



BMETS Newsletter

December 2008

<http://www.BMETS.org>

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The BMETS Officers Wish You Happy Holidays



THE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS



Rob Bain

I would like to thank the membership for their continued support, specifically on meeting attendance. We are coming up on the January meeting where we will be presenting the Scholarship for the first time. I am hopeful that we -the membership, can show our support for this by attending the meeting. Our plans are to invite the BMET program faculty, students in the program and parents of those accepting the awards. Currently Dan freedman believes there are 8 students that qualify based on his assessment of grade point average-2.5 or better, interest and the essay on what it means to be a BMET. The qualifications for the scholarship also call for the accepting students to want to work in the field upon graduation.

MY hope is to get as many new BMETs available as possible and improve the outlook for trained technicians. I hear allot about new societies and organizations that want to form or take money and talk. I believe ACTION is the way to accomplish what we need and we have enough societies already. I have no problem supporting a society verbally if they are of worth, but I am against just throwing money at every cause and new idea that comes along.

We do NOT need another AAMI; rather we need training, networking, and information sharing. This includes new technologies as related to integrating systems to IT and establishing standards for safety to prevent failures when IT and CE are working to establish a paperless automated network. Rich Schrenker at Mass General said it best when he stated "we need to establish a safe case" so we can prepare for safety in the new world of computerized medical technology.

We can't be behind the curve on IT training or we will lose our edge and be behind on future products. I advise all BMETS to get some IT training, either A plus course, (self study is a great start), service schools , or possibly a seminar at AAMI or another similar organization. Please don't sit back and let the new technology make us obsolete.

Have a great Holiday season and I hope to see all at the January meeting to be held at the Rouse Building at Howard Community College.

Rob Bain, CBET
President, BMETS

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S QUILL

Several things are in the works for January's Scholarship award at Howard County Community College. Also, for February I am working on providing you all with a different type of venue, unfortunately, I do not have a lot of details to provide at this time. There are a few things I would like to say, the most important one is Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Secondly, BMET officer nominations starting in January if you would like to nominate someone or would like to nominate your self for an officer's position then please tell the Secretary at the January meeting. This will be short and I wanted to give everyone in the BMETS my holiday wishes for a safe and happy one. Talk to you in January.

Chris Jones, Sr. MCP CPACS Assoc.
Vice President B.M.E.T.S.



Chris Jones, Sr.

Tech Talk

Rob Bain and I were talking about how much of Information Technology (IT) work is interfacing with Biomedical Equipment Repair (BER). All biomedical equipment is manufactured with an onboard computer. The computer requires some kind of program to make it work. The program and the medical equipment need to get approval from FDA. Any modification to the program or equipment should require some kind of approval. A lot of the medical equipment is now modular, so the repair is a lot simpler than a few years ago when the BMET replaced ICs, soldered on components and rewired when needed. The IT side of the house is the one that connects the equipment to the information system and checks to see if everything is working OK. Before long the BMET of the house may find themselves out of a job.

Look at the IT side of the house. They have Information Technology Certification A+, CCNA, CCIE, CNA, CNE, Java, MCSD, MCSE. The key word is Certification. Each Certification costs from \$3,000.00 to \$7,000.00. Certification is what makes them marketable.

The Biomed side of the house has only one certification which is inexpensive when compared to the cost of the IT certification, but very few BMETS are taking the CBET certification program.

The acceptance of the BMET in the private sector was given a big push in 1970 when consumer advocate Ralph Nader wrote an article in which he claimed, "At least 1,200 people a year are electrocuted and many more are killed or injured in needless electrical accidents in hospitals." When the BER field was first started, it was promoted as a requirement to have a BMET on board to ensure patient safety and reduce down time of medical equipment. Is the BMET still the patient safety advocate and does the BMET on board still reduce down time? Is the BMET still as valuable today as they were in 1970?

It is time to look at the career path we have chosen and ask ourselves if we are keeping up to date on our education and certification. Are we still as marketable today as we were when we started?

Rob Bain, CBET

Roy Leake, CBET, FASHE

Need Some Help and Feedback

BMETS would like to highlight BMETS that have passed. To do this in an article in one of the future newsletters, we will need some background information on the following BMETS: Craig Case, John McKinnon, and Victor Dobbs. We would like to have as much information as possible including hobbies, awards, recognitions, organizations that they belonged to, etc. One of the titles suggested for this article was "Tribute", do you have any suggestions? Do you know of a BMET that has passed recently that we have not listed?

You can send any information to webmaster@bmets.org Make sure you include enough information about who the information is for. If we get no information, then it will be a short lived proposal for a newsletter article.

Physio-Control Receives FDA 510 Clearance For LIFEPAK 20e Defibrillator/Monitor

October 08, 2008

REDMOND, Wash.-- Physio-Control, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Medtronic, Inc., announced today that it has received clearance by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market the LIFEPAK 20e defibrillator/monitor within the United States.

The 20e is an enhancement of the LIFEPAK 20 defibrillator/monitor, which has become the standard of care in many hospitals worldwide since its introduction in 2002. It offers all the capabilities of the LIFEPAK 20 device, along with a more powerful Lithium-ion battery that doubles ECG monitoring time and the run time of other parameters such as noninvasive pacing and pulse oximetry, a noninvasive way to monitor the oxygenation of a patient's hemoglobin. Additionally, a new on-screen "fuel gauge" displays the real-time status of available battery capacity so clinicians can monitor remaining use time.

The 20e also was developed to be easily transported, helping hospitals meet the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standard for having resuscitation services readily available in all facility areas.

"We are very pleased to have received 510(k) clearance from the FDA on the LIFEPAK 20e defibrillator/monitor. Physio-Control has a long history of providing products for the hospital marketplace and the 20e will fit well into the line of reliable, quality products customers have come to expect from us," said Brian Webster, president of Physio-Control. "It is an exciting time for our company as we continue to provide our customers with new generations

of LIFEPAK products."

Physio-Control is currently under a consent decree with the FDA, which restricts the amount of products that can be delivered to customers until certain improvements in the company's quality system have been completed. However, the company is permitted to manufacture and ship a limited selection of product under certain conditions to meet the critical needs of emergency response customers. Hospital staff should call their local Physio-Control representative to learn more about the specific conditions under which Physio-Control can deliver LIFEPAK 20 and LIFEPAK 20e products to U.S. hospital customers.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
CHECK THE WEB PAGE FOR UPDATES

January 15, 2009—Monthly Meeting— Scholarship Presentation, Howard Community College
 February 18, 2009—Monthly Meeting—Topic, Speaker, Place to be announced later
 March 18, 2009—Monthly Meeting—Topic, Speaker, Place to be announced later
 April 15, 2009—Monthly Meeting—Topic, Speaker, Place to be announced later
 May 20, 2009—Monthly Meeting—Topic, Speaker, Place to be announced later
 June 6-8, 2009—AAMI Conference & Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, Plan now to attend
 AAMI 2009, the premier conference for healthcare

Plan to attend our next meeting sponsored by:
Baltimore Medical Engineers and Technicians Society
January 15, 2009

Location: Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
 Columbia, MD 21044-3197
 6:00 - 9:00 PM

The Presentation scheduled for January 15, 2009 is the first annual Scholarship Presentation dedicated in memory of Victor Dobbs, BMET. Victor was one of the founding members of BMETS and was a respected leader of the BMET Society. The leadership of BMETS would like for all members of the BMET Society to attend this Scholarship Presentation. There will be a buffet and a time to fellowship. The building location on the Howard Community College has not been determined yet, so watch the Web page for updates to the actual location. Show your support for the BMETS Scholarship Presentation by attending.

RSVP's ONLY Emails will be accepted - Place RSVP in the Subject line

What must be included in the RSVP's is:

1. Place RSVP in the Subject line
2. Name of ALL individuals coming to the Meeting.
3. Healthy appetite
4. Relative mind set for conversation and enjoyment.

Please send your RSVP's to RSVP@bmets.org No later than January 12, 2008.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
 Rob Bain MS, CBET
 President BMETS



TOOLS OF THE TRADE



The LIFEPAK® 1000 defibrillator

The LIFEPAK® 1000 defibrillator is the most rugged defibrillator ever designed by Physio-Control, with an IP55 rating. ADAPTIV™ biphasic technology provides a range of energy up to 360 joules, and an upgradeable platform. The LIFEPAK 1000 is equipped with cprMAX™ technology, enabling care providers to change protocols as standards of care evolve. A large, intuitive screen displays graphics and ECG readings that are clear and easy to read from a distance. A visible and accessible battery gauge gives rescuers the ability to assess battery readiness. The non-rechargeable battery can deliver more than 425 shocks. You

can focus on the patient, on the moment, on what matters.

The LIFEPAK 1000 defibrillator ensures you have the best equipment to fulfill the commitment you made when you decided to enter this field—to save lives.

Customized Care for Your Patient

- * Easy customization of settings to meet your protocol needs in the field
- * cprMAX™ technology feature gives you flexibility, so you can increase hands-on time with your patient
- * ADAPTIV™ biphasic technology provides a full range of energy from 150 to 360 joules

A Rugged and Intuitive Defibrillator

- * The most rugged defibrillator ever built by Physio-Control, with an IP55 rating
- * Visible and accessible battery gauge gives you the ability to assess battery readiness
- * Battery performs advanced communications directly with the device so you always know the battery's condition
- * Large intuitive screen displays graphics and ECG readings Manual defibrillation (AED override) option is available

A Resuscitation Platform for Now and the Future

- * Field upgradeable therapies focused on enhancing patient outcomes will continually build on the LIFEPAK 1000 defibrillation platform
- * The LIFEPAK 1000 is compatible with other Physio-Control products and services across the full spectrum of care, from the field to the hospital, including data download

BMETS Web Site Statistics

November 2008 = 18856 Total Hits

October 2008 = 22078 Total Hits

September 2008 = 16923 Total Hits

BMETS Monthly Meeting Sponsors for 2008



For ultrasound parts, probes, or service, call 1-800-248-4153.

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