

TAI NEWS



TRI-ANALYTICS, INC.

Fall 1998

Issue No. 11

Highlights Goals for the New Milenium
TAI's New PROs Division
4th Annual User Conference Highlights
Executive Forum Featuring Dr. Copes



User Conference Highlights

The 4th Annual Tri-Analytics' User Conference held at the Hyatt on

Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, California, October 1-2, 1998 was a great success. This year's conference included a wide variety of speakers, Collector training, user group meetings, and more! Nearly all of those who attended the conference are planning to come to next year's conference in Baltimore. Most found the conference useful or extremely useful and gained practical information that will help them in their job. The food and accommodations received praise as did the location, variety of speakers, and overall conference agenda.

Conference Speakers Share Bright Ideas

In the *Database Management — Lesson Learned* presentation by **Mary Ann Spott**, from the **Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation**, global topics regarding issues that arise during development of a trauma registry were discussed. Of importance were the consistency and accuracy of the manner in which the elements were defined and used. The use of data elements was tied into research and analysis and how the data elements support those endeavors. Ms. Spott then reviewed the use of



continued on page 2...

Introducing PROS

PROS, Professional Registry Outsourcing Services, is a new division of TAI and is staffed by certified tumor registrars with experience in facilities from large university hospitals to small community hospitals. Registrars have held positions in both the Tumor Registrars Association of Maryland and the National Cancer Registrars Association. Sharon Metzger, PROS Director, also spent five years as a regional consultant to the American College of Surgeons (ACoS) and the Commission on Cancer, and is a member of the National Registrars Speakers Bureau. The staff's most recent accomplishment was the successful operation and management of the Maryland Cancer Registry.



PROs provides a variety of full or part-time services for all aspects of cancer registry operations and management. Some clients appreciate PROs complete state reporting for non-registry facilities, assistance with abstracting backlogged cases, and complete interim registry services including cancer program coordination. Others value PROs consulting services to evaluate ACoS Commission on Cancer approved registries and assist hospitals in assessing the feasibility of implementing an approved cancer program. ▲▲

For more information, call 800-706-0337
or email: info@trianalytics.com.

Future Security With TAI

January 1, 2000 is near and everyone is talking about it. What will it really be like? Will our lights turn on? Is it wise to take the red-eye on December 31, 1999? At our most recent User Conference, we were proud to announce that the Collector engine is now Y2K compliant and updates will be sent to our users throughout the course of 1999. But what about after 2000?

Tri-Analytics has been actively involved in the trauma market for 20 years, beginning with trauma research in 1978 and expanding to include both trauma registries and database management services. That's right — 20 years!!! We have seen a lot of changes and anticipate many more. We are glad that you are our customers and look forward to servicing you well into the next millennium. In that vein, we continue to desire your input regarding software modifications, as well as other services, that will help you meet your needs in the future.

continued on page 2...

Regional Training Courses This Quarter

Collector training courses are offered throughout the year in various regions.

Individual training courses are also available at TAI. Call us for details!

To sign up for a training session, contact Saron Mack at 410-879-6767 x119, Fax: 410-838-1148 or email smack@trianalytics.com.

Most training courses have registration deadlines. Be sure to sign up as soon as possible to guarantee your spot!

Western Canada

November 5 & 6

Intermediate to Advanced Collector Trauma Registry Training at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta.

Pennsylvania

November 19 & 20

Collector Trauma Registry Training in Harrisburg, PA.

Individual Training

TAI offers one-on-one training at Tri-Analytics, Inc. in Bel Air, MD to meet your individual training needs. Contact TAI for available dates and prices.

User Conference Highlights

...continued from page 1

electronic submission and issues of data confidentiality and security. She closed with a discussion of data check and menu options and provided a hands-on example of development and use of data variables.

Kerstin Sluys, Trauma Coordinator for Karolinska Hospital, gave an overview *Trauma in Stockholm*, the model of trauma care in that city. Ms. Sluys discussed patient demographics, 37 national quality registers, annual reporting, research honesty, managing processes and results, and quality improvement. She provided a conceptual framework for improvement work and addressed future registry issues.

Dr. John Kutcher, President of Digital Innovation, Inc., reviewed *Future Trends in Departmental Registry Systems*, discussing Collector's history, Y2K features, and upcoming improvements. Dr. Kutcher also outlined industry trends in registry systems and unfolded his vision for the future of registries based on increased hospital information systems data integration and sharing, organizational changes, the need for timely access to data, and technology advancements.

Edie Jewell, Trauma Registry Consultant for the Washington State Trauma Registry, presented *Shifting the Training Needs of a Growing Registry System*, highlighting the purpose of their registry and its underlying principles. Ms. Jewell then outlined lessons learned from their training experiences. She concluded by sharing that training must be an integral part of an ongoing registry budget and that the training curriculum must change as the system grows and matures. She also discussed the new design-steps being implemented in the rebuilding of the system.



Suzy Baulch, Specialty Program Coordinator at Santa

Clara Valley EMS, and co-presenter **Michael Baulch** explained the perils of *Riding the Whitewater Rapids of Trauma Registry Management: Avoiding the Pitfalls of Data Sharing*. They focused on the conflicting goals of patient confidentiality and utilization of trauma data as well as understanding steps taken to protect the trauma registry and preserve patient confidentiality. They outlined the purposes of a registry at different levels, data management, and the legality of health information confidentiality. Suzy and Michael concluded with a discussion of data management through policy and what is needed to successfully manage sensitive data. ▲▲



Stay tuned for more excerpts from the 4th Annual User Conference!

Don't miss the excitement next year! Plan ahead and get the 5th Annual Tri-Analytics' User Conference in your budget for 1999! If you would like information about next year's conference in Baltimore, Maryland, call 800-706-0337 or email: info@trianalytics.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Future Security with TAI

...continued from page 2

1998 has been a great year. We have seen our own relationship with Digital Innovation, Inc. take shape and are excited that our customers are receiving high quality technical support and service. We have seen many users convert (happily) to the Windows version and experience improvements in registry ease-of-use. We just returned from our most successful User Conference ever (see related article in this newsletter). And we have added several new users to our growing base of customers.

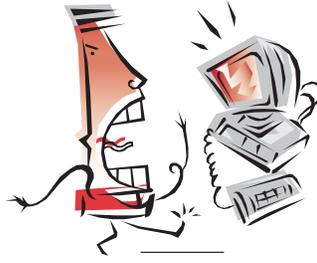
As 1998 comes to a close, I want to thank each of you on behalf of Tri-Analytics staff and our families for your continuing business. We look forward to servicing you in the years ahead. ▲▲

— Don Dove, Vice President

Dear Tech Nerd:

Explanation of the z & W Score

Some readers of TAI News have requested further explanation of the z & W statistics used in trauma outcome evaluations. The z & W scores compare the actual number of survivors in a patient population with the expected number of survivors, based on Major Trauma Outcome Study (MTOS) norms. W measures the clinical significance of this difference in outcomes, and z measures the statistical significance of the comparison. For example, a W value of 2 indicates that there were two more survivors per hundred patients treated than expected (based on MTOS data). Likewise, a W value of -2 indicates that two fewer patients survived per hundred treated than expected. W is equal to zero unless z is statistically significantly different from 0 (i.e. $z < -1.96$ or $z > 1.96$). If z is between -1.96 and 1.96, the difference between the actual and expected number of survivors is not statistically different from 0, hence, neither is W.



Hospital	N	z	W
A	530	6.02	5.20
B	42	2.33	8.80
C	234	2.05	2.27
D	158	2.56	3.81
E	291	3.62	3.37
F	2,234	10.23	0.58

Example: Here are some z & W values for institutions, where N is the sample size (i.e.: number of patients included in the report).

Comments:

- ▲ The results for *Hospital E* are better than those for *Hospital C*, as N, z, & W are all greater for *E*. The results for *Hospital A* are even better than those for *E*.
- ▲ Although *Hospital B* has a striking W value, due to the small sample size or patient population (N) at *Hospital B*, reserve judgement about its ability to sustain such a large W value.
- ▲ *Hospital F* is an example of large z, small W results. The W value of 0.58 indicates slight, but statistically better, clinical outcomes than the norm. The large sample size or patient population (N) gives the potential for large z values.

For more information on the Major Trauma Outcome Study or z & W scores, read:

Dear User:

Tri-Analytics, Inc., with over 20 years of clinical database management, software and research experience, is committed to providing specialties within the healthcare industry worldwide with the highest quality centralized clinical data management services, software solutions and supporting research whose goals are to optimize patient outcomes and minimize cost of care.

If you have a question or ever feel that our products or services do not fulfill the promise made above, please phone us immediately at 800-706-0337 or send email to ddove@trianalytics.com. We are committed to focusing on our customers' needs and satisfaction, and we value your suggestions for improvement.

Sincerely,
Don Dove
Vice President

Improved Predictions from a Severity Characterization of Trauma (ASCOT) over Trauma and Injury Severity Score (TRISS): Results of an Independent Evaluation, The Journal of Trauma, Vol. 40, No. 1, 1996.

Institution and Per Surgeon Volume vs. Survival Outcomes in Pennsylvania's Trauma Centers, American Journal of Surgery, October 1995.

Editorial: *Status of Trauma Patient Management as Measured by Survival/Death Outcomes: Looking Toward the 21st Century*, The Journal of Trauma, Vol. 36, No. 3, 1994.

Effect of Preinjury Illness on Trauma Patient Survival Outcome, The Journal of Trauma, Vol. 35, No. 4, 1993.

The Major Trauma Outcome Study: Establishing National Norms for Trauma Care, The Journal of Trauma, Vol. 30, No. 11, November 1990.

A New Characterization of Injury Severity, The Journal of Trauma, Vol. 30, No. 6, May 1990. ▲▲

TAI puts Medical Data in the Palm of Your Hand

Tri-Analytics, Inc. (TAI), simplifies the complex world of medical data for our clients. We provide a helping hand to organize and maintain medical data, even when associated requirements seem unmanageable and chaotic. What's more, we cost effectively turn ordinary data into useful (and profitable) information.

Some clients need our complete database design, maintenance, and reporting services. Others use our registry software, Collector, to meet reporting requirements, address issues of quality assurance, and support research objectives. And clients in the Maryland area are finding our new division, PROs, an efficient, cost effective way to meet registry reporting and management requirements.

Whether you are in need of one of our complete service packages or more limited assistance, TAI can provide a solution that fits you like a glove. ▲▲

What's New?

Dr. Copes Featured on Executive Forum

TAI president, Dr. Wayne Copes, recently participated in an *Executive Forum* panel discussion of health care technology issues by industry leaders. The *Executive Forum*, hosted by former astronaut Jim Lovell, is filmed by HBO in New York City and airs in over 90 U.S. cities. Business leaders in specialty areas participate in round table discussions of technology issues or are interviewed by Mr. Lovell.

The *Executive Forum* is lively and informative; it helps viewers understand the contributions made by advanced technology to business and to society at large. Dr. Copes explained to Mr. Lovell and the panel how the complex medical database systems developed and managed by TAI are contributing to CQI efforts and outcomes improvement.

For more information, call 800-706-0337, email: info@trianalytics.com, or visit our web site: www.trianalytics.com.

Try Cooking Up Some Great Collector Reports!



TAI's *Collector Cookbook* enables you to best take advantage of Collector's powerful querying and reporting capabilities and is very easy to use. The concept and design of *The Collector Cookbook* are based on our technicians' years of technical support and training experience.

Appetizers include tutorials designed to show every mouse click, icon, and sub-menu to help you master the basics. *Main Courses* are condensed for easier reading and better understanding of the report development process. *Desserts* contain helpful information about using Windows, on-line help, and troubleshooting common report problems.

For your free copy of The Collector Cookbook, call 800-706-0337 or email: info@trianalytics.com.

Establish a Web Connection

In coming months, TAI will focus on upgrading our website. Many of your organizations have websites that would interest other TAI clients. We would be happy to provide links to such sites. Or, if you can suggest websites with interesting content for our clients, please let us know. Please send suggestions for weblinks to newsletter@trianalytics.com or phone 800-706-0337.

Change of Name or Address?

Please phone 800-706-0337 or email: newsletter@trianalytics.com with any changes. Thank you for your help!

Ideas & Suggestions

If there are topics you'd like to have addressed in future newsletters, please contact TAI at 800-706-0337 or email us at newsletter@trianalytics.com.

TRI-ANALYTICS, INC.
23 Ellendale Street
Suite A
Bel Air, MD 21014-2963

