supporter of STA and I'm sure that he will do an outstanding job. He is very pleased to have been elected and we welcome John to the Board of Directors.

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Leadership Retreat

Dr. Nik Gravenstein has organized a retreat of the former presidents of the STA along with the future president of the STA. The purpose of the retreat is to look at where we've been and where we are going, how close has the STA come to fulfilling its objectives



The Sonoran Desert is the only place in the world where saguaro cactus grow. The Arizona Sonora Desert Museum is just one of the optional tours for the 1998, Annual Meeting. And don't be fooled by the name. It's the most distinctive zoo in the US combined with botanic garden, nature trail, and museum.

and what do we need to do to get back on track? I look forward to the ideas this group develops, as I'm sure that they will benefit the Society in the future.

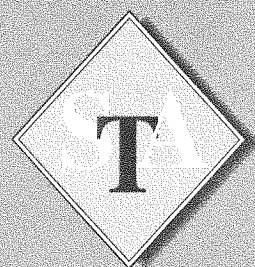
Committee Structure

I have asked Dr. Jerry Calkins to take a look at our committee structure—specifically, what committees we have, what committees we need, who is chairing the committees and the mission of each of the committees. We have a tremendous amount of talent, but our committees are not functioning up to their potential. The committees will meet on Sunday morning at the ASA in San Diego, with reports to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting on Sunday afternoon starting at 2:00 pm. The board meeting is open to all members who are interested in attending.

Annual Meeting and ASA Activities Organization

As many of you know, Dr. Alan (Grog) Grogono will retire from anesthesiology at the end of this year. Grog has done an outstanding job as Chairman of the Education Committee and I would like to thank him for all of his hard work over the many years.

continued on page 6



INTERFACE

SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN ANESTHESIA

INTERFACE is the official newsletter of the Society for Technology in Anesthesia.

The newsletter is published quarterly and mailed directly to the membership of the society. The editors invite suggestions, contributions and commentary about published items. Please send all correspondence to:

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'97 Membership Exceeds Goals

The spring membership drive for 1997, has ended and the results have far exceeded our original goals. This year the Society has registered as many members as in 1996, six months earlier than last year. Our new system allows us to focus on lost members for the latter part of the year, mostly those whose memberships lapsed in 1995 and years prior.

As you know, one of our major goals this year has been to flatten the dues structure to \$200.00 (from \$225.00 domestic, \$250 international) while abandoning the regular membership category for those who previously chose not to receive the International Journal of Clinical Monitoring. This one task has enabled us to improve our record-keeping and to develop a new, more accurate membership database. It has also eliminated confusion with Kluwer, the publisher of the Journal, in identifying which members are subscribers. Unfortunately, we have not been able to improve subscriber services, and most members have not yet received 1997 issues. Hopefully, this final hurdle will be resolved by the time this newsletter reaches you. We remain grateful for your continued patience.

This year we will establish membership subgroups based on specialty interests. Several of you have expressed interest in the pilot group on Pediatric Equipment and Technology. We are hopeful that this core group will interface with other pediatric organizations and with industry to assist in development of equipment standards for children, research and development of new technology, and education about all aspects of current and future monitoring and technology that are pertinent to the care of children. Please contact me if you are interested in joining this group or if you would like to organize other subspecialty groups.

Next year we hope to increase our membership even more and to improve services to members further. STA renewals for 1998 and **new membership recruitment will begin in September, 1997, and hopefully will conclude prior to January 1, 1998.** An accurate subscriber list will thus be available to Kluwer Publishing so that 1998 journal delivery will begin promptly in January. Our corporate recruitment and sponsorship will also be geared toward this calendar so that our corporate members also receive STA information and journals in a timely fashion. Please respond promptly when your renewal information arrives this fall.

As always, your comments, questions, and suggestions to improve member services are very much appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Charlotte Bell, M.D. and
Charles Brindis, M.D.
Membership Co-Chairs**

*Look up your
entry in the
new directory.
Send changes
to STA office.*

*Pilot
Interest Group Forms
Pediatric Equipment
Technology*

Contact Charlotte Bell

STA at the ASA San Diego

**The Internet, Anesthesia,
and Education: Advanced
Technology, Java and
All that Jazz**

ASA Breakfast Panel sponsored by the STA

The Annual STA Breakfast Panel is Tuesday, October 21, 1997, 7:30 a.m.–8:45 a.m., in the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina.

This year's Panel will be moderated by Alan W. Grogono, M.D., F.R.C.A., of Tulane University School of Medicine.

Dr. Grogono has assembled a distinguished panel to cover a wide range of topics of interest to our members and to ASA attendees in general: John Doyle, M.D., of University of Toronto will speak on *Medical Internet Publishing*; Rene Hagenouw, M.D., of University Hospital Rotterdam will speak on *Anesthesia Internet Resources*; Keith J. Ruskin, M.D., of Yale University School of Medicine will speak on *Web Site Management and Video Conferencing*; and Dr. Grogono will take a break from moderating these distinguished panelists and speak, himself, on *HTML and Java*.

In keeping with the Society's traditions there will be a brief ceremony before the Panel, introduced by the Society's President, Jan Ehrenwerth, M.D., of Yale University School of Medicine, Frederick A. Stawitchke, PhD., of Hewlett-Packard Laboratory, Palo Alto., and Chairman of the STA Research Committee, will present the Annual STA Research Awards.

**Veterinary Anesthesia:
Never a Dull Moment**

STA Dinner at 1997 ASA Annual Meeting

STA is proud to announce that it has persuaded the Veterinarian Anesthesiologist, Pauline Wong DVM, to be our Guest Speaker at the Society's Annual Dinner in San Diego on Sunday, October 19th 1997.

Dr. Wong enjoys a reputation as an entertaining speaker who creates vivid images with her stories and slides. She is native Californian, educated at University of California, Davis, where she still teaches and is on call for emergency cases.

Pauline has extensive experience in the anesthetic management of domestic animals when they are clinical patients at UCD's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Her practice primarily involves dogs, cats and horses, but includes llamas, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and zoo animals. As she says, "...not everyone gets to anesthetize a 300 gram marmoset one day and a 500 kg horse the next, and then gets to ride on a forklift with an anesthetized 1000 kg patient."

She is a contributing editor to Educational Synopses in Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and to the American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners newsletter; and she maintains a lively correspondence with physician anesthesiologists via e-mail and GASNet.

STA Annual Board of Directors Meeting

**Sunday
October 19th**

**10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Committee Meetings**

**12:00 noon — Board Meeting
Cardilt Room**

**6:30 p.m. — Dinner*
Boardman Room**

**Reservations required.
All at Marriott Hotel.*

ASA Breakfast Panel

**The Internet
Anesthesia & Education**

**Tuesday
October 21st**

**7:30 a.m. — Breakfast
Marina Ballroom D-F
Marriott Hotel**

*Register for the
STA dinner
by filling out form
on back page.*



STA Abstract Deadline Extended Until September 15th

SIGnatures

Christopher Wiley

For future historians the late 20th century may well be noted almost exclusively for the appearance of the Internet and the World Wide Web. We are witnessing and participating in the birth of an entirely new form of human communication and communal memory that allows nearly instantaneous access to vast amounts of information and huge numbers of people virtually anywhere on earth (not to mention certain regions of our solar system, e.g. Mars).

As indicated by the ancient Chinese curse, "May you live in interesting times," we are both blessed and cursed. We're blessed by the availability of nearly everything that anyone believes is worthy of sharing with others. Of course, we're cursed for precisely the same reason. However, we are also cursed by the sheer volume of material and the attendant difficulty in locating just those bits that we need. Therefore this article will attempt to provide an overview of searching the web as well as a more focused look at web-based approaches to searching the medical literature.

General Searching

The development of searching techniques and tools has lagged only slightly behind the growth of the Web itself. In the early days (pre-1995) this was a subject of interest primarily to academics, and virtually all of the search engines and strategies in use today were originally developed by graduate students in the computer sciences. Since then many of these graduate students have become entrepreneurs and are offering commercial versions of their search engines to the Web-faring public.

Essentially, each of the search engines consists of a huge database indexing

as many web pages (there are now over 50 million!) as possible using keywords, descriptive terms, or even every unique word in each site as index keys. With the Web growing so rapidly, finding and indexing new (or changed) pages is a very difficult task which is handled in an interesting way. Each search engine has dispatched and maintains an army of semi-autonomous programs, variously known as *worms*, *spiders*, *agents*, *crawlers*, or *bots*. These programs roam the Web visiting sites and reporting back with pertinent information for possible inclusion or updating. They then return to the site and methodically visit all the links on that site, and so on, and so on. The Web is absolutely infested with these *worms*, and a sizeable proportion of all Web traffic can be attributed to them. Accordingly, they can produce remarkably complete indices.

Since most of us use browsers from either Netscape or Microsoft, the easiest way to access the major Web search engines is by simply clicking the *Search* button on the browser's toolbar. You then have the opportunity to submit a query to any of the major engines listed in the table below. As a crude test for this article I submitted to each a naïve search for our society's homepage using the following three words; Society Technology Anesthesia. I've recorded in the table below the number of hits returned as well as

Engine	# Hits	First Match
Altavista	90,000	IARS, STA 6th
Excite	3,331,040	American Pathology Case of the Month
HotBot	2636	Japan STA 1st, STA 2nd
Infoseek	0	
LookSmart	90,000	IARS, STA 6th
Lycos	18,036	Engineering Library: The Impact of Science & Technology on Society
WebCrawler	219,374	Japan STA
Yahoo	4	Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia

an indication of the first hit returned or the relative position of the STA homepage in the list.

Clearly the results vary wildly depending upon the engine used and whether the system searches for any of the terms, all of the terms, or treats the terms as a phrase. Most of the engines have useful help and allow customized or power searches. You may wish to try them and pick your own favorite.

Another approach is to submit your query to a so-called meta search engine, like Metacrawler (www.metacrawler.com). Your query will be pre-packaged and automatically submitted to all of the major search engines. The results are then collated and presented in ranked order. Using our test query from above, Metacrawler returned 22 hits with the STA homepage ranked 3rd. Currently Metacrawler is my favorite for general web searches.

These engines generally do a fine job of searching the World Wide Web, but they are only able to see actual Web pages (i.e. HTML documents). Thus, they cannot delve into the many valuable databases on the Internet that are not directly formatted using HyperText Markup Language. Of course when we turn to the Internet for help with our medical practice and research, we are usually interested in just these sorts of databases.

Medical Literature Searching

Christopher Wiley

Science in general and medicine in particular are critically dependent upon the steady aggregation of knowledge that has been gathered in an unbiased and openly documented manner and offered for confirmation, refutation, or refinement by means of peer-reviewed publication. Traditionally this publication has occurred in paper-based scholarly journals and books, and this is still largely true today. What is changing, however, is the way this literature is indexed and searched.

Many of us remember, and possibly still use, the massive tomes of the Index Medicus. While they represented the state of the art for many years, their use required a trip to the library and a large amount of time. A comprehensive search spanning several years might easily take several hours. Some years ago the increasing availability of computers prompted the National Library of Medicine to improve the situation by creating MEDLINE, a comprehensive database of medical article citations that now covers some 9 million medical articles in over 3500 journals dating back to 1966. The citations include information such as author, title, source, and abstract, but do not contain full text or images.

While obviously a major improvement, until recently accessing MEDLINE still required either visiting a medical library or paying to subscribe to a service providing access via modem and dialup lines. Fortunately that situation is now changing thanks to the Internet and World Wide Web. In fact, while researching this article, I came across nearly 20 Web sites offering access to MEDLINE in one form or another. While some, such as PaperChase and Silver Platter, are only offered on a paid subscription basis, and others, like Ovid, are only available to institutions; most are actually free of charge.

Free Web-based MEDLINE access sites:

Site	MeSH	Save Query	X-Ref	Save Results	Full Text	Other
avicenna.com	Y	Y				FDA info, trials, outlines
biomednet.com	Y	Y		Y	\$\$	annotated, evaluated
cme-ce.com					\$\$	Java-based, slow
HELIX.com	?	Y			\$\$	US providers only, CME
healthgate.com	Y	Y		Y	\$\$	ReADER, nat. lang to MeSH
healthy.net		Y			\$\$	free for US/UK only
medscape.com					\$\$	forum, email newsletter
NLM Grateful Med	UMLS				\$ @ lib.	UMLS metathesaurus
NCBI PubMed ncbi.nlm.nih.gov	Y related		Y	Y	some free	journal browser, "see related", clinical queries
PDRnet.com		Y	by auth		\$\$	PDR online, cmeWEB
medline.phynet.net	Y	Y			\$\$	fast, news, specialty links
Physicians Online www.po.com						need their software

The following table lists several free MEDLINE access sites and indicates a few features worthy of consideration. MeSH means the system either maps your query to appropriate MeSH terms or allows direct access to the MeSH hierarchy. Save Query means that your queries are preserved during any given session so that you can easily go back, refine, and search again as needed. X-Ref refers to the existence of links to other articles cross-referenced by other means, eg. author. Save Results means that you can download the search results in various formats for use with bibliographic software.

While you may wish to explore all of the sites, it's hard to beat the NCBI's PubMed site. Administered directly by the National Library of Medicine and free by congressional edict, it is fact, well-designed, and replete with features. The only service I've seen that might be better is Ovid, which is only available if your institution subscribes and provides you with access. Otherwise, BioMed Net and Healthgate are worthy contenders and may

provide a mix of features better suited to your needs.

While these services are another huge step forward in allowing fast, easy access to MEDLINE from home or office, it is still somewhat cumbersome and costly to receive full-text copies of the articles of interest. Largely for economic and copyright reasons, most scholarly journals are still paper-based. The Internet and World Wide Web clearly provide the technical means for electronic journals, and there can be little doubt of their desirability. It's simply a matter of time before our medical discourse is greatly accelerated and amplified by the move to a digital format.

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biomednet.com	Y	Y		Y	\$\$	annotated, evaluated
cme-ce.com					\$\$	Java-based, slow
HELIX.com	?	Y			\$\$	US providers only, CME
healthgate.com	Y	Y		Y	\$\$	ReADER, nat. lang to MeSH
healthy.net		Y			\$\$	free for US/UK only
medscape.com					\$\$	forum, email newsletter
NLM Grateful Med	UMLS				\$ @ lib.	UMLS metathesaurus
NCBI PubMed ncbi.nlm.nih.gov	Y related		Y	Y	some free	journal browser, "see related", clinical queries
PDRnet.com		Y	by auth		\$\$	PDR online, cmeWEB
medline.phynet.net	Y	Y			\$\$	fast, news, specialty links
Physicians Online www.po.com						need their software

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Meeting Announcements

DOMESTIC

Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

41st Annual Meeting
September 22-26, 1997
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Society for Computing in Anesthesia

Annual Meeting
October 22-24, 1997
Lake Arrowhead, California

http://gasnet.med.yale.edu/scia/SCIA_Meeting_1997.html

American Medical Informatics Association

Annual Fall Symposium
(Formerly SCAMC)
October 25-29, 1997
Nashville, Tennessee

Society for Technology in Anesthesia

January 15-17, 1998
Tucson, Arizona

INTERNATIONAL

ESCTAIC Annual Meeting

September 18-20, 1997
Kyoto, Japan

18th International Symposium on Computing in Anesthesia and Intensive Care

March 18-21, 1998
Hamamatsu, Japan

<http://shr.hama-med.ac.jp/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from page 1*

I plan to institute a somewhat new system for the educational aspects of the Society. I'd like to put into place a system similar to the ASA—that is, a chair and vice-chair at the annual meeting and a chair in charge of the scientific papers. This system enables us to have a three year continuum where the vice-chair would move up to the chairmanship and the chair of the papers would move up to the vice-chair of the meeting. This gives us a long lead time for people to learn the system and for us to have some consistency in running the annual meeting.

Obviously, we must appoint individuals to organize future meetings. Dr. David Seitman has accepted the chairmanship for the 1999 meeting in San Diego.

The vice-chairman of the meeting will be Dr. Richard Bartkowski and the chair of the scientific papers will be Dr. Jeffrey Feldman. We also need a new chairman of the education committee, whose job will include coordinating the breakfast panel and the dinner speaker at the ASA meeting, organizing the Educational Committee's advancement of ideas for the sessions, and helping to develop ideas for meeting topics.

A Plea to Meet Deadlines: Your Contribution to an Efficient, Cost-effective Society

One of the big problems with efficiently running our Society is that our members are absolutely the

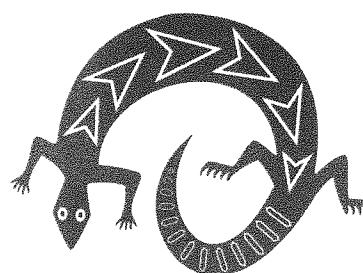
worst at doing things on time. It is very difficult to run a Society properly when dues are renewed two, three and four months after the deadline and when people register for the meeting the week before it starts. I encourage all of our members to support the Society and to attend the ASA dinner and the annual meeting; but please let us know in a timely fashion! Last year we had a number of people who failed to make hotel reservations before the room block expired. Unfortunately, the rooms sold out very quickly and they could not stay at the hotel. In fact, they had a difficult time finding rooms anywhere in the city. In addition, we failed to meet our projected hotel room pickup and were nearly



Over 90 years of aviation history and more than 200 aircraft are on display at the Pima Air & Space Museum. A tour you can select for the 1998 meeting.

charged several thousands of dollars for meeting space rental. Therefore, it is vitally important that people register for the meeting and make hotel reservations before the cutoff dates. This will greatly facilitate our ability to run the Society and the meeting efficiently and will keep the meeting chairman from having to spend his Christmas calling all of his STA friends to get them to register for the meeting.

I wish to thank all of you for your help and support. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to let me know.



The Southwest is getting ready for the 1998 Joint Meeting of Society for Technology in Anesthesia & Rochester Simulator Symposium

Simulation in Anesthesia

January 14-17, 1998 Tucson, Arizona

at the NEW Tucson Marriott University Park Hotel

The Scientific Program

Human Performance Aspects

Medical Education

Remote Locations – The Role of Technology

Anesthesia Pharmacology Development

Computer Education to Teach Technology – The Future
Team Training

Scientific papers & posters

Plus

Simulator Demonstration Workshops

An afternoon of field trips

Welcome Reception

2 Keynote speakers and 2 lunches

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations will be accepted.

For conference or STA membership information please call:

Beverlee Anderson, STA Coordinator 602-267-5366

or e-mail banderson@mmcaamss.maricopa.gov

