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The Alberta Clinical Engineering Society Newsletter

4-January-2002

Volume 10 Number 1

Presidents Letter

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

Happy Holidays! It has been my pleasure to serve as your president for the past two years. I have learned a lot during my term as president and I have met and talked with many wonderful people. I would like to thank those people who have served on the executive with me, I could not have done it without your help. I look forward to helping the new president settle into the position.

As for ACES business we are having our Annual General Meeting on February 9, 2002 in Red Deer. At this meeting we will be addressing several society business issues including: electing the executive for 2002, voting on updates to our Bylaws, and discussing hosting the Western Regional Biomedical Engineering Conference in Edmonton for 2002. Also GE Medical will be sponsoring lunch and doing a presentation on Asset Tracking – Root Challenges, Symptoms faced by Canadian Hospitals and possible solutions. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

As discussed at our November meeting ACES has decided to start planning to host the Western Regional Biomedical Engineering Conference for 2002 in Edmonton. Joe Reynolds has graciously volunteered to be the Conference Director, thank you Joe! Joe cannot organise this conference alone and I urge all of you to lend a hand and support Joe so we can have the best conference yet!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Red Deer, February 9, 2002

Attention all ACES Members! This is your formal notice of our Annual General Meeting. The trip to Red Deer is a chance for all of us to meet face-to-face, do our business, and enjoy a presentation by GE Medical Systems.

**Saturday, February 9, 2002 from
12:00 to 16:00
CAPRI HOTEL &
CONVENTION CENTRE**

**Boardroom #3
3310-50 Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta**



Keynote Presentation:

GE Medical Systems Clinical Services will present information on Asset Tracking – Root Challenges, Symptoms faced by Canadian Hospitals and possible solutions.

Many hospital executives and administrators are aware of the challenges faced by Biomedical Engineering and Nursing with respect to Asset Tracking but are not aware of the financial impacts, productivity impacts as well as impacts on staff and patient satisfaction. The talk will include where GE sees Asset Tracking and Asset Management Technology going in the future, real market trends and statistics. It will touch on a solution by GE Clinical Services - Intellimotion, a real-time, wireless asset tracking solution that dynamically tracks assets as they

move through the hospital, pinpoints their location for PM's or O.R. staging.

The presentation will be upbeat and fun. Jon Abrams, Manager, Customer Solutions and David Brewin, Clinical Engineer will be presenting. G.E. will be sponsoring lunch and will provide door prizes.

Bylaw Changes:

On the last two pages of this newsletter you will find proposed changes to the ACES bylaws. The executive has recommended changes concerning membership, meeting notices and meeting quorum. Make sure you are aware of these changes and plan to attend to make your opinion known. A proxy form is attached if you are unable to attend, but wish to have your vote counted.

Executive Nominations:

We will be electing a new board of directors at our AGM. If you are interested in working on the ACES board, or could talk to your colleague about contributing to the Society, please e-mail your nomination directly to any of the executive listed below. Remember that the future of the Society depends on your participation.

ACES Executive:

❖ President:

Denny Mellott

E-mail:

Denny.Mellott@CalgaryHealthRegion.ca

Phone: 403.291.8069

❖ Vice President:

Kay Henke

E-mail: biomed@mail.chr.ab.ca

Phone: 403.382.6396

❖ Secretary:

Robin Fair

E-mail: calenso@telusplanet.net

Phone:

❖ Treasurer:

Bruce Powell

E-mail:

Bruce.Powell@CalgaryHealthRegion.ca

Phone: 403.670.1419

❖ Communication Editor:

Bill Rutledge

E-mail: BRutledg@cha.ab.ca

Phone: 780.407.7552

❖ Social Co-ordinator:

John Brookwell

E-mail:

John.Brookwell@CalgaryHealthRegion.ca

Phone: 780.

❖ Education Co-ordinator:

Craig Schultz

E-mail:

Craig.Schultz@CalgaryHealthRegion.ca

Phone: 403.670.1419

❖ Conference Liaison:

Chuck Evans

E-mail: CEvans@cha.ab.ca

Phone: 780.407.8685

❖ Membership Co-ordinator:

Alex Sackiw

E-mail: ASackiw@cha.ab.ca

Phone: 780.407.6520

Membership Has Its Rewards

Submitted by Alex Sackiw, BMET

Membership in ACES entitles you to voting rights, conference and special event discounts and personal notification of employment opportunities (via email) as they are made available. As well, newsletters will be mailed out in hardcopy should a member not have access to email.

All individuals (members or non-members) who are on the ACES mailing list will receive newsletters via e-mail, as information should be free.

We are starting fresh in January of 2002 with a new database and redefined criteria for full membership and student membership.

These changes will be decided upon at the ACES meeting February 9, 2002.

If your vital information has changed since your last contact with ACES (ie: mailing address, e-mail, position etc.), please contact us and we will update our database! If you are not sure, then send us your current contact information. We do share contact information between ACES in Alberta and IBET in British Columbia for the purpose of joint Biomedical Conference and educational seminar notifications.

We Welcome Your Input...

Do you have an opinion on anything you have read? 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 Bill Rutledge at BRutledg@cha.ab.ca

Regional Updates: CHA, Edmonton

Submitted by Bill Rutledge

There have been no personnel changes in the Edmonton region in the past few months. We had been hoping to recruit to fill a few vacancies, both temporary and permanent, but the recent budget announcements from government have resulted in a deferral of the postings for the time being. Only front-line patient-care positions are proceeding without restrictions.

Functional planning for the Cardiac Centre of Excellence has been proceeding at UAH with Clinical Engineering participating on three of the five user groups looking at various aspects of the Centre's operations. Similarly, the North Treatment Centre planning and Active Treatment Centre renovations and expansion for outpatient and ophthalmology surgery is also very active with BMETs as part of the user groups.

A training program on the Force FX electrosurgical unit is being planned for February in Edmonton. Valleylab will be training Edmonton-area BMETs as part of a recent purchase. We look forward to seeing some other

Alberta-region BMETs who will be participating as well.

Congratulations go to Michael Mah who has accepted an out-of-scope position as a Senior Equipment Planner for Capital Health.

Regional Updates: Canadian Armed Forces, Edmonton

Submitted by Tom Reid, Biomedical Engineering 1 HSOTU.

Not much has happened since our last update. We did conduct BMET training here at our new shop and hosted 10 other techs from across the country. Warrant Officer Joe Shea, the CF Trade advisor for BMETs attended and also visited the students at NAIT. Mr. Rick Carnegie of Ash Temple presented a day seminar on field dental equipment and troubleshooting techniques. It was well received by all attendees.

We were busy for a few days ensuring field medical equipment being packed up for a possible deployment with Op Apollo was serviceable. At present none of our BMETs have been added to the deployment list.

Regional Updates: Calgary Region

Submitted by Craig Schultz, BMET.

I hope everyone had a happy and relaxing holiday season. It looks like the year ahead will pose many challenges, but nothing we all haven't faced before.

Last year the Clinical Engineering Department in Calgary went through some changes to our management structure. Jason Shenher took over as Regional Manager in the spring. Dave Edmonds is Manager, focusing mostly on the Diagnostic Imaging side of our operation. Two Supervisor (Tech.3) positions were created to deal with the daily operational issues. Kelly Kobe is responsible for PLC and RGH sites, and I am responsible for the FMC and ACH sites.

CMMS:

Our staff have been very busy trying to juggle their regular workload (DM & PM) and create and enter PM procedures for our CMMS database. We have completed 97% of the Critical 1's, 53% of Critical 2's, and 20% of Critical 3's. Thanks everyone for your hard work, which made it possible to reach our year-end goal.

Equipment Evaluations:

Infant Incubators – Completed

Adult Ventilators – December until March

Infant Ventilators – To start in January

Smoke Evacuators – Started in December

Other News:

-Calgary's 3 new MRI are now in operation at the ACH, FMC and RGH.

-Plans for the new ACH hospital are underway. Users group meetings have been held to determine department space requirements.

-Renovations are ongoing at PLC Emergency. We have completed the "Fast Track" addition.

-Renovation to the Special Care Nursery at the RGH to begin in the New Year, which will see an expansion from 15 beds to a 26-bed unit.

-P.M. of the Siemens D.I. equipment located at the RGH was done in-house for the first time.

Regional Updates: Northern Lights Region, Ft. McMurray

Submitted by Graham Bruce, BMET, CET.

Seasons Greetings from under the Northern Lights. I hope you and yours had a happy holiday season. Did you win the SUPER 7 jackpot? Call me!!!

The Biomedical Services Department wound down as usual with my annual house cleaning of every nook and cranny, it's amazing how much stuff we keep that is of no use whatsoever. It was several days' worth of work. Things quiet down at the end of the year so I have space to do this project.

After an initial problem with the oxygen sensor on the Drager units had been cleared up, things are now running smoothly. No problem with Agilent stuff. The ICU has decided to purchase two new beds for their unit, they will be the HillRom models they have been evaluating. Three new Colleague Infusion Pumps (Baxter) have now been in service for a month with no complaints. More to come.

The Continuing Care Unit will be getting 14 new beds for their unit, which type I am not sure yet. The selection process for the CT unit is under way. Finally the funding for the Lab/Medical Records renovation has been approved (\$3.2 mill). Now the tendering process begins. It should

start early in 2002. First the lab half then the medical records half. I figure two years easy.

The Foundation is extremely pleased with the response to their annual Festival of Trees, a whopping \$144,000 raised, far exceeding their estimates. Kudos all around to all the volunteers.

E-mail access is being provided for staff members who do not have access to it within the facility. Each individual will have their own address and ONLY e-mail access. This came out of results from a survey to staff to see what they wanted and what was important to them as part of a retention program.

The annual Christmas dinner was its usual success with everyone enjoying the turkey and trimmings, baking galore and eggnog. Sponsored by Administration and served by management staff to workers and guests alike. The big Social Club dinner and dance was held on Dec 15th with its usual good turnout. Eat, drink and dance till the wee hours. The usual round of bake sales and open houses were all well attended.

The new year will bring a new patient television system to the facility. It will be an outside contractor, who will provide all the TVs, will upgrade cable quality and take care of all aspects of the system. This will free up security staff, who now collect monies, and free up Biomedical staff, who handle getting things repaired as well as putting out fires caused by security. This should free up maintenance staff who have to change TVs and free up nurse staff who have to put up with whiny

patient complaints. It should also free up funding to be used elsewhere for more important stuff. (New hospital ready TVs run around \$700.00 these days). Basically eliminate one big headache for all involved. The transition will get underway in late January or early February, which is fine, since I have no spare TVs to replace failing units anymore.

What else the New Year will bring? We will just have to wait and see. Hoping that 2002 brings much peace and prosperity to all. Bye for now from the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre in Fort McMurray.

NAIT UPDATE

Submitted by Roy Sharplin, Co-ordinator,

Biomedical Engineering Technology, Phone: 780-471-7038 Fax: 780-491-3072

On behalf of the NAIT Biomedical Engineering Technology students and staff, I would like to wish all of you the best possible year for 2002. Our 4th semester students are looking forward to their weekly field practice exercises and I would like to thank Capital Health, the University of Alberta, Royal Alexandra, Misericordia, Grey Nuns, and Sturgeon Hospitals, the Cross Cancer Institute, and the Department of National Defence for participating in this program. NAIT Open House will take place on March 8 and 9 this year and as usual the biomedical students will be preparing a display. If you have the chance, drop by and check it out.

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 1st to December 31st.
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@CalgaryHealthRegion.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 407-3861

BBeaudry@cha.ab.ca

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

MEMBER "FEEDBACK"

ACES is an organisation 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

Proposed Bylaw Changes and Additions

For approval at AGM, February 9, 2002

Addition - 1a. Any full-time student in an approved Clinical or Biomedical Engineering program may become a student member upon the students' request and approval of the board. This student membership shall be at no charge. Student members are entitled to all membership privileges or powers in the society except that they may not hold a position on the board and shall be non-voting members.

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Original - 2. Any member wishing to withdraw from membership may do so upon a notice in writing to the Board through its Secretary. If any member is in arrears for fees or assessments for any year, such member shall be automatically suspended at the expiration of six months from the end of such year and shall thereafter be entitled to no membership privileges or powers in the society until reinstated. Any member upon a majority vote of all members of the society in good standing may be expelled from membership for any cause that the society may deem reasonable.

Amended - 2. Any member wishing to withdraw from membership may do so upon "Proper Notification" to the Board through its Secretary. If any member is in arrears for fees or assessments for any year, such member shall be automatically suspended at the expiration of six months from the end of such year and shall thereafter be entitled to no membership privileges or powers in the society until reinstated. Any member, upon a majority vote of all members of the society in good standing, may be expelled from membership for any cause that the society may deem reasonable.

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Original - 6. The Board shall, subject to the by-laws or directions given it by majority vote at any meeting properly called and constituted, have full control and management of the affairs of the society, and meetings of the Board shall be held as often as may be required, but at least once every three months, and shall be called by the President. A special meeting may be called on the instructions of any two members thereof provided they request the President in writing to call such meeting, and state the business to be brought before the meeting. Meetings of the Board shall be called by ten days' notice in writing mailed to each member or by three days' notice by telegram or telephone. Any five members shall constitute a quorum, and meetings shall be held without notice if a quorum of the Board is present, provided, however, that any business transactions at such meeting shall be ratified at the next regularly called meeting of the Board; other-wise they shall be null and void.

Amended - 6. The Board shall, subject to the by-laws or directions given it by majority vote at any meeting properly called and constituted, have full control and management of the affairs of the society. Meetings of the Board shall be held as often as may be required, but at least once every three months, and shall be called by the President. A special meeting may be called on the instructions of any two members thereof provided they request the President with "Proper Notification" to call such meeting, and state the business to be brought before the meeting. Meetings of the Board shall be called by three days' notice with "Proper Notification". Any five members shall constitute a quorum, and meetings shall be held without notice if a quorum of the Board is present, provided, however, that any business transactions at such meeting shall be ratified at the next regularly called meeting of the Board; otherwise they shall be null and void.

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Original - 14. This society shall hold an annual meeting on or before 1 December in each year, of which notice in writing to the last known address of each member shall be delivered in the mail at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting. At this meeting there shall be elected nine directors. The so elected shall form a Board, and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled at the next meeting, provided it is so stated in the notice calling such meeting. Any member in good standing shall be eligible to any office in the society.

Amended - 14. This society shall hold an annual meeting at least once in each year; "Proper Notification" shall be delivered to each member at least ten days prior to the date of the meeting. At this meeting there shall be elected nine directors. The so elected shall form a Board, and shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. Any vacancy occurring during the year shall be filled at the next meeting, provided it is so stated in the notice calling such meeting. Any member in good standing except student members shall be eligible to hold any office in the society.

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Original - 15. General meetings of the society may be called at any time by the Secretary upon the instructions of the President or Board by notice in writing to the last known address of each member, delivered in the mail at least eight days prior to the date of such meeting. A special meeting shall be called by the President or Secretary upon receipt by him of a petition signed by one-third of the members in good standing setting forth the reasons for calling such meeting, which shall be by letter to the last known address of each member, delivered in the mail eight days prior to the meeting.

Amended - 15. General meetings of the society may be called at any time by the Secretary upon the instructions of the President or Board with "Proper Notification" of each member at least eight days prior to the date of such meeting. A special meeting shall be called by the President or Secretary upon receipt by him / her of a petition signed by one-third of the members in good standing, setting forth the reasons for calling such meeting. Notice of meeting shall be sent to the last known address of each member, delivered eight days prior to the meeting.

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Original - 17. Any member who has not withdrawn from membership nor has been suspended nor expelled as herein provided shall have the right to vote at any meeting of the society. Such votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.

Amended - 17. Any voting member who has not withdrawn from membership nor has been suspended nor expelled as herein provided shall have the right to vote at any meeting of the society. Such votes must be made in person and not by proxy or otherwise.

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Definition:

"Proper Notification" - Proper Notification shall be defined as Notification delivered by electronic means such as email, or if the person does not have email, in writing via postal service or fax.

ALBERTA CLINICAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

FORM OF PROXY

This proxy may be submitted at the Annual General meeting of the Alberta Clinical Engineering Society to be held on Saturday, February 9, 2002.

The undersigned member(s) of **Alberta Clinical Engineering Society** hereby appoints

(Please Print – Full Name or ‘Society Director’)

as a nominee of the undersigned, to attend and act for the undersigned and on behalf of the undersigned at the Annual General Meeting of the members of Alberta Clinical Engineering Society as stated above.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2002.

Signature of member(s)

Name of member(s) (Please print)

Note: Society Directors are:

Denny Mellott
Kay Henke
Bruce Powell
John Brookwell
Craig Schultz
Robin Fair
Alex Sackiw
Chuck Evans
Bill Rutledge

Proxies may be carried to the meeting by the nominee, or where Society Director is named, please fax proxy to Denny Mellott at 403-291-8584 or Chuck Evans at 780-407-7082.

Faxes must arrive before February 8, 2002.