

# TAI NEWS



TRI-ANALYTICS, INC.

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**Highlights** ICD-10 and AIS-98 for Collector  
TAI Hires Data Analyst  
Dear Tech Nerd: Ensuring Data Quality  
Digital Innovation's Employee Profiles



## 5th Collector User Conference Weathers Hurricane!

Despite the wet, windy weather caused by hurricane Floyd, Tri-Analytics' 5th Annual Collector User Conference was very well attended by Collector users from around the world. Koh Meng Poh from Singapore traveled the farthest to attend her first Collector conference which focused on the practical use of Collector software in various disciplines. This year's conference featured simultaneous hands-on training and presentation tracks with speakers from a variety of disciplines (including EMS, data analysis, registry management, pediatric, research, and software development), basic through advanced hands-on software training, a technical support table, regional user group meetings, and the "Dash for Life" through hurricane Floyd to lunch at an Inner Harbor eating establishment.

Conference topics and speakers (in order of presentation):

- ▲ *Continuous Quality Improvement*  
**Dr. Wayne S. Copes**, President  
Tri-Analytics, Inc.
- ▲ *Pre-Hospital Collector*  
**Don Fernandes**,  
Trauma Registry Manager,  
Washington State Department of Health

- ▲ *Outpatient Trauma Registries*  
**Kim Davies**,  
Pediatric Trauma Coordinator  
Children's Medical Center of Dallas
- ▲ *Integrating Collector with Other Databases*  
**Patrick Michaelis**, Trauma Coordinator  
St. Joseph Hospital
- ▲ *How to Train a Trauma Registrar*  
**Sue Auerbach**, Data Quality Manager  
for the Penn Trauma Quality Network  
Brandywine Hospital
- ▲ *The Do's and Don'ts of Old Data*  
**Mary Ann Spott**, Assistant Director,  
MIS/Trauma Registry  
Pennsylvania Trauma Systems  
Foundation
- ▲ *Collector's Role in the Emerging Enterprise*  
**Dr. John F. Kutcher**, President  
Digital Innovation, Inc.
- ▲ *Injury Prevention Using Trauma Registry Data*  
**Dianne Kirwin**,  
Trauma Registry Information Manager  
University of Alberta Hospital
- ▲ *Using Collector for ACS Surveys*  
**Robynn Gough**,  
Trauma Program Manager  
Mercy San Juan Hospital

Most participants found the conference useful or extremely useful and gained practical knowledge and ideas to help them better use Collector and their registry's data. Software training and various speakers were ranked by attendees as the most useful parts of the conference.

Over 88% of those who attended this year's conference said they would definitely come to next year's conference in St. Louis, hosted by Digital Innovation, Inc. Plan ahead and get next year's Collector Users Conference, *Collector Solutions for Improved Productivity*, into your

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## ICD-10 and AIS-98

Recently several users have asked about how ICD-10 and AIS-98 will be accommodated in Collector. For years, Collector trauma registry users have enjoyed the unique benefit of integration with TRI-CODE, the Tri-Analytics, Inc. software product that codes narrative injury descriptions into AIS-90 and ICD-9-CM. As you may know, TRI-CODE was developed by a team of injury coding and software engineering experts, working over a period of many years. Due to the unique and sophisticated nature of TRI-CODE, there are currently no similar products on the market for handling ICD-10 and AIS-98.

Initially, to meet our users' needs, Digital Innovation, in conjunction with Tri-Analytics, will implement an easy-to-use menuing interface to accommodate the new coding systems. The menuing system will help you maneuver easily and quickly through the substantial ICD and AIS lists. In addition, Digital Innovation will continue to

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## 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 ext. 119, fax: 410-838-1148 or email: [smack@trianalytics.com](mailto:smack@trianalytics.com).

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

### Ontario

#### December 7 & 8

Canadian Collector Trauma Registry software training in Toronto, ON.

Call TAI to sign up before the deadline!

### Individual Training

TAI offers one-on-one training in Bel Air, MD to meet your individual training needs. We need to schedule trainings at least one month in advance, so sign up early!

When you call, please provide several dates you would like for the training as well as any additional needs or concerns. For more information, please call 800-706-0337 or email: [smack@trianalytics.com](mailto:smack@trianalytics.com).

## Collector User Conference Highlights

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budget early - you can't afford to miss out! To register for the conference or submit comments on next year's conference, visit our web site, [www.trianalytics.com](http://www.trianalytics.com), and fill out the on-line registration or survey form. Your comments are valuable in helping provide excellent Collector Users Conferences next year and in the years to come! 🐾

If you missed the conference and would like to receive copies of the speaker's notes or training materials, please contact us and let us know which materials you would like to receive.

## Meet Digital Innovation

*continued from previous issue*

As in the previous issue of TAI News, we are including profiles of personnel at Digital Innovation, Inc. so you can become more familiar with the dedicated people who develop many of our database software applications.



### Senior Application Developer Glendene Strickland

An expert in Collector's advanced features, Glendene assists clients in defining data set

specifications and customizes Collector to meet those specifications. Prior to joining Digital Innovation in January, she worked for six years at Tri-Analytics where she developed skills in software support and application development using Collector. From 1996 through 1998 she served as the database administrator for Project IMPACT, the national ICU registry managed

by Tri-Analytics and the Society of Critical Care Medicine. Glendene's background in Collector and database management provides skills that will assist Digital Innovation in continuing to develop exceptional products. She has been a key team member in developing trauma products in a wide variety of applications; trauma, quality assurance, critical care, and accreditation, to name a few. She is currently participating in a number of new exciting product development initiatives at Digital Innovation. In her free time, Glendene enjoys spending time with her family, roller blading, and going to Orioles games.

## Software Support Analyst

### Shane Vienneau

One of Shane's primary roles is assisting Collector users with technical support issues. Shane finds this aspect of his job enjoyable and rewarding. Shane is also involved in initiatives such as product improvement, developing user documentation, and software application projects. His problem-solving skills assist in the challenge of problem resolution. He received a bachelor's degree in elementary education and spent a year teaching. He is currently working towards a second bachelor's degree in Information Technology. Shane was recently married on October 22. He and his wife, Shileen, have two dogs and a house. Whenever he has free time, Shane enjoys playing tennis, camping, and swimming with his dogs. 🐾

## ICD-10 and AIS 98

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support using TRI-CODE as a built-in coding mechanism for Collector as long as AIS-90 and ICD-9-CM are used. We envision that many users will want access to both TRI-CODE and the new menuing system for ICD-10 and AIS-98. It is our plan to accommodate both.

The new ICD-10/AIS-98 menuing system will be available in 2000 and its costs are included as part of your annual maintenance. 🐾

# TAI Project Updates

## American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons

Tri-Analytics participated in the training session for the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons' Outcomes Study in Chicago on October 23. TAI personnel presented an overview of the project and project processes and provided software training to study participants. Tri-Analytics assisted in the data set definition for the project and managed the software development, which was done by Digital Innovation. TAI is also providing central database management and reporting services. Two reports will be prepared for the College and each of the 16 initial participating sites. The reports compare the care and outcomes of their patients with those of study patients with the same condition treated at other participating sites. Data collection for the project began November 1 and will continue until October 31, 2000. 🌟

## National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation

On October 13, 1999, in Dallas, Texas, the American Heart Association (AHA) and Tri-Analytics (TAI) welcomed attendees from 22 hospitals to the pilot project of the National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation (NRCPR). The hospitals are testing and evaluating the data collection forms and software, as well as the NRCPR data elements and clinical definitions.

Participants were carefully selected to include teaching hospitals, children's and adult hospitals. Pilot project participants have been asked to submit up to 50 records to the central site (TAI) following the training session. The pilot project will be completed and all data submitted by November 30, 1999. Final versions of the list of data elements, the data definitions, and the data entry forms will be completed after a December review of the results of the pilot project. In return for their efforts, participating facilities will receive a one-year subscription to the registry at no charge. For more information on NRCPR, see our website ([www.nrcpr.org](http://www.nrcpr.org)) or call 888-820-3282. 🌟

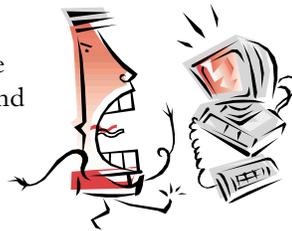
## Project IMPACT: The Critical Care Data System

After an extended RFP and bid review process, Digital Innovation, Inc. (DI) of Forest Hill, Maryland has been selected to develop the new PI user and central site software. User software will be built on Microsoft's SQL Server 7.0, a fully-relational, ODBC platform. Final negotiations are now underway with DI. A demonstration of the software is planned for the Annual SCCM Symposium in Orlando and final release for the end of June 2000. DI developed the current PI user software and their staff has great familiarity with Project IMPACT, a major reason for their selection. We all look forward to the new PI data set and software and thank all the vendors who participated in the process. 🌟

## Dear Tech Nerd

### How can I ensure high quality data collection?

High quality data is the foundation of any sound clinical analysis. First and foremost, all captured data should be based on a patient's medical record. Occasionally, a data collector will make the case that concurrent data collection is best because the data collector can capture data never included in the medical record. The correct action is to include the information in the medical record and then to abstract that information.



Next, data must be accurately entered into your clinical database. All data collected should strictly adhere to consistent **operational definitions** (if they exist for your system). Some systems provide these definitions on-line (e.g. in Collector, Edit | Display OpDefs) while others are in printed format and are usually provided by your central database manager. If no operational definitions exist for your system, campaign to get them.

The next step in ensuring data quality is to use the **data quality checks** that are built into the system to ensure complete, accurate, meaningful data. Don't arbitrarily override or validate any data quality check without making sure that the data recorded are completely accurate!

Another aspect of data quality is maintaining consistent data entry among data collectors. This may occur at several levels: your local facility (if you have multiple data collectors), regional databases, and the central database. While we encourage data collectors to learn from each other, each must adhere to the central database standards. Deviation from these standards will reduce data quality.

The usability of your data depends on the quality of the data. Your data makes a difference! If you have any specific questions on data quality, feel free to contact us. We'll be glad to help. 🌟

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

Attn. Tech Nerd  
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# What's New?



## TAI Welcomes Barbara Cooper

TAI recently hired Barbara Cooper for the position of data analyst for Project IMPACT. She will provide analytical programming and

support for this project.

Barbara was previously employed by Middle River Aircraft Systems, where she performed database analysis and developed database applications. In addition, she installed software and hardware, trained users and did software technical writing. She is currently working to complete a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems at Strayer University's Distance Learning Program. Barbara is married, has 1 dog and lives in Belcamp, MD. She is currently studying to become an MCSD. ♣

## Are You Ready for Y2K?



For our current Windows Collector users, DI has shipped the Y2K version updates. Please make that you install the Y2K version before 12/31/99. If you have already installed it, make sure to fax or mail your registration form (Fax 410-893-3199).

For our current DOS Collector users, if you have not already purchased the Windows/Y2K version, please contact Andy Copes at Tri-Analytics, Inc. at 800-706-0337.

Please note that any version of Collector prior to the Y2K version will not work properly after 12/31/99. ♣

If you have any questions or concerns about your Collector version, please contact Digital Innovation at 800-344-3668 or Tri-Analytics at 800-706-0337.

## Your Opinion Counts!

Collector users, we would like your input for the next Users Conference. Go to our web site ([www.trianalytics.com](http://www.trianalytics.com)), click on "User Conference" and fill out the on-line survey form.

## 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!

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