

## Highlights

- **2004 AGM ANNOUNCEMENT**

Contact ACES

Alberta Clinical Engineering Society  
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Calgary, Alberta T2M 0K3 CANADA



# The Alberta Clinical Engineering Society Newsletter

March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004

## Presidents Letter

*by Alex Sackiw, R.E.T.,  
President*

Networking... What the heck is that anyway?

When I first started as a young Biomed 20 years ago, I was told to get out there and "Network". It was fashionable at the time to toss around that jargon at every opportunity, but unless you knew "how to network" it was an awkward experience. Some of you will remember attending your first Biomedical Conference. Maybe it was a CMBES conference or maybe a vendor trade show. Irregardless, you were to set about, meeting people. I have to admit, I was not good at it. Especially since I couldn't remember a person's name 10 seconds after they told it to me. That was embarrassing since it seemed everyone knew everyone else. Was I the only outsider? I'm pretty sure that after my first experience, I promised myself never to do anything like that again. So what happened? How did I end up being the President of an organization that actually organizes these conferences let alone, liking it! I think it was because someone said "come and join us", or maybe it was someone saying "just go, it'll be interesting". No matter how it started, I found that getting involved had it's own rewards. I was exposed to a whole world of "insider" information that I would never have been privy to if I

simply did my job, grabbed my paycheck and went home. I began to feel like I was a part of something, something that was important to me. I could offer my opinion, influence decisions, by golly, I Could Make A Difference... and it felt good!

ACES did not organize a conference this year, but plans are in the works for the next one. Our Annual General Meeting is more of a social gathering than anything. Yes, we do vote on issues and make plans and even elect a group of people to entrust our future party plans to ( we call them the Board of Directors, but that's just more jargon ). What we are really doing is networking ( I like to call it Sharing of Information ). This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to see if there is more to their job than just putting in the hours. If you want to influence where the next social golf game is going to be played, and when... "Come and join us". If you want to make suggestions as to a professional development course you would like to see being offered at the next conference, "Come and join us". Even if you are a recent graduate or first year student and simply want to find out who is going to be hiring in the next few months or for the summer, my advice to you is "Just go, it'll be interesting". Now that you've heard my opinion, I'd like to hear yours.

## ACES AGM

**May 8, 2004**

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2004  
Time: 11:30 till 16:00  
Place: Capri Hotel in Red Deer

## Calgary Health Region Update

*by Kelly Kobe or Craig Schultz*

Greetings from the Calgary Health Region. I hope everyone has been busy enjoying your favorite winter activities, but if you're like me you can't wait for spring!

The Region has confirmed plans to add addition acute care beds. The Peter Lougheed Hospital will add 150 beds, Rockyview will add 100, and Foothills will add 10 new Emergency and 36 new ICU beds.

The Region has also announced plans to build a South Health Campus, which would contain a 350-400 bed hospital. Phase 1 completion scheduled for 2008.

The New Alberta Children's Hospital is currently being constructed.

Completion date is spring of 2006 and from driving by progress looks good! A new project for the region is to build 6 new "Smart OR's". There will be 2 OR's at each of the following sites, FMC, PLC and RGH. This currently is at the RFP stage and a decision should be made later this month on which vendor will construct. This will bring Telehealth, PACS and other technologies to the OR table.

The Region's Infusion Pump Committee has completed their evaluation, with the decision going to Baxter. For the Acute Centers in Calgary the new pumps will be the Colleague. For the surrounding Calgary area the new pump will be the Flo Gard

The region plans to have all Colleague Pumps (approximately 2100 pumps) in service before July. We have hired a temporary Biomed to help with the pump roll out.

The Region DI department also just purchased 7 Sequoia Ultra Sound units which should be delivered before April/04. Training for CE staff is included.

Since the last newsletter the new 16 slice CT scanner and MRI unit at the PLC are up and running.

A new GE Apex Pro Telemetry system is being installed by GE and Clinical Eng. in High River Hospital.

Training has been completed on the Gambro Prisma Units and the Erbe ESU's.

Upcoming Training courses include Kodak CR readers, Datex Ohmeda Anesthesia units, GE CT Lightspeed Pro, GE Telemetry and Patient Monitoring, and the Sequoia Ultra Sound Units.

That's all from Calgary. I'm looking forward to the Flames having a long and successful playoff season! GO Flames GO!!!!

## Mistahia Regional Health Authority Update

*by Orrin Stephen*

News from the Peace Country:

At the end of March the new Neonatal Nursery will open, which will expand the number of beds from 6 to 10, with 2 additional overflow beds. It is "L" shaped with a central Nursing desk that has a view of all the beds, including a glassed in Resus area. It also has windows all along the outside wall, which many of the nurses really appreciate. They have purchased 10 new Philips touch screen monitors, with plans to add a central monitor in the future. There are plans to ultimately purchase two new infant ventilators and upgrade the NICU to a "level 2 ½" so they can accommodate ventilated babies on a step-down, or a temporary basis. This way they would be able to accommodate babies from the Northwest that would otherwise have to stay in Edmonton. (Edmonton will still get more than its fair share of referrals, for things that just can't be done anywhere else.) All of the money for this project came from donated funds, there must be some people up here with very deep pockets. (I have no idea who they are, because I don't get to meet people like that.)

On a different note, one of the three biomed has left for greener pastures. Sean Hanlon is now working at the new Hospital in Thunder Bay, Ontario. He will be missed. We hired a relatively new graduate, Doug Dewert, in his place and he seems to be coming along fine. All three of us attended the video conference on infection control issues, which I thought was very valuable. Thanks to Matt Tracy and everyone else who helped make that happen. It certainly made you think about things you might otherwise take for granted, and I have started to change some my practices accordingly. And we all had fun with the catch phrase, "when in doubt think dirty".

## Northern Lights Regional Health Services Update

*by Graham Bruce, C.E.T.*

Greeting once again from the north east corner of Alberta. Arctic winter games are in full swing and everything is going smoothly, everyone having a good time. I am doing my volunteer part by staying away from all of the activities and crowds. Suncor has announced that expansion plans have been approved so about 2600 people will be required for construction, creating about 30 jobs. This will impact on our health unit for sure. It just goes on and on and on. Today reminded us that it is still winter with minus 30 this morning but it is expected to warm up to minus 14 daytime and minus 1 or 2 on the weekend. The days are noticeably longer and the sun is shining.

Our health region readies for the opening of the new facility in High level, things are in the final stages. Everyone over there is getting excited. It is still to determined what role the Biomedical Services will play in this new region, as of now things remain in limbo. I just carry on with the multitude of jobs here and don't worry about it.

We have now received our new scope sterilizer unit from Steris Corp. It is primarily for the sterilization of Broncoscopes but may be expanded to all scopes as time passes. This has come about due to past incident of disease transmission through not properly cleaned/sterilized scopes. The proper sterilization of Bronchosopes has become a bit of a priority nationally. It will be operated through the Processing Department, for now, which currently handles all dirty items that are processed to clean items, including Biomedical equipment.

Matt Tracy's fine presentation on Infection control at the work bench was timely. Well done Matt!!!

Health Records has moved to their new home with a speedy transition and little disruption. Immediately after they left renovations began on the old area for the temporary home of Ultrasound in preparation for renovations in Diagnostic Imaging. This project will take about six months with Ultrasound getting new rooms and a new general x-ray room being created from an old tomographic room. Anyone ever heard of a "STRATOMATIC". The waiting room will be moved and traffic patterns changed. The on going saga of main floor renovations continues.

We will now be doing "Holter" monitoring from this location, managed out of Respiratory and read in Edmonton. We have three, 48hr units. Biomedical Services (me) is currently evaluating some new testing equipment as my existing stuff has been deemed obsolete by the manufacturer, who has been swallowed up by FLUKE CORP. Early stages still. Nothing else of any significance happening at the bench.

## NAIT Update

*by Roy Sharplin*

We have passed the halfway point of our winter semester. The students are very busy and I think they are looking forward to spring, their practicum placements, and graduation. The semester has is going well, there are 21 students in the graduating class. They have been enjoying their weekly field practice exercises where they spend half a day each week at a hospital. This year the weekly field practice has included:

- University of Alberta Hospital, Clinical Engineering and Renal Service programs,
- Edmonton General Hospital, renal service,
- Royal Alexandra Hospital, Clinical Engineering and Diagnostic Imaging Service,
- Sturgeon Hospital, Clinical Engineering,

- Edmonton Garrison, Clinical Engineering
- Misericordia Hospital, Clinical Engineering, and
- Grey Nuns Hospital, Clinical Engineering.

The students and our program are very lucky to work so closely with the staff of Capital Health. I am currently arranging the practicum placements this year; the practicums will take place in May. The Biomedical Program's Annual Industry Mixer is scheduled for Tuesday April 6. That concludes the NAIT news!

## Attention Students:

Get your FREE Student Membership today!

## Letter from the Editor

*by Joe Reynolds, C.E.T.*

I trust that you have found this newsletter to be informative and easy to read. You will notice that some regions have been unable to submit their columns as the usual fiscal year end woes overtake them. I sincerely hope that you will make every effort to attend the AGM on May 8<sup>th</sup>; it is only through your participation that ACES can continue to provide continuing benefits such as the video presentation series currently underway, as well as conferences and social events. The Executive desperately needs new blood!

## JOIN ACES !!

To enjoy the benefits of ACES, and ensure that you continue to receive the ACES newsletter and meeting notices, Become a member! Complete the following Information form, and return with payment in the amount \$10.00 (free for Students) to:

The Alberta Clinical Engineering Society  
#372, 916 – 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0K3

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Website: [www.dynamated.com](http://www.dynamated.com)

## Newsletter Advertising

Are you interested in advertising your company and services or do you have items you would like to sell? Then placing an advertisement with the ACES newsletter is an excellent way to reach the Alberta Clinical Engineering community. In addition, all newsletters are posted to the World Wide Web. Your ad will therefore also be available to the international clinical community.

### Advertising Rates:

Business Card \$ 75.00  
Half Page Ad \$150.00

## Member Feedback & Recognition

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 beginning of this newsletter or visit the **ACES Web Page** @ <http://www.aces.ab.ca>

## 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 Alex Sackiw. He can be contacted through the ACES website or at [president@aces.ab.ca](mailto:president@aces.ab.ca)

## Note or Reminder!

The ACES AGM will be held in Red Deer on May 8, 2004. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

**ACES needs your support**