



# CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION NEWS

Issue No. 33, Spring/Summer 2003

NEWSLETTER OF THE CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION OF THE MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## **MLA 2003 Cancer Librarians Section Program Session**

*Through Tempests and Storms: Vaccines, Biologicals, Patient Education, and Environmental Health*

**Monday, May 5, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Location: Regency-Sheffield**

**Description:** What are the latest issues and the historical background of the current resurgence of interest in vaccines? What effects have there been for consumers and patients? How do biological agents and research show promise for medical uses and threat for military ones? How do both of these relate to environmental toxicology and health? Most importantly, what do they have to do with your library? Find out more about vaccines, biologicals, patient education, and environmental health, as they relate to health care, library services and collections, consumer and patient health information, and informatics. The papers will showcase creation and sources of information, collection development, research, and organization of resources on vaccines and immunization, biologicals, patient education, and environmental health issues.

**Primary Section Sponsor:** Consumer and Patient Health Information.

**Secondary Section/SIG Sponsors:** Cancer Librarians, Pharmacy and Drug Information, Molecular Biology and Genomics SIG, Public Health/Health Administration, Chiropractic Libraries

**Type of Program:** Combination (Contributed with possible Invited Speaker). Papers on issues of vaccines, biologicals, and environmental health, as they relate to health care, library services and collections, consumer and patient health information, and informatics.



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### **TURN YOUR SECTION PROGRAM AT MLA '03 INTO A BOOK!**

Papers presented at the annual meeting are a rich source of information on the latest in medical librarianship and the health information profession. Some of the topics presented at MLA '03 might be appropriate for more extensive coverage in a book.

The MLA Publishing Program, under the guidance of the MLA Books Panel, is seeking authors to publish books under the Neal-Schuman/Medical Library Association imprint. Interested parties are encouraged to contact Lynanne Feilen, director of publications, at [mlacom1@mlahq.org](mailto:mlacom1@mlahq.org) or 312.419.9094 x23. Visit [www.mlanet.org/publications/books/booksprog.html](http://www.mlanet.org/publications/books/booksprog.html) to learn more.

### **NEW RESOURCES FOR PATIENT LIBRARIES**

*CURE (Cancer Updates, Research, and Education)* is a magazine for patients with cancer and blood disorders and their families. Contact [www.curetoday.com](http://www.curetoday.com) or call toll-free 1-800-210-CURE (2873) for a free subscription to the magazine. Also available are a magazine stand, bulk quantities of the magazine, and bulk quantities of subscription forms for cancer patients to fill out to receive free subscription.

WomenStories (formerly Women to Women) offers a series of videos for women with breast cancer that are excellent for the cost of \$23.00 for one or \$45.00 for two. The following titles are currently available: *Initial Discovery and Diagnosis of Breast Cancer, Family Support, Intimacy, Chemotherapy, and Surgical Choices*. <http://www.womenstories.org/> Phone: 716-873-3689

*Submitted by: Elaine Curry*  
Supervisor, Library Services  
Greater Hazleton Health Alliance  
Hazleton General Hospital, Hazleton, PA

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# CANCER LIBRARIANS SECTION NEWS

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## Cancer Librarians Section Business Meeting

Monday, May 5, 2003

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Towne

### **NLM's Sheldon Kotzin to Attend Section Business Meeting to Discuss Cancerlit Issues**

Do you have concerns about the loss of Cancerlit and especially, its unique feature, the cancer meeting abstracts? If you attend the Cancer Librarians Section business meeting at MLA in San Diego on Monday, May 5, at 5 pm in the Towne Room, you will be able to discuss these issues with Sheldon Kotzin, Bibliographic Services Division (BSD) Chief at NLM. He will be attending the Cancer Librarians Section business meeting to get input from our group.

#### **Business Meeting Agenda**

1. Demise of CANCERLIT and what will happen to the cancer meeting abstracts  
Special guest – Sheldon Kotzin, Chief, Bibliographic Services, National Library of Medicine
2. Approval of last year's minutes
3. Budget report
4. Membership report
5. New officers
6. New newsletter editor
7. New website redesign
8. Update on "Cancer Resource Core List" / Best cancer web sites for librarians
9. Any other reports, issues or announcements
10. Final words

I have already communicated with NLM and NCI representatives concerning the need to once again have access to an up-to-date, reliable database for cancer meeting abstracts - once the purview of NCI's Cancerlit. NLM is the logical choice to take this on, since they are working with NCI to develop and maintain a Cancer Subset on PubMed.

However, there are no current plans to include cancer meeting abstracts in any NLM database. Relying on the individual society websites for meeting abstracts access continues to result in frustrating, lengthy and unsuccessful searches for this current, important information.

Last January, an NLM representative indicated that they might consider adding cancer meeting abstracts to the NLM Gateway, which already includes abstracts from AIDS, HealthStar, etc. The latest communication from Sonya Shooshan of NLM indicates a change of position on this: "The meeting abstracts database accessible via the NLM Gateway will continue with the current data providers, with no expansion anticipated in the near future." This information gap represents a definite step backwards in health information access, since these vital resources were once readily available in Cancerlit, and now often require tedious,

cumbersome searching through print resources or ever-changing websites.

If you agree with me, attend the section business meeting, or voice your concerns to me (email below) or to Sheldon Kotzin (Email: <mailto:kotzins@mail.nlm.nih.gov>) I won't be able to attend the meeting, but my hope is that our section will take some group action on this, and possibly garner the support of medical oncologists and their organizations.

*Submitted by: Karen M. Albert, MLS, AHIP*

Director of Library Services  
Talbot Research Library  
Fox Chase Cancer Center  
Philadelphia, PA

#### **Web Site Update**

If you haven't visited the section Web site lately, check it out. We have a fresh, new design and the content always includes the latest newsletter, officer contact info and a great listing of patient libraries around the country.

<http://www.selu.com/cancerlib/>



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## MEMBER UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### VRABEL AWARDED 2003 MEDICAL INFORMATICS SECTION/MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION CAREER DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Mark Vrabel, MLS, AHIP, Librarian at the Oncology Nursing Society in Pittsburgh, PA, has been selected as one of two individuals to receive the 2003 Medical Informatics Section/Medical Library Association Career Development Grant. The award was established in 1996 by the Medical Informatics Section of the MLA, and provides up to two individuals financial assistance to support a career development activity that will contribute to advancement in the field of medical informatics. Mr. Vrabel will be recognized at the MLA '03 Awards Ceremony and Celebration Luncheon in San Diego, CA, on May 5, from 10:30-12:00, in the Grand Ballroom. Mr. Vrabel will use his award to fund his time and expenses in an informatics project at his institution.

### Vugrin to Present at MLA '03

Margaret Vugrin is a librarian by profession and a photographer by passion. She has been a reference librarian at Texas Tech Health Sciences Library for almost seventeen years. She has photographed her children for many years, as mothers do, however she became a serious photographer, exhibiting and winning awards over the last six years. In 2002, she won a National Grand Prize from Association of American Medical College's Fifth Annual photography competition. She is interested in and has studied graphic design in the last few years. The Wheeler Collection project, which she will present at this session, is an amalgamation of her professional and passionate lives.

#### **Section Program Session: Diving for Treasure: Library Exhibits from Idea to (Virtual) Reality From realia to visual virtuality**

When: Tuesday, May 6, 3:00 PM

Location: Garden Salon Two

**Purpose:** This presentation highlights the development of photographing realia, graphic design of advertising brochure and poster, and the beginnings of a virtual collection of medical and pharmacy realia at an academic medical center library.

**Brief Description:** The library decided to create a virtual and actual exhibit. The process of creating visual (professional photographs), informative (designing and printing a brochure and poster), and electronic (development of the virtual collection) materials will be discussed.

### ***Karen Albert***, MLS, AHIP

Director of Library Services at Talbot Research Library, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA

#### **Selected to Attend:**

- The Medical Informatics course sponsored by the National Library of Medicine at Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratories for a week of classes in late September. The session admits around 30 people, with approximately half being librarians, and the other half physicians and hospital health professionals. The website for this program is: [http://courses.mbl.edu/Medical\\_Informatics/](http://courses.mbl.edu/Medical_Informatics/)

### ***Michelle Arbuckle***

Librarian at Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, ON

#### **New Editor:**

- Ms. Arbuckle has agreed to become the Newsletter Editor for the Cancer Librarians Section.

### ***Mark Vrabel***, MLS, AHIP

Librarian at the Oncology Nursing Society, Pittsburgh, PA

#### **MLA Poster Presentation:**

- "Assisting the Oncology Advanced Practice Nurse in Fostering Evidence-Based Practice: The Role of the Librarian" poster will be presented at the 2003 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting.

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## CARING FOR THE CANCER PATIENT

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### Cheryl Warren, MSLS, AHIP

ValleyCare Health Library & Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center  
Pleasanton, CA

With an estimated 1.3 million cases of cancer diagnosed this year, numerous family members or loved ones will be introduced to the extremely challenging role of being a cancer caregiver.<sup>1</sup> Cancer resource libraries can be an excellent source of information for these people. The cancer experience can be a lengthy, debilitating process for the patient. He or she needs to have a support system that enables the person to manage day-to-day living needs while in treatment, as well as cope with the physical and emotional impact of diagnosis, treatment, and, sometimes, the death and dying process. Quality of life is greatly enhanced for the patient who has the support and assistance of friends and loved ones.<sup>2</sup>

Caregivers and loved ones of cancer patients visit the ValleyCare Health Library & Ryan Comer Cancer Resource Center on a regular basis seeking information that will help with the various aspects of administering social, emotional and physical support. The concerns usually divide into two broad categories: how to be supportive and interact with the cancer patient and how to do specific caregiving tasks for the patient. Couples often face special caregiving problems because of the intimacy of the relationship. Social and spiritual support may be secondary to the actual caregiving but still comprises an important aspect of care. VCHL staff provides resources that help with the management of caregiving tasks, demonstrate caregiving techniques and provide coping tips for both the patient and caregiver. The library can also act as a referral point to local counseling and social services. An environment that is favorable to talking about issues, frustrations and concerns that arise during these difficult times is another important contribution of cancer resource libraries in the caregiving process.

1. *Cancer Facts & Figures*, 2003. American Cancer Society. ([www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org))
2. "Support Network Characteristics." *Nurse's Guide to Cancer Care* / BM Nevidjon. Lippincott, 2000.

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## RESOURCES USED BY VALLEYCARE HEALTH LIBRARY & RYAN COMER CANCER RESOURCE CENTER

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### SUPPORTIVE SKILLS

*Couples confronting cancer; keeping your relationship strong* / Fincannon, J. American Cancer Society, 2002. ISBN: 0-944235-25-5.

Explains the impact that cancer can have on relationships while providing suggestions and communication skills for coping.

*Facing cancer together; how to help your friend or loved one* / Brown, P. Augsburg, 1999. ISBN: 0-8066-3633-8.

This slim volume is religious in tone and provides numerous tips and suggestions for helping the cancer patient.

*Love is a journey; couples facing cancer* / Stricklin, G. Greyrock Publishing, 1999. ISBN: 0-9-673-7150-3  
Written by a psychologist, the book identifies the impact that cancer has on couples and provides tools for couples to use to enhance and strengthen their relationship.

*A time to hear, a time to help: listening to people with cancer* / Rosenblum, D. Free Press, 1993. ISBN: 0-02-927105-3

An older title that may be hard to find, this book describes the much-needed process of just listening to the cancer patient.

*When life becomes precious; a guide for loved ones and friends of cancer patients* / Babcock, E. Bantam Press, 1997. ISBN: 0553378694.

Author empathetically deals with concerns and questions that families and friends often have while providing useful tips and suggestions for them to follow.

*When your friend get cancer: how you can help* / Harwell, A. Harold Shaw Publishers, 1987. ISBN: 0-87788-934-1.

With a religious slant, this small book offers a nice, gentle starting place that most people experiencing cancer in loved ones for the first time will find helpful.

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## CAREGIVING SKILLS

*Cancer symptom management* / Yarbro, C. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Jones and Bartlett Pub., 1999. ISBN: 0-7637-0864-x.

This nursing text is divided into sections based on various symptom problems. Each section ends with a very useful self-care guide and management instructions. These handy tools are adaptable, have images and can be used by caregiver or patient.

*Cancer symptom management: patient self-care guides* / Groenwold, S. Jones and Bartlett Pub, 1997. ISBN: 0-7637-0210-2.

Designed for use by nurses with patients or caregivers, these reproducible guides focus on basic self-care tips for a number of problems associated with cancer.

*Caregiving: a step-by-step resource for caring for the cancer patient at home* / Houts, P. American Cancer Society, 2000. ISBN: 0-944235-20-4

This current, practical guide for the caregiver has detailed instructions and helpful suggestions for managing emotional and physical situations that a cancer patient may experience.

*Home care guide for cancer: how to care for family and friends at home* / Houts, P. American College of Physicians, 1994. ISBN: 0-943126-30-4.

Each caregiving problem has a care plan overview with specific suggestions for following the plan and dealing with obstacles and medical emergencies.

*Oncology: patient education resource manual* / Gillespie, T. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Aspen, 2002. ISBN: 0-8342-1942-5.

This resource binder is for nurses to use with cancer patients. The binder contains a variety of reproducible education sheets including many in Spanish. A number of the education sheets are good for caregiving and symptom management at home.

*Pebbling the walk: surviving cancer caregiving* / Reed, S. Blue Heron Publishing, 2000. ISBN: 0-936085-63-0

Written from the personal experiences of a caregiver, each section is filled with useful information and ends with suggestions or "exercises".

*Supportive cancer care: the complete guide for patients and their families* / Rosenbaum, E. SourceBooks, Inc., 2001. ISBN: 1-57071-787-7.

This detailed book includes personal accounts, coping techniques and management suggestions for various cancer issues. Contains helpful material for caregiver and cancer patient alike with a useful index at the back for navigating the contents.

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## WEB SITES

Also check cancer specific organizations that usually cover coping with treatment side effects that caregivers and friends can use when helping out the cancer patient. The following sites are directed more toward the caregiver for maintaining own health as well as helping the cancer patient.

*The ACP Home Care Guide to Advance Cancer Caregiving*

An online guide provided by the American College of Physicians with practical advice for family and friends who are caring for people with advanced cancer at home. Found on the Empowering Caregivers website.

<http://www.care-givers.com/pages/carearticles/acpguideforcancer.html#Anchor>

*CancerBACUP*

This is a British website with extensive cancer information including several good articles dealing with "what to say" and other communication topics for friends and loved ones. <http://www.cancerbacup.org.uk/>

*Cancer Links*

Maintained by a cancer survivor this site has an extensive collection of cancer links that includes all aspects of caregiving and support services for the cancer patient.

<http://www.cancerlinks.com/>

*Caregiving.com*

Site is dedicated to all types of caregivers. While there are some fees, a busy visual format and ads, it has a message board, tips for the caregiver and personal stories.

<http://www.caregiving.com/>

*Family Caregiver Alliance*

A San Francisco nonprofit, the Alliance provides fact sheets, checklists, advocacy tips and a newsletter to assist caregivers. <http://www.caregiver.org/>

*MEDLINEplus*

MEDLINEplus features links to a number of organizations with very good articles on various aspects of caregiving and cancer. <http://www.medlineplus.gov>

*National Cancer Institute*

NCI has an excellent section on supporting the person with cancer including the emotional factors that effect family and friends. <http://www.cancer.gov/cancerinfo/takingtime>

*National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA)*

The organization exists to advocate for the family caregiver. Newsletter and materials are available.

<http://www.nfcacares.org/>

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