Message from the CLS Chair

As I write this message, it’s a perfect spring day here in Southern California. The sun is shining, the flowers are blooming, the allergy sufferers are sneezing, and this librarian’s thoughts are turning to the upcoming MLA annual meeting in Boston. Please join us for three exciting events at MLA:

- Our section program, *The Cancer Spectrum: Living, Surviving, and End of Life Issues*, scheduled for Monday, May 6, from 10:30-noon. It will include an invited speaker and contributed papers. See the article on pages 4 and 5 for more details.
- Our annual business meeting, scheduled for Monday, May 6, from 4:30-6:00 PM in Hynes Convention Center Room 202.
- A networking dinner immediately following the business meeting, 6:30 PM at Lolita Cocina & Tequila Bar. See page 3 for the detailed announcement and RSVP information.

Update on CLS 2012-2013 goals

Here are our goals for the current year, along with a status update if available:

- Increase membership. Unfortunately, we haven’t met this goal, as our membership is down slightly from last year.

- Revamp the section brochure to highlight benefits of membership and current section projects. We haven’t started on this one yet, but I hope we can discuss it at the business meeting and recruit a group to work on it.

- Provide a section program at MLA ’13 on a topic that is engaging, timely, and relevant. Thanks to Margaret Vugrim’s hard work, we expect to achieve this goal with flying colors. Please attend our program, *The Cancer Spectrum: Living, Surviving, and End of Life Issues*, to see for yourself.

- Advocate for more results of clinical trials to be added to [http://clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov). Unfortunately, the results of closed trials are not always posted, depriving clinicians, researchers, and consumers of a valuable source of information on progress in cancer therapy. We are trying to schedule a meeting
with staff at the NNLM Pacific Southwest Region to learn more about NLM’s goals for clinicaltrials.gov and to brainstorm ways to advocate for more results to be included.

- Update and promote the [MLA Cancer Librarians Recommended Web Sites](#) list. We plan to contact webmasters for several appropriate sites later this month to encourage them to add a link to our Recommended Web Sites.

- Begin planning programming for MLA 2014. Program planning will begin at the 2013 Annual Meeting in May, led by our new chair-elect, Lisa Olzewski.

I hope to see many of you in Boston!

Janet Crum  
Chair, CLS 2012-2013

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**ELECTION RESULTS**

Please join me in congratulating the Cancer Librarians Section new officers and our candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee.

Lisa Olzewski, Chair Elect  
[Lisa.Olzewski@moffitt.org](mailto:Lisa.Olzewski@moffitt.org)

Andrea Harrow, Secretary  
[Library@GoodSam.Org](mailto:Library@GoodSam.Org)

Doug Shane, Treasurer  
[dshane@fhcrc.org](mailto:dshane@fhcrc.org)

Margaret Vugrin, CLS candidate for the MLA Nominating Committee  
[margaret.vugrin@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:margaret.vugrin@ttuhsc.edu)

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Boston and it is not too soon to send Lisa program ideas for 2014.

Thank you.  
Stephanie  
CLS Past Chair
Come one, Come all
Enjoy an Evening of Good Food and Fellowship with Colleagues

Dutch Treat Event
Join us for a Networking Dinner
during MLA ‘13

Monday, May 6

Lolita Cocina & Tequila Bar
271 Dartmouth St. Boston, MA 02116
6:30 pm

Immediately following the
Cancer Librarians’ Business Meeting

Please RSVP by May 1 to:

Beth Lewis
Talbot Research Library
Fox Chase Cancer Center
Beth.lewis@fccc.edu
10:30 AM to 12:00 NOON

Our program features two invited speakers and two contributed papers.

INVITED SPEAKERS

Preventing Errors in Oncology: Perspective of a Physician Who Is Also a Cancer Patient
Itzhak Brook, MD, MSc, Department of Pediatrics, Georgetown University School of Medicine

I am presenting my personal experiences as a physician who underwent laryngectomy for hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma. Unfortunately I experienced numerous medical and surgical errors during my hospitalizations at three medical centers.

Medical, surgical and nursing errors are very common in patient’s care. Some may be life threatening and can lead to increased morbidity and mortality. Preventing such errors is of outmost importance. A dedicated patient advocate such as a family member or a friend is very much needed for all hospitalized patients. Open discussion of such errors may decrease them and eventually lead to better care.

It is my hope that my presentation will contribute to the reduction of such errors and lead to a safer environment in the hospital setting.

Librarians AND *Neoplasms/di/dt/ed/px/rh/rt/su AND Work AND Life
Susan Steelman, MLIS, Associate Professor, Head of Education & Reference Services, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Library

The Research and Clinical Search Services (RCSS) unit in our library consists of two expert searchers who provide about 200 mediated searches, 40 consultations, and 20 classroom sessions each year, in addition to performing many other tasks. Within a few weeks at the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011, we both were diagnosed with cancer and embarked upon our treatment regimens. This is the story of how we managed our work, our treatments, and our decisions.
When we received our respective diagnoses and planned our treatments, we expected that our surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy taking place in the same time period would have serious impact on our work. As it turned out, our professional preparation -- our skills, our ability to find and use the highest-quality information, our capacity to act as decision-making partners with our physicians -- had significant impact on our navigation of this encounter with The Crab.

We were very fortunate to have many excellent resources available to us, from health insurance to world-class oncologists, and from databases and journals to incredibly supportive managers and colleagues. At first, we thought that all of these resources, along with our own positive attitudes and determination to learn as much as possible in order to make the best decisions possible, would somehow mitigate our treatment experiences. What we found out was that no matter how proficiently we could find, organize, synthesize, and utilize the relevant information about adverse effects, they happened to us anyway.

We also gained a new appreciation for the importance of timely, accurate information about treatment research to patients who are trying to make vital decisions. The information resources to which we had access helped immeasurably in some difficult decisions: one of us choosing to undergo aggressive proactive treatments, and the other reluctantly dismissing a very likable oncologist.

We also found out that surviving treatment and returning to work was only the beginning of a surprisingly long, tedious road to recovery. For example, we were both prescribed a daily aromatase inhibitor. The frequent hot flashes are annoying, but our experiences with anosmia really take the -- you know, that thing, it's round and sweet and you have it on your birthday.

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS

The Development and Deployment of a Symptom Management and Monitoring System for Supporting Cancer Caregivers by Katherine Schilling, MLS, Ed.D., AHIP and Olivia Hedlund (will be presenting). Olivia Hedlund is currently pursuing a Master of Library Science degree at the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University Indianapolis.

When Cancer Hits Home: Personal and Professional Perspective by Margaret Vugrin, MLS, AHIP and Davor Vugrin MD

CORRECTION: BOOK REVIEW

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO SECTION BYLAWS**

In order for the Cancer Librarians Section Bylaws to be current with MLA Bylaws the following amendment is proposed:

**Current Article X**

**ARTICLE X. Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the Section by a two-thirds vote of those attending, provided that the amendment has been distributed to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the vote shall be taken.

**Proposed Article X.**

**ARTICLE X. Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote being taken.


We will vote on this at our business meeting which is **Monday, May 6, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM** in the Hynes Convention Center **Room 202**.

See you there!
Stephanie
Past-Chair, CLS

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**CONSUMER HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES SURVEY**

Take part in the Consumer Health Information Services Survey (CHISS). Researchers from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, LA are conducting a 15-20 minute survey to identify consumer health information services. The researchers hope to receive responses from public libraries, academic institutions, hospitals and not-for-profit organizations involved in consumer health information services. The goal is to identify what services are currently offered, who is offering them and how often. The data may be able to assist other organizations in implementing new consumer health information services. Organizations that participate will be entered for a drawing to win one of two $300 checks. After the survey period, 40 randomly chosen hospital librarians that complete the follow-up survey will receive $10 for their time and effort. The survey will be open from April 15, 2013 to April 30, 2013 at 11:45 pm Pacific time. If you are willing to participate, please go to [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012_CHISS](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012_CHISS).

Thanks,
Julia M. Esparza, MLS, AHIP
Cochrane Reviews on Cancer Care and the Role of the Librarian

By Christine Marton, PhD

Since the early 1990s, evidence-based medicine (EBM) has ushered in a new paradigm in clinical medicine: the utilization of primary research studies published primarily in the peer reviewed health sciences journal literature to evaluate the efficacy and safety of existing and new clinical practices. Formerly, clinical medicine had relied heavily on the expertise of established clinicians whose knowledge was passed on through textbooks, lectures, and hands-on practice under the supervision of experienced medical practitioners. Nowadays, research-based findings and clinical expertise, as well as patient needs, guide clinical practice in medicine and other clinical professions. (1)

Librarians have a key role to play in evidence-based medicine, in providing access to evidence based sources and training clinicians to search these sources effectively. A key EBM resource is the Cochrane Library, a world-wide not-for-profit organization based in the UK. (2) The Cochrane Collaboration comprises six EBM databases. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (Cochrane Reviews) is perhaps the best known of the six databases because it publishes large-scale, well-defined systematic reviews on a wide range of health topics, primarily healthcare interventions. A search was conducted on April 15, 2013 through the University of Toronto Libraries’ subscription to Wiley & Sons’ search interface for the Cochrane Library to determine if librarians play a role in the publication of Cochrane Library documents. The search was restricted to the current year to retrieve a small number of search results that could be easily perused. The first search statement was as follows: cancer or oncolog*:ti,ab,kw from 2013 to 2013 (Word variations have been searched). This search statement was then combined using the Boolean AND operator as follows: #1 AND (librarian or "information professional" or "information specialist").

From the first search, 70 documents were retrieved from the Cochrane Library from the first search, signifying the importance of cancer as a health topic in this EBM collection. From the second search, five documents were retrieved. All five are Cochrane Reviews from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: Issue 3 of 12, March 2013. The titles of the five retrieved Cochrane Reviews are as follows: Enteral feeding methods for nutritional management in patients with head and neck cancers being treated with radiotherapy and/or chemotherapy; School-based physical activity programs for promoting physical activity and fitness in children and adolescents aged 6 to 18; Multidimensional rehabilitation programmes for adult cancer survivors; Red flags to screen for malignancy in patients with low back pain; and Communication skills training for healthcare professionals working with people who have cancer. Three of the five are updated reviews with a new search. No documents were retrieved from the other five Cochrane databases.

To examine the role of librarians in these five Cochrane Reviews, the full-text PDF file of each Cochrane Review was searched using the Find feature in Adobe Acrobat Reader. Each document was searched with three search terms “librarian”, “information professional” and “information specialist.” The search term
*librarian* was searched without quotation marks while the two phrase terms were searched both with and without quotation marks.

For the first Cochrane Review listed above, on **enteral feeding methods for nutritional management in patients with head and neck cancers**, the internal search of the full-text PDF document on the search term *librarian* was unsuccessful, as was the search on *information professional*. However, the phrase *information specialist* was located in the Acknowledgements section. On page 9, the following is stated: “The authors would like to thank members of the Cochrane ENT Disorder Group for their support and help: Ian Chamberlain (Managing Editor), Jenny Bellorini (Managing Editor) and Gemma Sandberg (Information Specialist/Trials Search Co-ordinator).” (3)

The second Cochrane Review, which covers the topic of **school-based physical activity programs**, contains one instance of the search term *librarian*. In the Acknowledgements section on page 26, the authors state the following: “We gratefully acknowledge the support and contribution of the Effective Public Health Practice Project in the initial systematic review of this literature in 1999, upon which this updated systematic review stems from, as well as the contribution of Elena Goldblatt, City of Hamilton Public Health Librarian, who developed the original search strategies.” (4) The phrase search terms *information professional* and *information specialist* were not found in this Cochrane Review.

The third Cochrane Review examines the **screening for malignancy in patients with low back pain**. The search terms *librarian* and *information professional* were not located. However, searching the full-text PDF file for the search term *information specialist* located one brief mention of this search term. In the section Search methods for identification of studies, under Electronic searches on page 5, the authors state the following: “The search strategy to be used was developed in collaboration with a medical information specialist.” (5) However, this individual is not identified in the Acknowledgements.

For the fourth Cochrane Review, on **multidimensional rehabilitation programmes for adult cancer survivors**, the search term *librarian* was located in the Methods Section, under Search Methods for identification of studies, Electronic searches. On page 5, the authors state the following: “The search used a combination of controlled vocabulary and freetext terms developed in consultation with an expert medical librarian and with Trial Search Co-ordinators for the Cochrane Gynaecological Cancer Review Group. The search strategy was developed for MEDLINE and revised appropriately for each database.” (6) The Acknowledgements section also contains the search term *librarian*, as the contributions of two librarians are noted: “Alex McIlroy, Librarian, The Medical Library, Queen’s University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Richard Fallis, Librarian, The Medical Library, Queen’s University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland.” (7) No search results were retrieved for the document searches on *information professional* or *information specialist*.

The fifth Cochrane Review evaluates the literature on **communication skills training for healthcare professionals treating cancer patients**. Searching the full-text PDF file retrieves one mention of the search term librarian. In the Acknowledgements section on page 19, the authors thank several individuals for their assistance, including librarians at the Royal United Hospital in Bath, UK, who obtained articles for this Cochrane Review. (8) However, they are not identified by name.
Several conclusions can be drawn from this relatively cursory examination of the role of librarians in the publication of Cochrane Reviews. One, of the seventy Cochrane Reviews on cancer topics published in 2013, only five (7 percent) mention the involvement of a librarian, or information professional/information specialist, signifying the invisibility of librarians in the Cochrane Reviews database. However, when the full-text documents of the five Cochrane Reviews are individually searched, it is evident that the search skills of the librarians who were consulted during the development of these reviews are greatly valued by their authors. Hospital librarians, public health librarians, and university academic health sciences librarians provide assistance in developing optimum search strategies, conducting searches in MEDLINE and other health sciences journal literature databases, and document delivery. Clearly, librarians have a vital role to play in ensuring that the evidence needed to assess the efficacy and safety of clinical practices and procedures is accurately located and retrieved from the multitude of information sources available electronically and in print, ideally from both the well-defined journal literature and the extensive but difficult-to-search gray literature. Librarians must proactively seize the opportunity to work with clinicians and academics involved in the development and publication of Cochrane Reviews to advance evidence-based medicine in the years to come.


7. Ibid.

Several of our members are giving presentations at MLA. Support our colleagues by attending those presentations and letting others in your institution and networks know about them.

POSTERS

May 7, 2013 – Poster Session 4
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Poster Board Number: 152
Title: Improving Health Information Knowledge for Public Libraries: A Public Library, Cancer Center, and Health Sciences Library Partnership
Authors: William Olmstadt, MLS, MPH, AHIP – Public Health Librarian, Bernard Becker Medical Library, School of Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis; Jackie Bernstein, MPH – Program Coordinator, Saint Louis University College for Public Health & Social Justice; Jan Daley, MLS, CHIS – Branch Manager, Baden Branch, St. Louis Public Library; Robert J. Engeszer, AHIP – Associate Director, Translational Research Support, Bernard Becker Medical Library, School of Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis; Brenda McDonald, MA, MLS – Director, Central Services, St. Louis Public Library; Joyce Robinson – Training Assistant, St. Louis Public Library; *Monica Rogers, MLIS, CHIS – Health Information Literacy Coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region, Health Sciences Library, Creighton University; Paul Schoening, MS, MBA – Associate Dean, Academic Information Management, and Director, Bernard Becker Medical Library, School of Medicine, Washington University in St. Louis; Lee Williams, BA – Training Specialist, St. Louis Public Library

* Will be presented by Monica Rogers at MLA in Boston

Objectives: This poster describes a partnership between three agencies in the urban Midwest, with three aims: (1) Survey public library staff to determine current health information requests made to them. (2) Use those data to create health information kiosks in the public libraries. (3) Develop training to improve public library staff comfort and skill answering health questions.

Setting/Participants/Resources: Urban, Midwestern comprehensive cancer center and health sciences library at private medical school. The public library system has 15 branches and serves 85,000 cardholders. The project is funded by the National Cancer Institute.

Methods: In 2011, public library staff completed a fourteen-question web survey about their health information familiarity and health questions the public was asking. These data were used to identify materials for four health information kiosks, strategically positioned at larger public library locations in the metropolitan area. The data were also used to develop two three-hour training sessions for public library staff, held in summer 2012, designed to increase comfort and skill answering health-related questions.

Results: For the survey, 62 of 68 public library staff returned usable responses (91.2% response rate). All public library branches had a response. Of those surveyed, 87% believed visitors to the public library would benefit from more exposure to consumer health information and services. Almost 20 public library staff attended the 2012 training sessions, giving them relatively positive reviews.
Future Direction and Conclusions: Collaborators are working to track kiosk impact and literature distribution. In 2013, the group is investigating programming for the public and may include workshops on dealing with neighborhood violence or navigating cancer care. Training sessions are likely to be offered again, as public library staff change.

CLS Members in the News

Grandbaby news: Margaret and Davor Vugrin have two new grandchildren. Granddaughter was born March 8th and new grandson arrived a bit early on April 17. All are doing fine and growing nicely.

Mark Vrabel, AHIP, ELS, Information Resources Supervisor at the Oncology Nursing Society, presented the "New Roles for Librarians" Boost Box session on January 8, 2013 for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine Middle Atlantic Region. He discussed some of the "non-traditional" librarian roles he has assumed, such as medical writing (AMWA certification), editing (BELS exam/ELS credential), and social media, and shared information about the upcoming October 2013 Journal of the Medical Library Association special issue "New Century, New Roles for Health Sciences Librarians." The archived audio recording and PowerPoint presentation is available at http://nnlm.gov/mar/training/boost_recordings.html.

The Fourth-year Academic Clinical Training and Teaching Selective (FACTTS) course and study conducted by Library Faculty in collaboration with the Department of Medicine at LSU Health Shreveport was recently published in Medical Reference Services Quarterly. The full citation is: Cyrus, John W.W., Duggar, David C., Woodson, Deidra, Timm, Donna F., McLarty, Jerry W., Pullen, Kimberly, Baggett, Mark P., and Banks, Daniel E. Medical Reference Services Quarterly 2013 32(2): 209-218. Assessing the FACTTS: An Evidence-Based Medicine and Critical Appraisal Course for Medical Students. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02763869.2013.776907

CLS Officers 2012-2013

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