

Consumer and Patient Health Information Section  
MLA ANNUAL REPORT 2002/03

## **SUMMARY**

CAPHIS, The Consumer Health section of MLA, accomplished a great deal since May 2002. As an ongoing activity, the CAPHIS listserv supports the diverse needs of its members and brings together consumer health solutions through its public library constituents, hospital librarians, public health system librarians, and university librarians in medical teaching institutions with a mandate to educate for consumer health.

Health Information Literacy is one of many key concerns of the CAPHIS Board and members. The CAPHIS Discussion List carries key leads each week from members who have found excellent tools, both online and in print for increasing health literacy. The CAPHIS list members share websites tailored to easy-to-understand readability scales, websites and print materials in many languages, and useful suggestions for consumer education services and programs. The CAPHIS list is a gold mine of practical information for both new and “seasoned” consumer health librarians.

CAPHIS Executive Board passed an emergency motion to allow our treasurer, Denise Corless, to act as Secretary/Treasurer for the purposes of the bank account for this year. The official motion will be clarified and confirmed at the annual meeting in San Diego in May.

## **TOP 100 COMMITTEE**

The CAPHIS Top100 Website Committee met in May and continually monitors and evaluates websites. Each member of the committee takes responsibility for a section of the list. At the May meeting, the committee voted to use a standard e-mail letter of rejection or inclusion for the many organizations wishing to have their websites included in the “CAPHIS Top 100.” The Top 100 Committee also oversees the selection and currency of the MLA Top10 consumer health websites. Committee members are coordinated by Rosalind Dudden, Chair. Committee members serve on a rotation basis so there will always be experienced members on the team. They are listed below with the # of years left in their rotation in brackets. They include Janet Allcock (3), Melody Allison (2), Tracy Beardon (3), Susan Blaskevica (3), Amy Frey (1), Jennifer Friedman (1), Karen Miller (2), Naomi Miller (2), Kelly Near (2), and Tanya Smith (3). They are a reliable and hardworking group of volunteers. MLA and CAPHIS are fortunate to have their service.

Michele Spatz, is a “member at large” of the Top 100 Committee and MLA representative to the URAC Health Website Accreditation Committee. The URAC Health website evaluation committee has partnered with Consumers Union, and through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant, will host a search engine summit in 2003.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Under the capable direction of Susan Murray, immediate past-Chair of CAPHIS, the Nominating Committee has come up with an impressive slate of candidates for 2003-2004. Vacancies to be filled include Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Section Council Representative. The candidates are Eris Weaver for Chair, Jennifer Friedman and Jana Allcock for Secretary, Marge Kars for treasurer, and Javier Crespo for Section Council Representative. The only disputed position is that of Secretary. The winner will be announced at MLA and through the website and discussion list.

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR MLA 2003**

Chair-Elect Naomi Broering has done an impressive job working with invited speakers and other sections to put together two exciting programs for the MLA Annual Meeting in May 2003. CAPHIS is the primary sponsor of the first, and very timely, program is “Through Tempests and Storms: Vaccines, Biologicals, Patient Education and Environmental Health.” The two invited speakers are Dr. Ruth M. Heifetz, School of Medicine, University of California San Diego, and Marion Hicks, Director of Learning Resources at Cleveland Chiropractic College in Los Angeles California. Additional papers will be presented to add balance to the program.

The second program in which CAPHIS is the primary sponsor is “Crest of the Wave- Cool New Health Information Resources for Consumers.” Invited speaker is Angela B. Ruffin, PhD. She is Head of the NNLM Office in the Library Operations Division of NLM. There are 3 additional excellent contributed papers.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At last count, CAPHIS Section of MLA had lost members, dropping to 571 in 2003 from 688 in 2002. The 2002 dues increase from \$7 to \$15 might have caused some loss of membership, but the CAPHIS members felt they needed additional funds for programs at MLA and to be able to host networking events for CAPHIS members. Deborah Batey is Membership Committee Chair.

## **WEBMASTER**

Kay Hogan Smith has already started her new position as webmaster and has updated the CAPHIS website with MLA annual meeting information. Rosalind Dudden, retiring CAPHIS webmaster continues to train Kay who officially becomes webmaster after the May 2002 meeting.

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

CAPHIS found two people to replace Heidi Sandstrom, former newsletter editor. Howard Fuller and Nancy Dickenson from the Stanford Health Library have volunteered for the positions and will have their first newsletter out electronically on the CAPHIS website at the end of March 2003. The Book Review Editor, Barbara Bibel, will continue providing comparison reviews so appreciated by the CAPHIS membership. Look to <http://caphis.mlanet.org> for the next issue of Consumer Connections

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Bill Smith, of the Methodist Hospital of Dallas, has volunteered to coordinate a quarterly CAPHIS column on consumer health for the MLA News. This is a new project for CAPHIS, and Bill has already collected several volunteers to contribute to the new column.

Respectfully Submitted on March 24, 2003,

Lucy B. Thomas  
CAPHIS Chair, 2002-2003