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# The Alberta Clinical Engineering Society Newsletter

30-May-2000

Volume 8 Number 1

## Presidents Letter

By Denny Mellott, C.E.T., President

I am glad to accept the position as president of ACES for 2000. I would like to start by thanking last year's executive for all of their hard work and support. This year we are off to a bit of a late start. The April meetings in Edmonton and Calgary put an end to our 1999 year. It was a successful meeting and I hope that we can continue that success. The new executive and myself got together shortly after the meeting and decided on our goals for this year. Firstly we decided it was essential to get out this newsletter to let our membership know what is happening. We also have begun preparations for a meeting in June of similar format to the April meeting; final preparations should be being made as you read this. Our main focus this year will be the joint ACES/IBET conference that Alex Sackiw is spearheading this fall in Calgary. ACES plans to provide a large deal of support for Alex leading up to the conference. I was fortunate enough to attend last year's conference in Kelowna and it was an enormous success. I am confident that our conference this fall will be of similar success. A special webpage has been developed at [http://skynet.uah.ualberta.ca/~aces/con](http://skynet.uah.ualberta.ca/~aces/conference2000.html)

[ference2000.html](http://skynet.uah.ualberta.ca/~aces/conference2000.html) for this fall's conference. The other main goal that we identified at our meeting was to involve biomed from all areas of Alberta therefore, we may have other locals joining our teleconferences. If you have questions regarding ACES please feel free to contact me via email at [denny.mellott@crha-health.ab.ca](mailto:denny.mellott@crha-health.ab.ca).

## Next ACES Meeting:



*Video Conference to be held June 14, 2000 concurrently between Calgary and Edmonton at 1700 hours. See the ACES webpage and watch your e-mail for more details.*

ACES would like to thank the following Sponsors for the April 12, 2000 videoconference meeting:

### MALLINCKRODT

Presenters: Harry Terpsta & Colin Poulin



Presenter: Holly Stewart

### ZOLL

Presenter: Berton Cade

### Trudell Medical Marketing Ltd – dinner sponsor

Thank you: Tad Kaczmarek

## New Executive:

### ❖ President:

**Denny Mellott**

E-mail:

[denny.mellott@crha-health.ab.ca](mailto:denny.mellott@crha-health.ab.ca)

Phone: 403.291.8069

### ❖ Vice President:

**Chuck Evans**

E-mail: [cevans@cha.ab.ca](mailto:cevans@cha.ab.ca)

Phone: 780.407-6711

### ❖ Secretary:

**Robin Fair**

E-mail: [robin.fair@med.ge.com](mailto:robin.fair@med.ge.com)

Phone: 780.407.8327

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**Joe Reynolds**

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Phone: 780.407.6711

### ❖ Communication Editor:

**Kay Henke**

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### ❖ Social Committee Chair:

**Vacant, Volunteers please!**

E-mail:

[denny.mellott@crha-health.ab.ca](mailto:denny.mellott@crha-health.ab.ca)

### ❖ Treasurer:

**Bruce Powell**

E-mail:

[Bruce.Powell@crha-health.Ab.Ca](mailto:Bruce.Powell@crha-health.Ab.Ca)

Phone: 403.670.1419

### ❖ Past President:

**Bill Rutledge**

E-mail: [brutledg@cha.ab.ca](mailto:brutledg@cha.ab.ca)

Phone: 780.403.7552

## 2000 Biomedical Conference

By Alex Sackiw, Conference Coordinator

Planning for the year 2000 Biomedical Conference is just commencing. The city of Calgary was chosen this year.

This will be the second joint IBET and ACES conference in what will be a long line of cooperative efforts to share information and develop a common direction for the advancement of the Biomedical community in Western Canada. These conferences will be held jointly once every second year with this year being an exception following so close behind last years Kelowna conference. The "planning session" at the conclusion of last years conference identified the need to formulate as quickly as possible, a common proactive approach for the promotion of the Biomedical community as a whole. I suspect a more concrete plan will evolve at this years conference.

To this end, I am asking for interested individuals (volunteers if you will) to step forward and donate a small amount of their time towards one specific duty associated with this years conference. The first organizational meeting is tentatively scheduled for 31 May via teleconference. Anyone with ideas, suggestions or curiosity are welcome to attend.

Please keep in mind the conference is tentatively planned for mid-October. Once active organization has begun, the most up-to-date information can be obtained from the ACES website. <http://skynet.uah.ualberta.ca/~aces>

## We Welcome Your Input...

Do you have an opinion? A beef or bouquet? Maybe a great article idea? Please feel free to contact the ACES Newsletter Editor with any comments, concerns, ideas or articles you would like to see published. You can e-mail your information to Kay Henke at [biomed@mail.car.ab.ca](mailto:biomed@mail.car.ab.ca).

## Regional Updates: CHA, Edmonton

*Submitted by Bill Rutledge*

Edmonton Update – May 2000

It has been a while since I last prepared an article for the ACES newsletter. Since that time, the Capital Health Clinical Engineering group have successfully survived the rollover to a new year, as well as a minor organizational reshuffling in the past few months. We have welcomed a couple of new faces, Pam Gagnon (full-time) and Nelson Moreira (casual) at the RAH and Sturgeon and Garth Hebert (full-time) and Corrie Gardner (casual) at the UAH, and said farewell to our Y2k assistant Orrin Stephen.

Like all of you are experiencing, work life has not been slowing down this year. The region has been working on implementing Alaris infusion pumps at all sites, with UAH being the last to convert, scheduled in June 2000. The region has also converted to the Baxter needleless infusion sets in an attempt to reduce workplace hazards. Conversely, we have been spending increasing resources in dealing with antibiotic resistant organisms (VRE, MRSA). A major concern of ours has been the rejection of electronic thermometers because of the difficulty in adequately cleaning contaminated devices. Some sites have reintroduced mercury thermometers with their associated hazards. We are hoping that a new "chemistry strip" which changes colours with temperature will successfully pass clinical trials as an alternative.

Of course, there have also been a number of new technologies being introduced with Y2k and some government reinvestment. In particular, we are very aware of the

growing impact and overlap of computers and clinical information systems with the traditional Clinical Engineering world of physiological monitors and therapy devices. To this effort, we have assigned Michael Mah to a regional role in a liaison and facilitator role to deal with common issues of I.S. hardware and software specifications and support. Through his efforts, we hope to provide a co-ordinated support, if necessary, for clinical systems with the co-operation of Information Systems.

We are still working towards regional maintenance management system. Jon Sala has led the effort to address a Y2k issue at the RAH, and has generated an intranet-based maintenance management tool. Although enhancement of this software continues, it has recently been extended to the Sturgeon and we are submitting a request for further funding to develop this application for a region-wide solution.

Finally, a little more about our "minor organizational reshuffling" mentioned above. For the past 4 to 5 years, the RAH and UAH have operated under one manager, who was accountable to each site senior operating officer. Of course, Caritas sites, Leduc, Sturgeon, Glenrose and the new Northeast Community Healthcare Centre had their own organizational reporting and accountability structure, although we tried our best to behave like a regional department. Year 2000, capital equipment planning, infusion pumps and a host of other lower profile initiatives have repeatedly focussed the attention of senior management on the resources available to the region through Clinical Engineering. As a result, as of 1 April 2000 (unofficially), Clinical Engineering Services are now part of the Regional Support Services portfolio, along with such services as Diagnostic Imaging, Laboratory Medicine, Food and Nutrition

Services and Materiel Management. Capital Equipment Planning has assumed the role of purchasing capital equipment from Materiel Management and we are in further discussion as to the nature of a possible merger of Clinical Engineering and Capital Equipment Planning to a "Equipment Management" portfolio reporting to the Senior Operating Officer for Regional Support Services.

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## Regional Updates: CRHA, Calgary

*Submitted by Denny Mellott, C.E.T.*

First I would to congratulate Ron Code on his retirement after many years of service.

### **ACES wishes you all the best Ron!**

The long talked about Clinical Engineering shop expansion is underway at Rockyview Hospital, expected move is scheduled for late May. Our CMMS (Computerized Maintenance Management System) program is in the process of initiating the PM portion. Over 200 PM procedures have been prepared for entry into CMMS. PM procedures and dates are now being assigned to the equipment.

Other news of interest related to the CRHA:

CRHA to Receive Two More MRI's  
[http://www.crha-health.ab.ca/public\\_affairs/news/MRI\\_2.pdf](http://www.crha-health.ab.ca/public_affairs/news/MRI_2.pdf)

Colonel Belcher Care Centre Update  
[http://www.crha-health.ab.ca/public\\_affairs/news/Colonel\\_Belcher\\_Funding.pdf](http://www.crha-health.ab.ca/public_affairs/news/Colonel_Belcher_Funding.pdf)

Update on ACH Redevelopment  
[http://www.crha-health.ab.ca/public\\_affairs/news/ach\\_letter.pdf](http://www.crha-health.ab.ca/public_affairs/news/ach_letter.pdf)

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## Regional Updates: Chinook Health Region...

*Submitted by Kay Henke, R.E.T.*

Biomed Division has benefited from various training sessions during the past year. Among these have been the IBET/ACES Conference held in Kelowna, Baxter 6201 and Colleague seminars, factory training on Datex/Ohmeda AS/3, factory training for Sormedics spirometry equipment and a training session for Valleylab ESU. To accommodate the acquisition of several new Force FX units by our OR, we purchased the new ESU Tester from DNI Nevada, Model 454A. We find this unit very easy to operate, with its clear display and easily followed testing instruction prompts.

We continue to focus on streamlining our PM procedures and keeping the database content consistent.

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## ASET AGM News...

*Submitted by Kay Henke, R.E.T.*

On Saturday May 1, 1999 I had the pleasure of attending the Annual General Meeting of ASET (The Alberta Society of Engineering Technologists), held at the Hospitality Inn in Calgary. A couple of the issues they dealt with were a name change, and recognition of technology as a defined practice.

The name will be changed to the "Applied Science and Engineering Technicians and Technologists" of Alberta (ASETT). Members felt this name would more clearly reflect and recognize the diversity of ASET's

current and future membership, without changing the acronym too much.

# Membership Application

To enjoy the benefits of ACES, and ensure that you continue to receive the ACES newsletter and meeting notices, **Become a Member Today!** Complete the following Information form, and return with payment in the amount \$10.00 to:

The Alberta Clinical  
Engineering Society  
c/o The Foothills Hospital  
Clinical Engineering Room ABW8  
1403 – 29 Street NW  
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 2T9  
ATTENTION: Bruce Powell, Treasurer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Ext: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Business Information:

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Ext: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New members receive a membership card and ACES PIN**  
**Memberships are valid from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.**  
**All members receive equal voting rights.**

# Newsletter by Email

## ACES IS NOW SENDING ALL NEWSLETTERS BY EMAIL.

To be sure you are on the ACES E-mail list forward your Email address to Denny Mellott  
[denny.mellott@cra-health.ab.ca](mailto:denny.mellott@cra-health.ab.ca)

All Newsletters will now be sent in "PDF" format. To Read a PDF file simply download an Adobe Acrobat Reader from  
<http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>

The Adobe Acrobat Reader software is free and available for all computer platforms. Use of this reader ensures that the document will print correctly formatted on every system with no added expense. If you have any comments or questions about receiving or reading ACES E-mail Newsletters please feel free to contact Brandon Beaudry at 492-6711.

Archives of the ACES Newsletters are also available on the **ACES Web** site listed below.

## MEMBER "FEED BACK"

ACES is an organization dedicated to our members and the field of Clinical and Biomedical Engineering. As a member of ACES you are entitled to provide your input into the activities of the committee. Please forward all ideas and comments directly to a member of the ACES Executive. For a list of your executive please see the:

**ACES Web Page @**

<http://skynet.uah.ualberta.ca/~aces>

## Special Recognition

If someone you know has made an outstanding contribution to the field of Biomedical or Clinical Engineering please nominate that person by sending an email message outlining that contribution to [brutledge@cha.ab.ca](mailto:brutledge@cha.ab.ca)