

Highlights

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The Alberta Clinical Engineering Society

www.aces.ab.ca

Newsletter

October 20, 2006

Message from the Executive

Greetings everyone,
We hope you had a good summer and are ready to enjoy a “warm” winter. At least that’s the prediction and we all know about predictions - they are rarely right. Well, there’s one thing you can count on, spring and the next ACES conference. Yes, it’s that time again. ACES is hosting the next Western Regional Biomedical Engineering Conference. No predictions there. Same place – Edmonton, Alberta. Same venues - the University Hospital’s Walter MacKenzie Center with all the amenities you enjoyed last time. This years conference organizers will be sharing the conference organizational chair. Orrin Stephens will be representing Calgary and he will be looking for some representation from around Alberta especially Edmonton. Orrin would like to hear from all of you so send in your expectations, concerns, and requests or just casually chat with him to ensure a well organized and meaningful conference for you and your peers. Representation from more places will ensure we address as many regional issues as possible. The upcoming conference is set for Thursday and Friday June 14 and 15. Mark it on your calendars. Oops, we forgot. You have not received your 2007 ACES Picture Calendars yet but when you do, we will ensure it’s already marked with reminders. Remember, you have to be an ACES member to guarantee you receive your hardcopy calendar. Membership has it privileges

(\$10.00 per year). Speaking of the calendar, if you haven’t seen one, there is a .pdf of the still current 2006 calendar on the website. Download it and enjoy. Sorry, no hard copies left. They went in a hurry. We plan to print a lot more this year and work is well underway. If you have a “cool” picture that deserves a place in the calendar, please forward it or any questions you may have to our calendar creator Alex Sackiw calendar@aces.ab.ca. He will make sure the calendar team gets it. Many thanks to last year’s calendar team Vincent Wong and especially Christine Tu for their overwhelming support and effort to get the first ACES calendar off the ground. As always, we will keep you posted about events as they unfold during the year via e-mail. If you have not been receiving e-mails from us (none were sent during the summer), we may not have your e-mail address. You can get onto our free email announcement list by contacting us at membership@aces.ab.ca. You do not have to be a paid member to receive e-mails and newsletters, but paid members are guaranteed to receive a hardcopy calendar!

That’s the latest...remember, send in those “cool” photo’s for the calendar. We can “doll” them up with special effects if you wish and as always, a “caption” is a great addition.

The ACES Executive Committee

This year, ACES is run by committee. They’re going to be busy with the calendar in December and the conference coming up in June. For a list of the ACES Executive, see the website at www.aces.ab.ca

Northern Lights Regional Health Services Update

Greetings from “Boomtown” Alberta, the bustling town of Fort McMurray. Reviewing the last update from the fall of 2005, I am pleased to report that the Foundation has raised the additional \$3 million dollars for the MRI unit. They accomplished this in a relatively short time period due to the generous support of the entire population of the municipality. Healthy donations were received from corporations and several sizable donations from private individuals and groups. Space has been allocated for the MRI unit (next door to Diagnostic Imaging). The tendering process has been completed, vendors have presented their proposals and one vendor has been eliminated, so now it’s down to just two. Excitement grows!

During the summer we had a slow-down of services. Some O.R.’s and beds were closed. The reduced services allowed staff to take vacations. Four rooms were renovated back to patient rooms from office space adding 7 beds to the Surgery area. One office space in Medicine was converted back to a patient room. Some office space was recreated on the 5th floor which is now almost completely occupied; only one small 30’ square space is available for storage. The operating room area received a fresh coat of paint during this slow-down.

The new and improved telemetry system was installed in ICU. It is working well but due to a blind spot by the vendor, the data communication network between it (a stand alone PIC unit) and the existing central monitoring system was missed, so the ability to transfer patient data from telemetry and ICU patient rooms and back cannot happen. This is being corrected and at the same time, the central PIC unit will be upgraded to the same software revision as the telemetry system. Oops. Somewhere down the road (2009 possibly) we are planning to upgrade all the patient monitoring systems to bring them all up to the same level, at least that is my vision.

This September, Baxter Healthcare Canada carried out their deployment exercise with regards to the Colleague series infusion pumps. We received a matching number of pumps and exchanged them for our own; these have now been returned to Baxter for upgrading. The process went very smoothly and only one pump was not found on the day of the exchange, however it was recovered the next day and made the shipment. Our pumps will be returned in about 3 weeks and like some of you, we have a backlog of “new” pumps being held until this upgrading exercise has been completed, we are anxious to get the additional pumps ASAP.

The new location for Family Health is nearing completion but the process is slow due to all of the construction going on in the area. The new Primary Care Network office has officially opened for business. They have some shiny new digs located downtown.

We now have a full time Audiologist who works out of the 5th floor and who regularly goes to the west side for services; a new manager of Purchasing; a new director of Acute Care services; a staff electrician; a recruitment and retention person; a new CEO; lots of new faces in nursing staff; a new crop of nursing students; an on going staffing shortage; no helicopter landing pad (ours was not up to codes); a big shortage of parking for both staff and public; a new OBS/GYN; and a new Pediatrician.

In the Biomedical Services department there are murmurs of expanding services to encompass equipment management on the west side of the region (High Level and area) and even talk of another “biomed guy”. But all of this is just murmurs and whispers, nothing concrete. Otherwise things pretty much remain status quo.

Your colleague in the heart of the oil patch, Graham Bruce

Calgary Health Region Update

Well what can I say, we’ve been really busy and there have been a lot of changes since the last Calgary update in the December issue of the ACES newsletter. The biggest news hitting the Calgary Health Region of course is the opening of the brand new Alberta Children’s Hospital. The original opening date was slated for September 13, 2006 but it got pushed back by two weeks and the highly anticipated opening took place on September 27, 2006. The new hospital was completed on time and was handed over to the Region, but the site had to undergo an extensive post-construction sanitization process and specialized medical equipment and supplies were installed and prepared for operation. Some programs and offices started to move before and some will occur after the opening, but the new site officially opened to patients on the 27th!



The Capital expansion projects are well underway at the other 3 acute care sites in Calgary as well as some other projects.

- Foothills Medical Centre – Scheduled for completion in 2008
- Peter Lougheed Centre – Scheduled for completion in 2008

- Rockyview Hospital – Scheduled for completion in 2008
- Sheldon Chumir Health Centre – Scheduled for completion in 2007
- Richmond Road Project (Old ACH) – Scheduled phases between 2007 - 2009
- New South Health Campus – Scheduled to open in 2010

The 3 acute care sites will have ongoing projects after these scheduled dates as programs/departments move into the new capital expansions. There will be many construction renovations within the existing buildings.

Clinical Engineering has also lost some highly experienced and long term employees: Bob Kotte and Emilio Fantin retired this past June, so we wish them all the best on there new retirement life. Bob joined the Region in 1975 and spent the last 31 years working at the Holy Cross and the Rockyview Hospitals, while Emilio spent the last 25 years of his career working at the Calgary General Hospital, the Peter Lougheed Centre and most recently at the Foothills Medical Centre. At this time I would also like to welcome aboard two new technologists: John Davis and Mark Blatz! Last March Clinical Engineering also lost Jason Shenher, the manager of Clinical Engineering, as he decided to endeavor outside of the region. Congratulations go out to Craig Schultz as he was the successful candidate to replace Jason as the manager of Clinical Engineering.

The region has also made some changes with technology and clinical practice on how we take patients temperatures. The region has replaced all the tympanic thermometers with temporal artery thermometers. This new thermometer uses infrared technology and is scanned over the temporal artery on the forehead and from a Clinical Engineering perspective..... lifetime warranty! The region has also awarded and installed the Philips Medical IntelliVue series of physiological monitors within the Child Health (NICU/PICU/SCN) portfolio and are now preparing to go back out to tender on

Adult physiological monitors and telemetry, but before this award is decided, the region should have awarded an RFP on Infant Warmers and Incubators.

Kelly Kobe, CBET, CET.

Peace County Health Region Update

The Biomedical Department at the QE II has gone through some changes this past year. We are now part of the Information Management team and work closely with IT to implement new systems like the Intelligent OR's.

We currently have four full time Biomedical positions, but only three are filled. We are currently looking for a BMET II.

The Senior BMET is Darcy Russell and the two BMET II are Doug DeWeert and Nathan Pieprgrass.

Since moving to the IM portfolio we have gone on some training for the following: Radiometer Flex 800, Narkomed GS Anesthesia Cart, Pyxis Medstation 3000, Zoll Mseries Defib, 840 Ventilator, and Babylog 8000 Neonatal Ventilator. In the near future we are to be trained on the new OR lasers that have recently been purchased.

We are currently servicing all of the Peace Country Health sites (13) from the QE II and also servicing all of the Peace Country EMS sites (12).

From our second story view I can see the snow covered mountains, so its time to go sledding!

Darcy Russell

NAIT Update

The two year Biomedical Engineering Technology program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology is off to another strong start with a full class of 24 students accepted into first year. There was a three to one application to quota ratio. According to feedback from the graduating class of 2005 and other indications, job prospects and starting salaries are trending upwards. Samogen Diagnostics has recently established a \$500 award for a second year BET student in honor of Anthony Buckingham, a former employee and BET grad who died in a tragic accident last year. This is the first award which is directly targeted to the Biomedical program. Earlier in the year, the program received a donation of 10 bed patient monitoring system from capital Health and we are looking forward to using the new equipment in our labs this year.

NAIT will be hosting a campus wide Open House on October 13 & 14, 2006; feel free to drop by and say hello at the BET display!

Dennis Morland
Assistant Program Head,
Biomedical Engineering Technology

Attention Students:

Get your FREE Student Membership today! Applications soon to be available on the ACES webpage

ACES Picture Calendar

The ACES 2007 picture calendar is under construction and should prove to be more "interesting" than last years. This year we have participation from nurses, a doctor and technical types of all ages. They have offered to participate in one form or another, limited only by their imagination. If you have a picture in mind, shoot it and send it in. The only criteria is that it be Biomedical related and of sufficient resolution for printing a hardcopy.

Pictures of your co-workers, interesting views of equipment, the workplace or anything that is rarely seen are all welcome. Just send them attached to an email addressed to calendar@aces.ab.ca. If it's included in this or any future calendar, we will ensure you get the credit for the shot. One last piece of advice, a funny or interesting caption leaves a lasting impression. Deadline for submissions is Nov 14, 2006. But don't let that stop you...there is always next years calendar.

If you get some nice Halloween shots, send them in. If you want to see a future calendar full of a year's worth of pictures based around another theme, let us know...anything is possible..."just imagine!"

Pictures should be of good quality for printing. Send us your best quality in .bmp, .tiff, .gif, .psd etc. but try to stay away from compressed images like .jpg as they produce banding when printed. Some .jpg images can be "fixed" though. Send them in and we'll let you know!

Alex Sackiw

New Webmaster

ACES has a new webmaster. It was a daunting task, but Rod Fernandez decided to take it on with no knowledge of what he had just gotten himself into. Remember, ACES is a volunteer organization with no paid staff. We encourage and support anyone with an interest in the field of Biomedical Technology to join in to learn, grow and try something new. Rod's efforts have been extremely rewarding for him and he has come a long way in a short time. Rod had no previous knowledge of webpage design. Bear with us while the webpage takes shape and please forgive us if things sometimes don't work...Rod loves to experiment with his newfound toy!

I do cringe though when, with a smile and a chuckle I hear him say... "Oh yeah, I'm working on that!", as another button's "hot-link" stops working.

Three Biomedical Conferences this year

It just keeps getting better, doesn't it! Yes, you have your choice of the ACES Western Regional Biomedical Engineering Conference in Western Canada on Thursday and Friday, June 14 and 15, 2007 in Edmonton, Alberta or there's the Central Canada CMBES conference in Toronto, Ontario immediately following on Saturday to Tuesday, June 16 - 19. That said, there is a third conference in Atlantic Canada. Moncton, N.B. is the place. This one predates both of the other conferences. Moncton is on March 29-30, 2007. Check out their website at <http://www.rces.nb.ca> for their latest information.

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 visit the **ACES Web Page** at <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 asackiw@cha.ab.ca.

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 – 16th Avenue NW
Calgary, Alberta T2M 0K3

Name: _____

Hm Address: _____

City/Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____

Ph: (____) _____

Email: _____

Business Information:

Company: _____

Position: _____

Department: _____

Room: _____

Address: _____

City/Prov : _____

Postal Code: _____

Ph:(____) _____ Ext: _____

Email: _____

Please note:

This year, calendars are sponsored by membership fees. Students may download a .pdf version should we run short on hardcopies.

To this writing, the option of selling calendars on a cost recovery basis has not been decided.

ACES on the Bench

There were no articles submitted for this column in this newsletter. If you have an interesting story to tell that would benefit others in the complicated world of troubleshooting, drop the newsletter editor a line.

Capital Health Region Update

The Capital Health Regional Update was not ready at the time of this writing. Look for it in the next newsletter.

We do wish to acknowledge the upcoming retirement of a long time Biomedical Technologist, Eva Henningson at the University of Alberta Hospital site. Eva plans to retire at the end of this year. More information will be forthcoming from the Manager of Regional Clinical Engineering Services in the next newsletter.