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HEALTH TELEMATICS UNIT (HTU)
Volume 2, No. 3, Spring, 2000

Message from Dr. Penny Jennett

Our first newsletter for 2000! As always, we welcome your input. Before you continue to read about the many activities and changes in the Unit, please make note of the following:

Please Note: The HTU meeting for Monday, March 27, 2000, has been cancelled.

Dr. Penny Jennett
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Health Telematics Unit Update

Building Human Capacity: Our most important asset

WELCOME to the new people in the Unit:

Research Assistants/ Coordinator

- ?? Kay Hunter joined the Unit as the Telehealth Program Coordinator in January. She was part-time in January/February and came on full time in March.
- ?? Matt Hicks joined the Health Telematics Unit in March as a research assistant for Dr. Penny Jennett on a number of different projects.
- ?? Corina Dumitru joined Dr. Steve Edworthy's telehealth team as a research assistant.

Graduate Students/Intern/Summer Students

- ?? We have had two students apply (one for a Ph.D. and one for an M.Sc.) for the graduate program in Telehealth through the Health Research stream of Community Health Sciences. Candidates are being interviewed in March.
- ?? We are completing arrangements for one intern for the summer. Zorene Curry, a Ph.D. student and

a lecturer at The College of the Bahamas, will be here for three months.

We are hiring an undergraduate student for a summer research position and may hire a second undergraduate. Both positions are for four months.

Research Positions

We are advertising for both a junior and senior level researcher. Please help to disseminate this information. Details can be found on our web site.

Noon Seminar

A telehealth noon seminar was held on Thursday, March 16. Dr. Bill Bieber, former Director of Public Health in New Guinea and international health consultant in developing countries, spoke on "Telematics in Kosova." Dr. Bieber works on projects with Dr. Steve Edworthy.

Please make note in your calendar of the upcoming noon seminars:

April 19--Dr. Roger Girard

May 4--Dr. Barry Wiggs

May--Dr. Trevor Craddock

June 9--Dr. David Hailey

--Telehealth Research Summer Institute--

July 30-August 3, 2000, at the University of Calgary

--GHA Telnet Information Conference--

Virtual Gericare: Using POTS Videoconferencing in a Long Term Care Facility

April 10 at 10 a.m.

--Smart 2000 Conference--

October 23-27

Telehealth Scholarly Program

?? Renovations

While we are still hoping to be in our new quarters in July, the final date has not been confirmed. Decisions concerning layout, lighting, sound, equipment, etc. for Theatres A and B, room 618, and the upper and lower levels of the Telehealth Program area are being refined.

We are seeking infrastructure funding (for both people and physical requirements) from infrastructure grants, chairships, donors, and industry. Dr. Jennett submitted an infrastructure proposal to the Canadian Foundation of Innovation. We hope to hear soon.

?? Web Site

The Telehealth/Telelearning Scholarship and Training Program web site is being revised and updated at www.ucalgary.ca/md/TELEHEALTH. The format will reflect that used by the Faculty of Medicine. We plan to have our new web site up during the first week of April.

?? Telehealth Research Summer Institute (TRSI 2000)

The Health Telematics Unit will host TRSI 2000. Individuals from the public sector, private sector, professional bodies, and academia who are interested in or wish to conduct research and evaluation in telehealth/telelearning issues are the targeted participants. Key researchers in telehealth from across Canada will be presenting telehealth research methodologies and approaches.

The TRSI 2000 themes are:

- ?? Telehealth/Telelearning Services
- ?? Information and Communication Technologies, Private Industry
- ?? Research Questions and Methodology

See the Telehealth web site for details and registration information.

?? GHA Telnet

Dr. Jim Hutchinson in Atlanta, Georgia, organizes the GHA Telnet Telemedicine Telejournal which is a monthly

audio teleconference for professionals in telemedicine. Dr. Trevor Craddock, Dr. Penny Jennett, and Ms. Sharlene Stayberg presented on February 1, 2000: "Telehealth in Alberta, Canada: Past, Present, and Future." The March 7th program by Dr. Warren B. Karp was "Integrating Low-cost Telecommunications Technology into Pediatric Care." For information about the previous teleconferences and the upcoming April 10th presentation on "Virtual Gericare," check the "Index of Programs" on the web site at www.ATSP.org/telejournal

?? Projects and Conferences

A new telementoring project in surgery will link a surgeon in the North with a surgeon in Calgary. Dr. J. G. Descouteau leads this activity.

We continue our collaboration with BC, Netera, and CANCoach.

The Smart 2000 conference, Oct. 23-27, will offer an opportunity to showcase Alberta projects. We will be represented at Infocus (COACH), June 24-27, and at ITCH, August 23-27

?? Provincial

The Provincial Telehealth Evaluation will be completed by the end of May.

Special Needs funding has been approved.

V-Tel has been tested for interoperability; applications for the next stage of testing have been received.

alberta we//net is seeking information on ways to establish a Telehealth Support Service



The PA software program is in operation at Loughheed and Foothills.

The first trial of CPC between the Foothills Coombs and ARC was successfully completed.

The Regional Health Board installed a video-conferencing system.

Upcoming Telehealth Meetings

The next Health Telematics Unit meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2000, Room 1466, HS Library from 8:30-10:00 a.m. An Agenda will be circulated prior to the meeting. Minutes of the February meeting have been circulated. Mark the following dates in your calendars for upcoming HTU meetings: May 29 and June 26.