

Philadelphia Regional Chapter / MLA
2011/12 Annual Report
Submitted April 13, 2012

Summary

The Board of the Philadelphia Regional Chapter of the Medical Library Association met four times (July 27th, October 18th, January 17th, and March 29th) since MLA '11 in Minneapolis.

As of March 29th, the Chapter had total assets of \$20,054.40.

The following represents the activities of the Chapter for the period from May 2011 through March 2012, under the MLA strategic plan goals and presidential priorities.

1) Recruitment, Membership, and Leadership in the Profession

Leadership

New committee chairs were welcomed at the July 27th board meeting: Gary Kaplan, Chair; Lydia Witman, Chair Elect/Program Chair; Andrea Kenyon, Nominating Chair/Parliamentarian; Prudence Darlymple, Chapter Council Representative; Anne Seymour, Chapter Council Alternate; Lydia Collins, Communications Chair; Barbara Kuchan, Membership Chair; Ene Belleh, Webmaster. Throughout the year there were several personnel changes: Virginia Brown was appointed as Communications Chair, Mark Puterbaugh as Web Chair, and Jenny Pierce as Education and Credentialing Chair.

The Board investigated virtual meeting platforms for board meetings and educational programs to increase our regional presence. Several board members held a virtual meeting in August using the MegaMeeting platform. The fall and winter board meetings were made available by Adobe Connect to remote users, and the spring board meeting was held by conference call.

Recruitment and Membership

As of April 11, the Chapter has 85 current members for the 2012 membership year, including 5 students and 3 retirees.

To reach out to potential members, and to promote health sciences librarianship to individuals from diverse backgrounds, the committee intends to send membership information to broader, national health sciences and other relevant library mailing lists, such as the Medlib-I and the SLA Listserv; continue outreach initiatives with library school programs to promote membership benefits (Drexel University, University of Pittsburgh, Clarion Univ. of Pennsylvania) ; and explore opportunities outside the current circle of health sciences librarians to promote membership to potential members in related fields.

To involve more members in the work of the association, provide chairs with leadership opportunities, and prepare for succession planning, the Chapter revived its committee appointment process with a question on the 2011 membership renewal form about interest in volunteering. Twenty members accepted appointments. The final confirmed rosters were distributed to committee chairs on August 24 with instructions for the chairs to contact their members to welcome them and orient them to their work.

2) Life Long Learning

The incoming Program Chair and Continuing Education Chair led a survey of members' program interests. Of the 35 respondents, most indicated an interest in mobile technology and translational science, while the fewest indicated interest in the AWIC searching class. Members preferred roundtables, workshops, and hands-on

computer training. With regard to costs, respondents indicated \$55 is a maximum cost they are willing to pay for CE programs.

The Continuing Education Committee offered programs throughout the year:

- A workshop on October 12th, “Meeting the Information Requirements of the Animal Welfare Act” taught by D’Anne Jensen from the Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC).
- A site for the November 18th MLA webcast on “Connecting E-science and Team Science: The Changing Nature of Research” and will host a site for the spring webcast on “Leveraging Mobile Technologies for Health Sciences Libraries”.
- “Data Curation for Information Professionals” on March 16, 2012, was a newly developed program approved for CE credit.
- “Translational Bioinformatics” will be offered on April 27, 2012, taught by Diane Rein, Bioinformatics and Molecular Biology Information Resources Librarian, Associate Librarian, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo Libraries.
- “Ethical and Legal Aspects of Disaster Response” taught by Barbara Folb, Public Health Informationist, Health Sciences Library System, University of Pittsburgh, and Patti Reynolds, Director, Bishopric Medical Library, Sarasota Memorial Hospital, will be offered on August 21, 2012.

Jenny Pierce led the effort to secure a NN/LM MAR Professional Development Grant, which we are using to support the Data Curation and Translation Bioinformatics events.

The Nominating Committee is considering an award to support the cost of a Chapter member’s first-time application for AHIP status.

3) Advocacy

The Government Relations Committee monitors messages from MLA’s Government Relations Committee, MLA-FOCUS, ALA, PALA, APHA, and SLA for news of legislative issues relevant to chapter members. They have communicated with chapter members about topics of national interest such as FY 2012 NIH funding, as well as regional issues like a new Pennsylvania law that gags physicians from what they can tell their patients about the contents of fracking chemicals.

4) Knowledge Creation and Communication

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Middle Atlantic Region (MAR/NNLM) Value of Libraries study (“The Value of Library and Information Services in Patient Care”) was launched last year. Results from the pilot phase were presented at MLA ’11 in Minneapolis. The chapter is proud to support this research financially, by encouraging members to participate, and by disseminating the results.

Andrea Kenyon submitted an article that appeared in the November/December 2011 issue of *MLA News* Chapter News department about public health information and community partnerships featured at the Chapter's 60th Annual Meeting, held April 6, 2011.

The Board set a priority to develop a communications plan to ensure timely and engaging chapter communications after suspending publication of the newsletter last year.

The presentation on “Data Curation for Information Professionals” was recorded and will be made freely available.

5) Partnerships

The Chapter is participating in a joint conference along with the Southern, Mid-Atlantic, and New York-New Jersey chapters to be held October 13-16, 2012, in Baltimore. The Quad Conference theme is “Connections.”

We have worked closely with the SLA Philadelphia Chapter to avoid date conflicts and cross-promote our programs.

MOTION

This report is informational and requires no action by the Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Kaplan, Chair

Board Members

Annie Brogan, Archives Committee Chair
Barbara Cavanaugh, Development Committee Chair
Ginny Brown, Communications Committee Chair
Prudence Dalrymple, Chapter Council Representative
Jenny Pierce, Continuing Education Committee Chair
Stephanie Ferretti, Government Relations Committee Chair
Linda M.G. Katz, AHIP Liaison
Andrea Kenyon, Nominating Committee Chair/Parliamentarian
Mitzi Killeen, Treasurer
Barbara Kuchan, Membership Committee Chair
Mark Puterbaugh, Web Committee Chair
Anne K. Seymour, Chapter Council Alternate
Priscilla Stephenson, Secretary
Lydia Witman, Chair Elect/Program Chair