



THLA NEWS

TORONTO HEALTH LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 94056, 3324 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON, M4N 3R1

Phone: (416) 485-0377, Fax: (416) 485-6877 *An official chapter of CHLA/ABSC*

<http://www.cme.utoronto.ca/thla>

Vol. 21, No. 1, October 2001

Upcoming Events

Get Stroke Smart

A Joint Program of the Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS), Toronto Reference Library and North York Central Library – Science & Technology

- What is stroke?
- What are its warning signs?
- What are the risk factors?
- What to do when someone is having a stroke?
- What is the impact of stroke on the family?

The answers could change your life.

Speaker: A representative of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

Wednesday, October 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m.,
Toronto Reference Library, Beeton Auditorium.

Thursday, October 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m.,
North York Central Library, Room 2.

THLA October General Meeting

NUTRITION AND THE AGING PROCESS; ANTI AGING AGENTS

Date: **Thursday, Oct. 18, 2001**

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Toronto General Hospital, Eaton Wing North, Room #441, First Floor

Speaker: **Dr. James Patrick Meschino**

RSVP: Christine, cchang@smatrisk.ca

See page 6 for further details.

Ms. Marina F. Englesakis
Health Sciences Library
University Health Network
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MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

If you haven't renewed your THLA membership yet, please do so as soon as possible, so that you will continue to be listed in our directory and receive the *THLA News* and other mailings.

The Membership Form was included with the last *THLA News* mailing in June 2001.

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President's Message

As we say goodbye to the summer and welcome the fall, as your new president I would like to thank Anita, Anne and the members of the past executive, and my dear friend Marina on their guidance and friendship. I welcome our new executive, the president-elect Christine and Anne, our past president and I look forward to a productive and enjoyable year in the life of THLA. As someone said, "Beginnings are exciting times! The possibilities for building off the past to create the future, the thrill of having an opportunity to make a difference, and the awareness of potential, all create a keen sense of now". I want to share that feeling with you.

As we focus on the growth and development of THLA, we contribute in special ways, by providing quality information in the health sciences setting and beyond. By the time you read my message our members will have attended the CHLA focus group meeting held on September 24, 2001. We look forward to seeing the final report.

For our first general meeting in October we have an exciting guest speaker, Dr. James Meschino. Our Christmas party will be celebrated with our friends from SLA, CASLIS and OALT/ABO.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed. Send us your news, articles on your library, etc. In conclusion, I am honoured to be your president.

Margaret Butkovic

New THLA Logo Contest

Win a dinner!

New millenium, new logo.

It's time that THLA had a new look. This is a chance for all of you who want to exercise your left brains. So get out your pencils, or, better still, construct something on your computer. We are aiming for a simple, new look. It should be:

- appropriate and attractive
- easy to print
- suitable size for letterhead
- easily recognizable
- memorable

Members will choose the winner by a vote at the general meeting in March. Absolute deadline for entries is **December 31, 2001**.

The prize is free admission to the annual dinner in May.

Enter as many times as you like by email to Michael Sidlofsky, Newsletter Editor at ssid@istar.ca.

Medical and Health Applications for PDAs

By Michael Sidlofsky

Personal digital assistants (PDAs), also known as handheld computers, have made information management and data transfer more convenient than could have been imagined just a few years ago. A number of professionals in health care, as in other fields, are taking advantage of freeware, shareware and commercial applications for handhelds. Health sciences librarians may not currently need to use these applications themselves, but given their popularity among health care professionals and students, and the growing role of the librarian in clinical and decision support teams, it is wise to become familiar with handhelds and their use in medicine. This article provides a selective survey of popular PDA software for medical reference, diagnostic calculation and patient management.

Clinical reference texts are a natural choice for conversion to handheld format. **Handheldmed** (www.handheldmed.com) sells a number of standard works, such as the *Merck Manual*, *Griffith's 5-Minute Clinical Consult*, *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* and *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary*. Particularly commendable is Handheldmed's effort to provide up-to-date editions and to support both Palm OS and Windows CE (the operating system for the Pocket PC). For drug reference, the most popular tool is **ePocrates** (www.epocrates.com), a free Palm-only database with the added ability to annotate drug entries (registration required). Regular updates are available. Skyscape's **A2zDrugs** (www.skyscape.com/products/a2zdrugs.htm), a commercial program with a free demo, provides a good deal of information that ePocrates lacks, such as mechanisms of action; it's available for both Palm OS and Windows CE.

Diagnostic calculators are available for a variety of general and specialty-specific needs. **MedMath** (www.stanford.edu/~pmcheng/medmath), a free program for the Palm, calculates 28 commonly-used equations, such as Body Mass Index and Number Needed to Treat. Thenar's **PregCalc** (www.thenar.com/pregcalc) is a commercial Palm-based ob/gyn application available in professional, patient and site-licensed versions; it is to be hoped that other medical handheld applications will follow suit. Of particular use for evidence-based research is **EBM Calculator** (www.cebm.utoronto.ca/medicine/ebm/palm/ebmcalc), a freeware Palm program from the Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital-University Health Network. This tool calculates statistics for RCTs, as well as diagnostic, prospective and case-control studies.

Patient management applications are another popular form of PDA software. The commercial **ePhysician Practice** suite for the Palm (www.ephysician.com) allows physicians to schedule appointments online, send prescriptions to pharmacies, and track billing information. PdaMD's **Patient Keeper** (www.pdamed.com), another commercial program for Palm OS, allows physicians to prioritize and classify patient problems, track patients' medication courses, and create to-do lists for patient-related tasks. Despite the potential usefulness of patient management tools for PDAs, there are still privacy and security issues that need to be ironed out before health care professionals will be able to use them comfortably.

The brief summary above is just the tip of the iceberg for medical handheld applications. Leading journals and medical news services have just begun to produce content for PDAs; can virtual clinical boards and conferences be far behind?

Look for a more in-depth article on this subject by Jessie McGowan and myself in a forthcoming issue of *Bibliotheca Medica Canadiana*.

Faces & Places

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Member News

Janet Koops is the new librarian for the Patient and Family Library at the Princess Margaret Hospital. Originally from Toronto, she has spent most of her career to date working in special libraries in Montreal, including Bristol-Myers Squibb, Novartis and Canadian National Railways. Most recently she worked as an analyst for Best-Seller, a library automation company. She is happy to be both back in Toronto and back in the health care industry.

Dr. Joanne Marshall, dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, was recognized as an SLA Fellow at the 92nd annual SLA conference in June 2001. Congratulations Joanne!

Financial Report

Balance carried over from March 5, 2001 \$3733.53

Expenses

Events (Marton Lecture/AGM/THLA Exec. Meeting)	2157.02
Medical Information Services (Dorothy Davey)	735.91
Miscellaneous (stationary/NSF cheques)	37.44
	2930.37

Revenue

Memberships	565.00
Events (AGM/Marton Lecture)	1269.00
Advertising	100.00
	1934.00

Balance \$2737.16

Submitted to the THLA Executive September 10, 2001 by Ellen Olsen-Lynch, Treasurer

Upcoming Conferences

UNYOC Annual Conference

*Information Behavior & the Librarian's
Role: The Shape of Things to Come*

Riveredge Resort Hotel

Alexandria Bay, NY

October 3-5, 2001 (on-site registration only
after Sept. 26)

www.unyoc.org/conference/index.html

KMWorld 2001 Conference & Exposition

Knowledge Drivers of the e-Enterprise

Santa Clara Convention Center

Santa Clara, CA

October 29 - November 1, 2001

www.infotoday.com/kmw01

OHA 2001 Convention & Exhibition

Touching Technology

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

November 5-7, 2001

www.oha.com

Internet Librarian 2001

Pasadena Conference & Exhibition Center

Pasadena, CA

November 6-8, 2001

www.infotoday.com/il2001/default.htm

Continuing Education

Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto

Please visit ce.fis.utoronto.ca for many
additional course offerings and registration
information.

Oct. 15 - Nov. 5 E-Procurement:

Automating the Purchasing Department
(Certificate in E-Business Management &
Operations)

Oct. 15 - Dec. 3 An Overview of Internet
Technologies

(Certificate in Internet Business &
Technology)

Oct. 15 - Dec. 3 Principles of Information
Design

(Certificate in Information Design)

Oct. 15 - Dec. 3 Strategies for a Web
Presence

(Certificate in Internet Business &
Technology)

Oct. 16 - Dec. 4 Internet Application
Development

(Certificate in Internet Business &
Technology)

THLA October General Meeting

NUTRITION AND THE AGING PROCESS; ANTI AGING AGENTS

Date: Thursday, Oct. 18, 2001

Time: 6pm – 8pm

Location: Toronto General Hospital, Eaton Wing North, Room #441, First Floor

Speaker: Dr. James Patrick Meschino

In this seminar Dr. Meschino will reveal the leading edge breakthroughs in nutrition and lifestyle medicine that are associated with longevity, anti-aging, stress management and reducing our risk of cancer, heart disease, osteoporosis and other common degenerative conditions and the rate at which we age is approximately 75% attributable to our lifestyle and nutrition patterns and only 25% attributable to our genetic make up. Dr. Meschino will provide the evidence to substantiate these facts and explain prudent and practical strategies we can use to help minimize the risk of degenerative conditions and slow the biological processes of aging within our cells and tissues.

Dr. James Meschino holds a Master's degree in Sciences with specialties in Nutrition and Biology. He is on the board of advisors of the Academy of Anti-Aging Research and is the Clinical and Research Director for the Renai Sante Institute of Integrative Medicine. He is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Graduate Studies and Research at CMCC and a postgraduate faculty member of the American Council on Exercise (ACE). He is in active practice at Ryerson University in Toronto.

Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to Christine Chang, cchang@smartrisk.ca

CHLA/ABSC News

The CHLA/ABSC Focus Group for Toronto, held on September 24, 2001 at Robart's Library, was a success. Participants from a variety of health library settings identified major issues in their libraries and offered suggestions as to how CHLA/ABSC could help local libraries and professionals in this regard. As well, the CHLA/ABSC board representatives spoke about the organization's current initiatives. Watch this space for a full report in the next issue.

The need for standards and professional (i.e. librarian) assistance in health literature searching has come to the fore, after an insufficient literature search contributed to the recent death of a healthy Johns Hopkins study participant. On September 25, 2001, Jessie McGowan, on behalf of CHLA/ABSC, issued a press release and a letter to *CMAJ*, stressing the need for clinical investigators to collaborate with librarians and announcing that CHLA/ABSC will work with organizations such as the Medical Library Association to develop practice guidelines for literature searching.

THLA Newsletter



2001 - 2002
THLA
EXECUTIVE

THLA Advertising Rates

Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by the Toronto Health Libraries Association. Prices are per issue:

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

Advertiser must provide camera-ready artwork for ads other than the Business Card. Colour advertising is not available. For more information, contact Michael Sidlofsky, Newsletter Editor, (416) 787-3449; email: ssid@istar.ca

THLA NEWS

Deadlines for submissions

Vol. 21, No. 2	November 8, 2001
Vol. 21, No. 3	January 17, 2002
Vol. 21, No. 4	March 11, 2002
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The next *THLA News* will be mailed November 12, 2001.

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Offline By Michael Sidlofsky



"Meghan, I think you take licensing negotiations a little too seriously."

Offline By Michael Sidlofsky



"...But at least it's a dry heat."