



# THLA NEWS

TORONTO HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 94056, 3332 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4N 3R1 (416) 485-0377  
An official chapter of CHLA/ABSC

Vol. 18, No. 5, 1999

*THLA is pleased to co-sponsor:*

## **Making the Transition -- Converting to PubMed & Internet Grateful Med to Search NLM's Databases**

*Presented by UNYOC - the Upstate New York and Ontario Chapter of MLA,  
with co-sponsors CHLA/ABSC, THLA, GHHLA and OHLA*

**Friday, 20 August, 1999  
Toronto**

This is a one-day class designed for experienced MEDLARS searchers.

**\*\* Experience using the ELHILL command language is required \*\***

The presenters will be **Andrew Hamilton** and **Mary Van Antwerp**,  
Online Analysts/Trainers from NLM's National Online Training Center  
at the NN/LM Middle Atlantic Regional Medical Library Program,  
The New York Academy of Medicine.

### **Cost**

Members of the co-sponsoring organizations: Free  
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Maximum attendance is 30 people (2 people per computer).  
Preference will be given to UNYOC members, then to members of the  
other co-sponsors (with a limit of one person per library if the number of  
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**Elizabeth Reid**

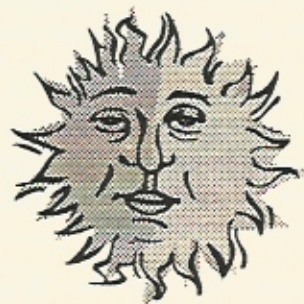
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**Tel: (416) 864-6022**

**Deadline: 30 June, 1999**

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**Have a great Summer!**



## Spring Banquet Report

# AEROSPACE MEDICINE

Major KAREN J. BREECK, BSc, MD

THLA's annual dinner meeting was held at the University of Toronto Faculty Club on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1999. The topic for the evening, *Aerospace Medicine*, is the study of the healthy human body in abnormal environments. Specifically, it deals with the physiologic problems associated with atmospheric or space flight, e.g., hypoxia, decompression sickness, and the effects of G-force and zero gravity. Major Karen Breeck, our guest speaker, provided a very inspiring presentation, describing her medical career in and out of the military and the role aerospace medicine has played in her life's work.

The new rank of Major is only one of Dr. Breeck's recent accomplishments. She completed her Biology and Medical degrees at the Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1986 and 1990 respectively. This was followed by a rotating internship at York Finch Hospital in Toronto and a year's surgical residency at the National Defence Medical Centre in Ottawa. Dr. Breeck was then posted to an air force base in Greenwood, Nova Scotia, where she completed Flight Surgeon, Tropical Medicine and Basic Diving Medicine courses (1993-1994), topped off with a UN peacekeeping tour in the Golan Heights in Israeli-occupied Syria.

In 1995, Dr. Breeck left the military and went into private practice in northern Ontario. During this time, she developed a keen interest in the Internet and its potential to assist rural physicians. She became the chief medical editor of the website, *WebDoctor*, which provided her with hands-on experience in the development of quick, value-added access to accurate and relevant medical information via the web. She is currently the Canadian College of Family Physician's Ontario representative for their committee addressing how best to integrate computer health information into the family physician's practice.

Her later return to the military in 1997 saw Dr. Breeck seconded to the Quebec-based Canadian Space Agency to support a 1-year assignment as Assistant Manager/Flight Surgeon for Operational Space Medicine, a program within the Canadian Astronaut Office. The mandate of this position was to assist in planning for medical support of Canadian astronauts on tours of up to six months' duration on the International Space Station.

Dr. Breeck travelled to Houston, Texas to gain familiarization with NASA's medical operations. The highlight of her 3 months at NASA was learning how a shuttle mission crew is medically supported by following the

*STS-90 Neurolab* flight. This mission included Canadian astronaut Dave Williams as one of seven crew members on board, and veteran Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield, as the mission's Capsule Communicator. During the mission, Dr. Breeck shadowed the lead flight surgeon (personal physician) for Dave Williams. She was also privileged to meet all seven Canadian astronauts, an especially inspiring experience.

Just after finishing the posting with the Space Agency, Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras. The Canadian Force's relief mission to Honduras saw Dr. Breeck whisked off to support the aircrew being sent into the area. After this unexpected detour, she made it to her present posting at the Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine (DCIEM) located in Downsview, Ontario.

DCIEM is a world-recognized centre of excellence in environmental medicine research. Since its conception over 50 years ago by Frederick Banting (Nobel laureate winner for the invention of insulin), DCIEM has invented things as diverse as the aviator's G-suit, an artificial blood substitute (now undergoing human trials), virtual reality training systems, and diving tables used in today's military, commercial and sport diving communities.

Finally, it appears that Major Breeck's ongoing interest in aerospace medicine has been taken seriously by her superiors; she has been offered the first Aerospace Medicine fellowship in Canada. The fellowship will start this summer and will be hosted out of the University of Toronto. It will include a Master's degree in Health Sciences, and tours of duty in civil, commercial and military aviation venues in Canada and the US.

### Websites to Visit

Canadian Space Agency  
[www.space.gc.ca](http://www.space.gc.ca)

DCIEM  
[www.dciem.dnd.ca](http://www.dciem.dnd.ca)

STS-90 Neurolab Mission  
[www.space.gc.ca/Mission/sts90/index.htm](http://www.space.gc.ca/Mission/sts90/index.htm)  
[neurolab.jsc.nasa.gov](http://neurolab.jsc.nasa.gov)

WebDoctor  
[www.gretmar.com/webdoctor](http://www.gretmar.com/webdoctor)

General aerospace medicine/space medicine links:  
[www.gretmar.com/webdoctor/aviation.html](http://www.gretmar.com/webdoctor/aviation.html)  
[www.gretmar.com/webdoctor/spacemedicine.html](http://www.gretmar.com/webdoctor/spacemedicine.html)



## President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

Has it been a year already? I guess time does fly when you are having fun. Speaking of fun, the annual dinner meeting was definitely a good time and the food as usual was outstanding. Our speaker Major Dr. Karen Breeck, or is that Dr. Major Karen Breeck, did a fabulous presentation on her most incredible life to date, in and out of the military. She certainly showed us that she is "All that she can be".

This year proved to be a soul searching time for the THLA, and it is still in the midst of redefining itself. As I pass the presidential baton to Anita Lambert-Lanning, I can only envision a stronger THLA through her dedication, vivacity, and wonderful sense of humour. Anita has worked very diligently to find out your expectations and to bring you meaningful

presentations and I assure you that the THLA leadership is in very capable hands. Case in point, there are three presentations already in the works for next year. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive for all its hard work and also to welcome aboard our new Execs. Please read about them in the Executive bios. I would also like to thank you for entrusting me with the helm of this ship and I see smoother seas ahead.

Regards,

- Karen Smith  
THLA President

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## 1999/2000 THLA Executive

### PRESIDENT

#### *Anita Lambert-Lanning*

Anita is a Research Librarian at the Dept. of Family and Community Medicine at the University Health Network (UHN/DFCM) where she maintains a core collection of Primary Care Research and Education material and a small computer learning centre. She also works as a research associate, clinical librarian, and lecturer of clinical clerks and residents at UHN/DFCM, a teaching site of the University of Toronto. She completed her Honours BA in Communication Studies at York University in 1988 and her Master of Library Science at the University of Toronto in 1994. She has done tours of duty as a special libraries consultant with the Institute for Work and Health and the Toronto East General Dept. of Family and Community Medicine.

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

#### *Anne Taylor-Vaisey*

Anne, a former editor of THLA NEWS, has rejoined the Executive as President-Elect. She is a librarian with U of T's Faculty of Medicine Continuing Education Office, working mainly with physicians who are either planning educational programs or researching various aspects of continuing health professional education. Anne works out of the Centre for Research in Education at the University Health Network, Toronto General Hospital. She is looking forward to continuing her active involvement with THLA.

### PAST-PRESIDENT

#### *Karen Smith*

Born and raised in Quebec City, Karen moved to St. Catharines to attend Brock University. She enjoyed working at the university library so much that she decided to make a career of it. Karen obtained her MLS at U of T and has been a special librarian ever since. She has set up and managed several libraries including one for Bell Canada, Canadian Diabetes Association and three for SNC-Lavalin. Karen's current position as Manager, Corporate Library at Purdue Frederick is the most fulfilling and enjoyable experience of her career.

### SECRETARY

#### *Ani Orchanian*

Ani works at the University Health Network Libraries (Toronto General, Toronto Western, and Princess Margaret Hospitals). She is the hospitals' Archivist, with responsibility for the preservation of the historical records of all three member hospitals, and she is also one of the Information Specialists. Ani is the Chair of the Health Archivists' Interest Group of the Archives Association of Ontario and a graduate of the Faculty of Information Studies. Prior to working in a Health Sciences Library Ani worked at the Archives of Canadian Psychiatry and Mental Health Services and with the Museum of Mental Health Services. During this period Ani's fascination with the history of medicine and psychiatric diagnosis increased through describing the clinical records of Dr. J. Allan Walters, a famed military psychiatrist during World War II.

### TREASURER

#### *Carol Burnham Cook*

Carol is Co-ordinator, Information Resources, at Willow Breast Cancer Support & Resource Services, where she was hired to set up the resource centre and consumer information service in the fall of 1995. As an information specialist, she has worked with the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, TCE Information Group, Markham Public Libraries, and with an outplacement firm, Verity International Ltd. She also has ten years experience in the information industry in various marketing roles with Southam Business Communications where she was part of the team that launched Infomart Online in 1986. Carol earned an MLS from the U of T, 1994, an MA in English Literature from the University of Alberta, and an Honours BA in English Language and Literature from U of T. She also did two years towards a PhD, which remains incomplete.



## 1999/2000 Newsletter Team

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

#### *Marina Englesakis*

Presently Marina enjoys her position as Information Specialist to Neurosciences, Surgery, and Medical Education, at the University Health Network. Prior to this position she was the Director of Library Services at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College from 1997 to 1998, and was newsletter editor for the Chiropractic Libraries Newsletter. Marina was the Systems Librarian/Archivist at St. Michael's Hospital from 1990 to 1997. Previously, she was Head Librarian at the Alberta Vocational College in Lac La Biche, Alberta, where she was also responsible for the Town of Lac La Biche Archives. Marina graduated from the University of Western Ontario with an MLIS in 1987. Her courses at Western piqued her interest in archives and computer applications in libraries, interests that continue to this day.

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

#### *Liz Groskorth*

Liz graduated from the Royal Military College with a degree in English and served as an officer in the Canadian Forces for four years before attending UWO to earn her MLIS. She has worked in the Information Centre at AECL CANDU, in small business and volunteered at The Toronto Hospital. Prior to her last contract at Mount Sinai Hospital library, Liz worked at CCH Canadian Ltd. as a BBS, print and electronic products editor. Liz recently signed an 18-year contract, with the possibility of renewal, as a mother. This summer Liz is looking forward to training for her most recent position, laser sailing, THLA newsletter editing, and pursuing her musical interests.

## Faces & Places

Liz Groskorth is a new mom! Baby Alexandra was born March 27, 1999. Mom and baby can be reached at a new e-mail address: laser4116@hotmail.com.

THLA President-Elect, Anita Lambert-Lanning has been awarded a CHLA Development Fund grant for her project *Net Explorations: Finding the Internet Evidence*. She's also recently earned a U of T Faculty Award for her outstanding contribution in the category *Excellence in Development and Use of Innovative Instructional Methods*. Congratulations Anita!

Best wishes to Linda McFarlane, who will be retiring at the end of May from her position as Library Director, Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre.

Many thanks to Purdue Frederick for their recent generous donation of \$500 to THLA!

Susan Murray, CHIS, has been appointed a member of the Medical Library Association Books Panel for the period May 1999 – May 2002.

Shahida Rashid takes over from Linda McFarlane as Library Director for the Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre.

### *Snapshot*

#### 1999/2000 THLA Executive

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## Web Health Watch

### Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM)

#### The Clinician's Lament: How can I keep up with the Literature?

This simplistic site is a slide show of 63 slides that answer a broad range of questions surrounding the nature of EBM and its practice. The opening page presents the subject of each slide and an individual link to each one so that it is not necessary to go through the entire slide show to get information from the site. Although the information is brief, the slides are excellent for a concise introduction to EBM for librarians, students and practitioners. Toward the end of the slide show are resources for how to keep up with medical literature both practically and psychologically, as well as web resources and general resources for practicing EBM. The thrust of many of these slides could be extrapolated as advice for keeping up with professional literature in any discipline.

[[www.nyam.org/library/ebm/index.htm](http://www.nyam.org/library/ebm/index.htm)]

#### Users' Guides to the Medical Literature

This site is a comprehensive, practical resource for the study of EBM. The left-hand frame links to an Overview, Quick Links (providing links to EBM starting points, EBM resources and related resources), searching options, Users' Guides, News (linking to EBM newsgroups and news releases), and files for downloading. The overview is a thorough essay on EBM containing many linked subject headings. The Users' Guides section contains practical information such as how to decide if studies are valid, how to use integrative studies, etc. Although the site is very well organized, some of the linked pages are misleading because the name of the referring link is absent on the page. Nevertheless, this site is an excellent resource for a thorough investigation into the practice and implementation of EBM.

[[hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid](http://hiru.hirunet.mcmaster.ca/ebm/userguid)]

#### Evidence Based Healthcare: A Resource Pack

This site provides a starting point for practical application on the many facets of EBM. It provides contact information for organizations and academic bodies that promote and practice evidence-based health care. Topic areas such as *Critical Appraisal of Evidence*, *Audit and Managing Change* are linked to a brief description of the subject, key references and the names of organizations that practice that area of EBM. The *A-Z of Evidence Based Health Care* provides more detailed information about organizations referred to in the site. The practical nature of this resource pack makes it useful for administrators or promoters of the practice of EBM; it might be a site to bookmark for reference work.

[[drsdsk.sghms.ac.uk/Starnet/pack.htm](http://drsdsk.sghms.ac.uk/Starnet/pack.htm)]

- Liz Groskorth

## Tips & Tricks

### Finding People: Directories on the Web

#### • Canada •

##### Canada 411

Canadian residential and business phone/address listings. Addresses include postal codes. However... (a) Alberta and Saskatchewan listings are not included, (b) the business listings come from the same database that's used to produce the Yellow Pages. If the business you're looking for has a white pages business listing, but not a Yellow Pages listing, the listing will not appear in

Canada411.

[canada411.sympatico.ca](http://canada411.sympatico.ca)

##### Yellow Pages

[www.canadayellowpages.com](http://www.canadayellowpages.com)

[www.yellowpages.ca](http://www.yellowpages.ca)

##### Canada Toll Free

Contains national and regional toll-free numbers that are listed with the following telephone companies: Bell Canada, MT&T, MTS, NBTel, NewTel, and SaskTel.

[canadatollfree.sympatico.ca](http://canadatollfree.sympatico.ca)

##### Postal Code Lookup

[www.canadapost.ca/CPC2/addrm/pclookup/pclookup.html](http://www.canadapost.ca/CPC2/addrm/pclookup/pclookup.html)

#### • United States •

##### AnyWho

Provided by AT&T Labs. Search for US residential, business, tollfree, reverse look-up and website listings. Includes maps.

[www.anywho.com](http://www.anywho.com)

##### Zip Code Lookup

[www.usps.gov/nscs](http://www.usps.gov/nscs)

##### AMA Physician Select

Compiled by the American Medical Association, includes contact information for "virtually every licensed physician in the United States and its possessions, including more than 650,000 doctors of medicine (MD) and doctors of osteopathy or osteopathic medicine (DO)".

[www.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm](http://www.ama-assn.org/aps/amahg.htm)





## Continuing Education/Upcoming Events

### Faculty of Information Studies University of Toronto

For more information, contact Marcia Chen (416) 978-7111;  
Fax: (416) 971-1399; [conted@fis.utoronto.ca](mailto:conted@fis.utoronto.ca) or  
[www.fis.utoronto.ca/conted](http://www.fis.utoronto.ca/conted). Price range: \$100 - \$595.  
Discount for early registration.

May 17 - Jun 28 Internet Search and Retrieval Strategies  
May 27, 28 Planning Creating & Managing Websites  
May 28 Indexing: A Hands-on Course  
Jul 23 Web Search Strategies

### Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS) Toronto Reference Library

These free presentations are held in the Beeton Auditorium,  
Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St.:

Jun 9 6:30 - 7:30 pm

#### Facts on Fat

Speaker: Gabriella Ptasinski, RD (registered dietitian)  
How much fat do we require? What are the different types of  
fat? What is the impact of fat on health? Get answers to  
these questions, as well as tips on low fat shopping, cooking  
and eating.

### Upcoming Conferences

#### *A Bridge to the New Millennium*

May 25-29, 1999. Halifax, Nova Scotia.  
CHLA/ABSC 23rd Annual Conference  
[www.library.dal.ca/chla-absc99](http://www.library.dal.ca/chla-absc99)

#### *Knowledge Leaders for the New Millennium: Creators of the Information Future*

June 5-10, 1999. Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
SLA 90th Annual Conference  
[www.sla.org/conf/99conf](http://www.sla.org/conf/99conf)

#### *Facing the Challenge: A Practical Survival Guide*

June 16-20, 1999. Toronto, Ontario.  
CLA 54th Annual Conference & Trade Show  
[www.yonahs.com/cia99](http://www.yonahs.com/cia99)

#### *Celebrating the Freedom to Read! Learn! Connect!*

June 26-29, 1999. New Orleans, Louisiana.  
1999 ALA Annual Conference  
[www.ala.org/events/ac99](http://www.ala.org/events/ac99)

#### *Re-Creating Libraries: New Directions for Librarians in the Millennial Age*

October 17-19, 1999. Saratoga Springs, New York.  
New York-New Jersey/UNYOC Joint Conference  
[unyoc.org/conf.html](http://unyoc.org/conf.html)

#### *Caring Connections*

November 22-24, 1999. Toronto, Ontario.  
OHA Convention and Exhibition  
[www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com)

### THLA Advertising Rates

Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply  
endorsement of the product by the Toronto Health  
Libraries Association.

Full Page	\$200
Half Page	\$100
Quarter Page	\$50
Business Card (2" x 3.5")	\$25

Advertiser must provide camera-ready artwork for ads  
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available. For more information, contact Gaby Fernandes,  
Editor, (416) 756-6746; [fernandes@library.utoronto.ca](mailto:fernandes@library.utoronto.ca)



## March Meeting Report

### Canadian Health Network

Tuesday, March 30, 1999

CHIS, Toronto Reference Library

Susan Murray introduced the evening's presenters, **Miriam Ticoll**, **Penny Kirby**, and **Susan Ewing** from the Canadian Health Network (CHN). Miriam Ticoll, the resource development team leader, presented background information about the CHN project and previewed the CHN website that is currently under development. The CHN, in partnership with Health Canada, is developing a national Internet-based service to provide information on health promotion and disease prevention, self-care and the performance of the health system to Canadian consumers. The goals of the network are to improve the health of Canadians, enhance existing health information networks, establish a national Internet information base, and collaborate with a broad range of contributors. 26 subjects in health promotion and disease prevention have been chosen as starting points to build the network. The long-range plans are to establish affiliates and regional partners that are experts in these topic areas. These partners will provide information for the CHN database.

The next presenter, Penny Kirby, discussed the collection development policy and the rationale for choosing partnerships. In creating an electronic collection several problems that are unique to the Internet make collection development challenging. The unstable nature of the web, proprietary software, and web pages that use frames require extra ingenuity in order to maintain links to Internet sites. Other factors in collection development include ownership of material, whether the material is timely, is there adequate disclosure, are there any stated caveats about the material and does the site have a usable interface to easily access the material. Partnerships are currently limited to groups that have electronic capability. The groups should preferably be non-profit and have an established reputation for providing current and credible health information.

The final presenter, Susan Ewing, discussed the issues surrounding the challenges in indexing electronic materials. A handout was provided outlining fields in a sample record. The record structure includes a subject area that uses a bilingual controlled vocabulary thesaurus, currently under development at CHN. There are approximately 2,000 records in the current database. The database will be accessible on the Internet by early summer.

Susan Murray thanked the presenters and offered a tour of the Consumer Health Information Service.

*- Robert Melrose, Secretary*



1998 - 1999

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### THLA NEWS

#### Deadline for submissions

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