

# Data Speak!

## Tri-Analytics, Inc.

Experts in Medical Database Management

Collecting Better Data, Developing Better Information, Achieving Better Outcomes



## Live Web Training Overcomes Limits

Recently, TAI introduced live web training to hospitals participating in the National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation. Live web training will become available to hospitals participating in other TAI projects in the future.

### Benefits of Live Web Training

Web training enables TAI project participants to receive clinical and technical training without the travel expenses that can be associated with traditional training.

“Participants appreciate the fact that our trainings are presented in compact and manageable time blocks. This makes it easier to fit valuable training into a busy schedule.”

Tim Evans, Software Trainer

Training sessions are given just as if the participants were in the same room. Presenters are able to demonstrate various software applications for students. Multiple facilities can receive training simultaneously, allowing students to interact and exchange project experiences with participants from various hospitals. Students are able to verbally interact with each other and the trainer as well as

exchange text messages, questions, and comments.

This level of interaction is facilitated using Placeware web conferencing software which includes instant feedback to posted questions, on-line polls, software demonstrations, access to web surfing, and more. The only equipment required is an internet connection and a separate phone line for a conference call. Participants don't have to leave their desk to participate in training sessions.

### How Is Live Web Training Better Than Traditional Classroom Training?

Training participants enjoy avoiding the hassle of travel, expense, and other obstacles associated with traditional training. It also allows everyone involved with the project at their hospital to receive live training from an expert for one low price. Participants also like to use live web training to quickly train new staff or take a refresher course at low cost.

Making the training process even easier, NRCPR participants are able to register for live web training on-line at [www.nrcpr.org](http://www.nrcpr.org). Project IMPACT participants will also be able to participate in live web based training sessions for the new version 3.0 system this winter.

If you are interested in finding out more about our live web training courses, contact us at 888-820-3282 (NRCPR), 714-282-6070 (PI), 800-706-0337 (general TAI), or check out your project's web site. ☺



## DataSpeak Highlights

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## NRCPR Data Stimulates Action

Members of the Scientific Advisory Board and TAI collaborated on an abstract to be presented at SCCM's Scientific Symposium in February. The analysis was prompted by the concern that the epidemiology of pediatric in-hospital cardiopulmonary arrest is not well characterized.

Furthermore, conference calls were held with a few participants to review the quarterly reports. The NRCPR data analyst team reviewed report content with participants and described useful applications of each report. The participants then explained how they were using the reports to change processes within their hospitals. For example, the *Frequency of Events by Time & Location* report helped one participant identify a way to significantly reduce response times by relocating key equipment. The participants also gave very valuable feedback on desirable report updates for the future. These calls have contributed to a future report web training module. We will keep you posted on the progress of this training module via our website ([www.nrcpr.org](http://www.nrcpr.org)). ☺

## Regional Training This Quarter

### Collector Trauma/EMS

Digital Innovation conducts training sessions for all Collector Trauma and EMS Registry software.

Call Donna Youngberg at 800-344-3668 ext. 27 or email: [dyoungberg@dicorp.com](mailto:dyoungberg@dicorp.com) for more information.

### Project IMPACT

#### Regional Sessions

Project IMPACT training sessions for the new version 3.0 software will be offered in Dallas, TX and Concord, NC in January after the software is released.

For more info, contact Kimm Streit at Project IMPACT, 714-282-6070, fax: 714-282-6085, or email: [kimm@sccm.org](mailto:kimm@sccm.org).

### NRCPR

#### Live Web Training

Both clinical and technical training for the NRCPR software are offered via live web-based training sessions four times a month.

The cost for each training session is \$79 and space is limited, so register today at [www.nrcpr.org](http://www.nrcpr.org)! Call 888-820-3282, fax: 410-838-1148, or email: [info@nrcpr.org](mailto:info@nrcpr.org).

### Additional Resources

Coming soon, both Project IMPACT and NRCPR will have training CDs and web downloads to help you learn the software and clinical info. Visit the web sites: [www.sccm.org/pi](http://www.sccm.org/pi) (PI) and [www.nrcpr.org](http://www.nrcpr.org) (NRCPR) for full details or email [info@trianalytics.com](mailto:info@trianalytics.com).

# Get to Know Us!

In the next few issues of *DataSpeak*, we will highlight employees at TAI so you can get to know us better. This month, we focus on Project IMPACT: The Critical Care Data System sponsored by SCCM.



## Project Manager Maureen Stark

Maureen has been part of the TAI team since 1992. She came to TAI with experience in teaching middle school math, college-level computer science, and with 5 years experience in combat simulation modeling. The last prepared her well for raising her three, active teenagers. Having been raised in Long Island, New York, she's been in Maryland since 1977 with a three-year hiatus in Arizona with her then Army-husband. Her responsibilities to TAI and her family don't leave much time for hobbies, but she thoroughly enjoys singing with her church choir and, when time permits, performing in liturgical dramas.

Maureen's TAI experience has been in all aspects of data management and analysis. She served as the data manager of the state of Maryland's cancer registry for five years, before assuming that role for Project IMPACT. Maureen oversees all aspects of PI's central registry, including the production of quarterly, comparative reports and the filling of research requests. She is currently working with the developers (Digital Innovation, Inc.) of the soon-to-be released PI version 3.0, while continuing business as usual for PI. Project IMPACT participants - see you in San Francisco in February 2001! .

If you are interested in finding out more about our database management and consulting services, give us a call at 800-706-0337, or send an email to [info@trianalytics.com](mailto:info@trianalytics.com).

# TAI Project Updates

## ACFAS Outcomes Study

October 31, 2000 marked the deadline for enrollment of new patients in the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) Outcomes Study. Beginning November 1 there will be a 6 month period devoted to collecting follow-up data on existing patients. TAI will prepare final project reports by June 30, 2001 based on all records submitted to TAI by April 30, 2001. The final reports to the ACFAS and PSN will summarize all data submitted during the period, provide statistical summaries of submitted data, and quantify the variability present among condition-specific data from participants. Reports to participants will be similar and compare condition-specific data for their patients with those of other sites in a way which protects each participant's confidentiality. TAI has been involved in many aspects of the study including assisting in the definition of the data sets and operational definitions, management of the software development, software training, and data management and reporting.

## National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation

The first quarterly reports to NRCPR participants were distributed electronically in October 2000. The initial "installment" of reports included the quarterly report "common section," a comparative demographics report, a time by location report, and an Utstein overview template report and modified Utstein template reports.

The "common section" gives background on NRCPR, describes participating hospitals, gives information about study activities and provides a summary of data submitted through the end of the current report period. The time by location report gives the numbers of various event types that occurred in different areas of a participating hospital, in four hour increments, during week days and weekends. The report should help hospitals better align resources with

their resuscitation occurrences. The *Utstein Patient Overview* describes the numbers of various event types (e.g., acute respiratory compromise or cardiopulmonary arrest) and initial rhythms. The *Modified Utstein Templates* give statistics on survivors and non-survivors for each event type and initial rhythm for the participant and its comparative group.

The second quarterly report is based on all data submitted through September 2000 and was distributed November 15<sup>th</sup>. Additional reports were provided in that release. Process of care exception reports identify resuscitations that did not meet AHA guidelines and may, therefore, be worthy of peer review. Gold standard process of care reports contrasts data on important process times (e.g., to first defibrillation for shockable initial rhythms) for the participant and its comparative group. Information on data timeliness was also provided in the November report. Check out the NRCPR web site ([www.nrcpr.org](http://www.nrcpr.org)) for more information on this important project.

## Project IMPACT

### Exhibit and Demonstrations February 11-13, 2001

Stop by the Project IMPACT exhibit booth for the latest information regarding PI or attend a demonstration of the new PI 3.0 Version User Software. Meet PI users and data collectors for first hand accounts of how sites use their data locally and how the information derived from the PI quarterly reports impacts the care, resource utilization and outcome of their patients. Phone: 714-282-6070, email: [impact@sccm.org](mailto:impact@sccm.org), or visit: [www.sccm.org/pi](http://www.sccm.org/pi)

### PI Version 3.0 sets the standard for a comprehensive Critical Care Data System

The new data set adopts standard coding systems, (e.g., ICD-9) ensuring compatibility with other hospital and ICU information systems. Dates of ICU procedures and therapies (dates and times for mechanical ventilation) are included to better describe the care process.

### PI plans a web-enabled format allowing participant access to the aggregated data

The PI User Software will require a Windows 32-bit architecture but participants will NOT require MS SQL - Server database. The first release, PI 3.0, will allow participants to enter data and check it for completeness and quality. In release 3.1, participants will run the built-in reports, submit the data to the central PI database and receive comparative data in the form of confidential quarterly reports. In a future release, the central site will support and enable a PI participant to generate comparative results from other anonymous participants. This will substantially increase participant access to the central database and greatly increase PI's value.

### Sierra Sacramento Valley EMS Agency

TAI recently completed its 12th report to the Sierra-Sacramento Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency (SSV-EMSA). TAI manages the central trauma database for SSV-EMSA and provides confidential reports every 4 months to the 6 participating trauma centers that describe their patients, give outcome evaluation results, and support CQI programs. In addition, TAI provides SSV-EMSA with a report summarizing data from all participants and TAI President, Wayne Copes, Ph.D., makes an annual presentation on database findings.

instead of no data. For project specific inquiries on data submission, contact the appropriate data manager.

### How do I submit data to the NRCPR?

To submit data to the NRCPR, close all windows within the NRCPR software and choose "Transfer" from the Records Menu. Check the transfer method (FTP, email, or disk) and if necessary, click [Setup] to change the transfer method. Then click [Transfer] to submit data. If you use FTP, a confirmation message will appear on the screen letting you know that the data was received at the NRCPR data center. If you see a message that indicates the software was unable to transfer records and has queued them for later submission, contact NRCPR tech support at 888-820-3282 for assistance. Further information can be found in your NRCPR User Software manual (p. B-25).

If you have a question for the Tech Nerd, send it to us:

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23 E. Ellendale St., Suite A  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
or  
Fax: 410-838-1148  
[newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com)

## Dear Tech Nerd

### How often should I submit data to the central database?

You should submit at least once per quarter, but we recommend that you submit data on a monthly basis to prevent you from accidentally missing a quarter if your submission gets to the central database after the deadline. If you submit monthly then you will at least have 2 months of data in the report



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# What's New?



## Project IMPACT Beta Test Completed

In November, the new XML-based Project IMPACT version 3.0 data collection software developed by Digital Innovation, Inc. was beta tested by several PI users and staff. The new software was warmly received by the testers, especially the interface for therapies and dates administered.

The new software includes the new PI data set which uses standard coding systems and lists (e.g., ICD-9) and will allow users to interface with outside databases more readily. Enhanced search capabilities and these standard coding lists will make it easy for users to track procedures, therapies, and diagnoses. The new software also features an improved Windows interface, the ability to store multiple units in the same database, software-assisted random sampling, and a user-friendly data entry interface.

Future releases will include specifications for linking to other databases as well as import/export capabilities to enable users to more readily share information with other programs.

Training for the new system will be available via an interactive web-based training program, at several regional training sessions, and at the annual Scientific Symposium of the Society of Critical Care Medicine in San Francisco, February 8 - 10, 2001.

For more information, visit [www.sccm.org/pi](http://www.sccm.org/pi), call 714-282-6070, or email [kimm@sccm.org](mailto:kimm@sccm.org).

## NRCPR At AHA's Annual Scientific Sessions

At AHA's Scientific Sessions November 13-15 in New Orleans, Project Manager Ted Bomb and Software Trainer Tim Evans demonstrated the NRCPR software and participant reports to attendees who stopped at the NRCPR booth. Ted and Tim enjoyed meeting current and future NRCPR participants. ☺

## Get DataSpeak Via Email

TAI is offering our newsletters via email in a PDF format to those who'd like it electronically instead of by snail mail. If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically, email [newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com).

### Change of Name or Address?

Please phone 800-706-0337 or email [newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com)  
Thank you for your help!

### Ideas & Suggestions

If there are topics you'd like to see in future newsletters or **if you'd like to contribute an article**, please contact TAI at 800-706-0337 or email [newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com).  
Your ideas help us better serve you!