

TAI NEWS



TRI-ANALYTICS, INC.

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Highlights

Texas Users Article in Journal of Trauma
Exciting Collector Trauma Registry News
Digital Innovation Staff Profiles
Exporting Collector Data to Excel



3 Texas Users Hit the Mark Exciting News for Collector Trauma Registry Users

Three Texas Collector Trauma Registry users are featured in the June issue of the *Journal of Trauma*. The article by Rose Marie Bolenbaucher (Wilford Hall Medical Center), Muriel Lanford Moore (Baptist Health System), and James Owen (Brooke Army Medical Center) of San Antonio, Texas compares data abstraction and interpretation in trauma registry databases.

The article highlighted various discrepancies in data among 14 hospitals in the South Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma. All of those facilities use the Texas Collector Trauma Registry software (defined by Texas Department of Health guidelines) to collect local trauma data. Though the patient populations of the facilities were similar, substantial discrepancies were noted in cause of injury (E-code), type of injury, injury time, GCS, prehospital documentation (times, vital signs), MD documentation, ED discharge destination/condition, date/time of ED discharge, hospital LOS, ICU LOS, financial data, operative procedures, pre-existing conditions, complications, injury severity, and ICD-9 codes. Through interviews and chart reviews, the authors found that hospitals were interpreting and entering data differently. For example, data

As many of you know, Tri-Analytics and Digital Innovation have continued to grow and expand over the past decade — in both the software development and database management and research areas. In the early 1990's all of these functions were carried out within Tri-Analytics, with a dedicated and enthusiastic team. In 1995, as the vision expanded for both the software and database management roles, our director of product development returned to Digital Innovation to focus on the software development. Since that time, the companies have worked closely together to continue a long-standing and successful partnership.

In 1995, Tri-Analytics partnered with Digital Innovation Inc. (DI) to provide Collector Trauma Registry Users with new DI products and technologies, such as the Windows version and the Y2K update. Led by Dr. John Kutcher, the original Collector developer, DI staff produced the 1st (and best) Windows Trauma Registry available in the marketplace.

In 1998, DI's services to the Collector Trauma Registry users expanded, with DI providing technical support and user customization services, including updates to data sets, pop-up menus, and custom downloads. In conjunction

Last Chance to Sign Up!

The 5th Annual Collector User Conference is September 16-17 at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore. The registration deadline is fast approaching, register today!

Topics

- ▲ Pre-hospital Collector
- ▲ QI uses of registry data
- ▲ Central site issues
- ▲ Integrating Collector with other databases
- ▲ Outpatient registries
- ▲ Injury prevention using trauma registry data
- ▲ Injury coding research
- ▲ ACS site surveys
- ▲ System updates, future trends, and progress

Training

Basic: *Customization, Basic Queries & Reports*
Intermediate: *Queries & Reports, and Gather, Coded Variables, & Graphing in Excel*

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Collector Training Courses This Quarter

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

To sign up for a training session, contact Saron Mack: 800-706-0337 or smack@trianalytics.com.

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

California

July 22-23

California Collector Trauma Registry software training in San Jose, CA.

Texas

August 30-31

Texas Collector Trauma Registry software training in San Antonio, TX. Number of participants is limited, call TAI to sign-up as soon as possible!

Maryland

September 16-17

Collector User Conference in Baltimore, MD. Basic through advanced training will be offered. Registration deadline is August 1.

Individual Training

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

Texas Article Hits Mark

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collectors disagreed on which set of vital signs and GCS scores to enter into the database or how to record the primary cause of injury. Other similar variations were also highlighted by the article. The authors questioned the validity of data across facilities since there were no standard definitions for data interpretation and abstraction and each hospital had its own interpretation of which data should be entered. The need for further study of these variations was also noted.

The Texas findings should not be a surprise. The importance of precise operational definitions, training, and independent reabstraction to an effective distributed registry system cannot be overstated and has been appreciated for some time. In the 1980's, the Major Trauma Outcome Study developed operational definitions and distributed them to each participant. Independent reabstraction was performed at 4 "controlled sites" whose data were used to update TRISS and ASCOT norms. Other trauma data systems, such as Pennsylvania, have seen the value of those activities and the quality of their data analyses derived from them have greatly benefited.

We commend these users for a job well done and encourage our other users to attend to data quality issues and raise the standard in their region! 🎉

Collector Transition to DI

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with this transition, several additional trauma registry staff transitioned from TAI to DI to continue the TAI/DI support of the registry.

We are pleased to announce that as of April 1, 2000, Digital Innovation will be assuming the remainder of the Collector Trauma Registry responsibilities (client management, training, bill-

ing, and marketing) to better service our users. This will allow Tri-Analytics to focus on management of regional and national trauma (and other healthcare specialty) databases as well as trauma research; and DI to expand its focus in continued product development and support. All of this will allow TAI and DI to expand our offerings — which is exciting for all.

DI and TAI plan to continue working closely together to provide the benefits of our combined capabilities to our users. In fact, DI is providing software development services for TAI in most of its other current projects as we have built a solid relationship based on mutual respect for each other's capabilities.

How will this affect our users?

As of April 1, 2000, all trauma registry services will be available from one place, Digital Innovation. If you need training, want to add a new feature to Collector, or have a billing question, you would call DI. Please note that this transition will not affect your current lease fee structure (i.e., nothing changes except whom you pay).

Will TAI still be involved in trauma?

ABSOLUTELY! We continue to be involved in trauma database management activities as well as trauma research. Additionally, we will work closely with DI to help ensure the continuing satisfaction of the Collector users over the long haul.

Who works at DI?

To help you get acquainted with the DI staff, we are including some of their profiles in this (and the next two) newsletters. Some may be familiar faces to you (Tri-Analytics employees who shifted to Digital Innovation with the shifting of responsibilities), while others will be new, coming to DI with a wide variety of skills and experience. Also, many of the DI staff will be attending the 5th Annual User's Conference

to give users the opportunity to meet them face-to-face.

We are excited about this transition and are confident that Collector users will continue to receive the excellent service you have come to expect over the years. Together, TAI and DI look forward to working with you to provide the best long term trauma registry, database management and research solutions available. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 800-706-0337 or ddove@trianalytics.com. 🐦

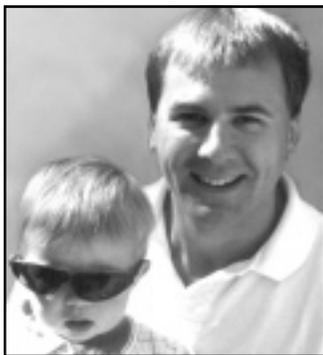
Don Dove, Vice President

Great Trauma Web Site!

Next time you're surfing the web, go to www.trauma.org and click on "Moulage" to try your hand at interesting practice scenarios presented for you to appropriately assess and diagnose a variety of trauma patients.

Meet Digital Innovation

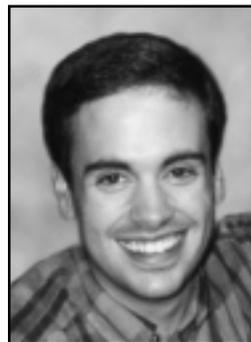
For the next few issues, we will be profiling various DI staff. Some of them will already be familiar to you from their work at TAI or as current tech support personnel at DI. Digital Innovation's offices are located a few miles north of TAI in Forest Hill, Maryland.



President & CEO John F. Kutcher, Ph.D.

John F. Kutcher, Ph.D. is the President and CEO of Digital Innovation. Dr. Kutcher has over eighteen years of extensive software development experience. He is proficient in numerous programming languages and software engineering methodologies, and is the creator of Collector. He received his doctoral degree in Computer Science from The Johns Hopkins University in 1992 and his bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering in 1986. Dr. Kutcher served as the Director of Product Development for Tri-Analytics from 1990 through 1995, during which time he developed the Collector trauma registry

system and numerous related database applications, spanning a variety of medical areas. Dr. Kutcher was also involved in directing the development of the expert system utilized by Tri-Code to perform automated injury coding. In 1995, Dr. Kutcher returned to Digital Innovation to focus exclusively on software development and support, including continued Collector product improvement. In 1997, after substantial development under Dr. Kutcher's direction, Digital Innovation released the first Windows based trauma registry product on the market, Collector for Windows. Subsequently, the company expanded its product line into other complementary areas and has greatly expanded its technical and product support offerings. In conjunction with this focus, several activities and staff previously directed by Dr. Kutcher while at Tri-Analytics, were transitioned from TAI to DI as part of the companies' planned expansions. Dr. Kutcher continues to direct DI's on-going research and development activities — which are aimed at the company's objective of continuing to be the leading provider of trauma registry software solutions and related product support services. It is expected that Digital Innovation's and Dr. Kutcher's long-standing commitment to this focus will begin to manifest themselves in continuously more visible and exciting ways in the years to come. Recently John's family had a new addition, Steven Michael (weighing in at 8 lbs. 3 ozs.) on May 25th. Everyone is doing well, especially his older brother Timothy, who now has someone to play catch with.



Product & Services Coordinator James Pou

James Pou has over ten years experience in trauma registry software development and support. He began working at Tri-Analytics, Inc. in 1989.

At Tri-Analytics, he developed skills in software support, training and development for trauma centers using Collector. In 1997, he accepted a position with the R. Adam Cowley Shock Trauma Center as the Database Administrator for their critical care system. In the summer of 1998, James began working for Digital Innovation, Inc. as their Product and Services Coordinator — a position dedicated to the continual improvement of Digital Innovation's Collector trauma registry and related product support services. In his spare time, James enjoys a variety of outdoor activities, especially hiking, biking, and camping.

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Meet DI Staff

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Project Management Coordinator

Julie Violante

Julie Violante joined Digital Innovation this past April as their Project Management Coordinator. She will be the point person for Digital Innovation's project management, customer service, and marketing activities. Julie has a strong background in trauma and Collector. Previously she held a position with the York Health System of Pennsylvania as their Trauma Quality Assessment Supervisor. In this role she oversaw daily operations of York's Collector trauma registry, compiled numerous reports and data analysis, and supported several trauma related studies and research projects. Julie's project management skills and MBA-tract focus, coupled with her trauma and Collector background, provide for a valuable combination that will assist Digital Innovation in pursuing its mission of being the leading provider of trauma registry software. When Julie is not studying for an MBA class, she spends her free time cooking, working out, and vacationing at the beach. 🐾

5th Annual User Conference

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Advanced Training: *Using Collector & Mail Merge to Create Form Letters, and other topics TBA*

Accommodations & Travel Arrangements

The Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel is a luxury business hotel situated near the Inner Harbor featuring first class amenities and excellent service at \$159/night. Call 800-325-3535 to make your reservations before the August 16th deadline!

To receive 5% to 15% off your airfare, use *Conventions in America* to book your airline reservations. Just mention **Group #219** to get your discount! Call 800-929-4242 to make your airline reservations with *Conventions in America*.

Baltimore, A Little Business, A Lot of Fun

Even though you may be in Baltimore on a "business" trip, we encourage you to take time to experience all of the things which make this city great. From the many attractions lining the Inner Harbor, to Oriole Park at Camden Yards, the City of Baltimore knows how to entertain!

The National Aquarium. Located in the Inner Harbor, the National Aquarium offers everything from marine tank displays and a rain forest walk-through, to dolphin shows and educational stage productions. Enjoy wildlife up close and personal.

The Maryland Science Center. Visit the Maryland Science Center and see the latest and neatest innovations known to man. Known for its huge IMAX theater productions, the Science Center is sure to impress.

Oriole Park at Camden Yards. What do you get when you combine modern-day comfort and innovation with classic stadium design? Oriole Park at Camden yards, one of the most innovative baseball stadiums in the country. Without a single obstructed view seat in the stadium, you're guaranteed to have a great day at the Yard.

The B&O Railroad Museum Stop and visit the oldest continually operated railroad facility in the world, the B&O Railroad Museum. See some of the earliest and rarest examples of rolling stock in the world. As you roam the grounds (37 acres) and gaze at over 130 pieces of full sized railroad equipment, you'll gain a deeper appreciation of an exciting part of American history.

ESPN Sportszone In a more festive mood? Take advantage of the one and only ESPN Sportszone in the Inner Harbor. Recline in plush leather chairs while enjoying fine cuisine and watching one (or more) of the several big-screen TV's mounted in the walls. Or, if you prefer to play before you eat, try your skill at sports by visiting the second floor game-room, filled with virtual games and sporting simulations. Refreshments at the bar are a must after having this much fun.

The few attractions mentioned above are just the beginning of what can be found in Baltimore. From fine dining to points of historical interest, experiencing Baltimore is sure to keep you entertained and excited, making your "business" trip one to remember.

Our web site (www.trianalytics.com) has more information on the User Conference, check it out! The Conference agenda, interest survey, and registration form are available on-line. Also, the site has a link to information about Maryland and Baltimore.

Call **800-706-0337** or email smack@trianalytics.com and register today. Don't miss the excitement!

TAI Project Updates

American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons

TAI is working with the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons on the development of the initial version of their foot and ankle surgery outcomes data system. TAI will develop the user software, provide training and technical support, and manage the central database. Over an 18 month period, sixteen sites will collect data on 5 specific conditions (e.g., diabetic foot ulcers and heel pain). TAI will analyze the data, e.g. characterize the variability in care and outcomes, and the ACFAS will decide on the long term future of the effort. Software development is under way and is scheduled to be finished at the end of September. Data collection for the project will most likely begin in November. 🐘

Project IMPACT Research Committee Begins Work

Project IMPACT is The critical care data system of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM). TAI is SCCM's technical partner in PI.

The Project IMPACT (PI) Research Committee had its first face-to-face meeting on May 12-13 at Chicago's O'Hare Hilton. The Committee's first task was to develop procedures by which qualified researchers could gain access to the growing PI database. (Currently PI has more than 70 participants. The database includes records for nearly 40,000 ICU admissions and increases by approximately 5,000 records each quarter.) It was decided that a web-based application system would be developed. Proposals are invited that investigate "hypothesis driven, results-oriented research questions relevant to the science and practice of critical care medicine." Applications will be reviewed quarterly. Not fewer than 12 months after the provision of Project IMPACT data to researchers, the

investigator's findings will be reported to the Program Committee of the SCCM's annual scientific and educational symposium so that they may be widely disseminated. The PI Research web site is planned to be operational by September 1999.

Research committee members have also committed to doing 3 research projects using the PI database. For example, one project will investigate the relationship between ICU practice model and patient outcome. Also, Daniel Teres, MD of the Baystate Medical Center and his prolific research team have won an SCCM-sponsored grant for outcomes studies using the PI database. One of their initial investigations deals with the use of pulmonary artery catheters in the ICU. Look for results of research based on the PI database here and on the SCCM/PI/Research web site. 🐘

Dear Tech Nerd

Can I use Collector data in Excel or Access?

Yes, with the **DBF Export feature** in Collector, you can easily export Collector data to any spreadsheet or database program.



1. In Collector, from the **Admin Menu**, choose **DBF Export | New**.

2. Double-click in the data element field and select the desired data elements from the menu. *Note:* you may leave the other fields blank unless importing data into a pre-existing database with other field names than Collector. Also, if you are exporting a calculated query (e.g. time in ED, scene time, etc.), change the DBF type to "N, Numeric."

3. If desired, you can sort the data by up to ten elements by clicking on the "Sort Order" tab.

4. Click on the "General" tab and change the file name, making sure it is 8 characters or less with

no spaces.

5. Click **Export DBF**.

6. Select a saved query to limit the patients included in the export if desired and click **Export**.

7. Select the desired range of patients to be included in the export and click **OK**.

A window will appear detailing the number of records and fields exported. Close the window and open the DBF export file in the appropriate spreadsheet or database program. *Note:* the file has been created in your local Collector software directory unless otherwise specified.

To open the DBF export file in another program, choose **Open** from the **File Menu**, change the file type to either "*.*, all files" or "*.dbf, dBase IV files," and select the appropriate file. 🐘

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

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What's New?

TAI, which promotes CQI for its clients, also financially supports continuing education for its staff. Ted Bemb, CFO, recently finished his MBA at Loyola College; Barb Rosolowski, Human Resources Manager, received her PHR certification; and Andy Copes is currently working on an MBA at Loyola College.

Several TAI staff have had a welcome addition to their family in the past year:

- ▲ Caroline Copes - July '98
- ▲ Jacob Bemb - Oct '98
- ▲ Kyle Carey - Dec '98
- ▲ John Dove - Jan '99
- ▲ Audrey O'Bryon - Jun '99

In May, Theresa Bravo-Stump celebrated the first anniversary of her marriage to former TAI employee, Samuel Stump. ♣



Y2K Info on Web Site

Updated Y2K compliance information for all products is at www.trianalytics.com.

Tri-Analytics, Inc. is currently assessing its vendors to verify Y2K compliance of all products and services delivered to the company. All issues have been identified and will be addressed by the end of the summer. Y2K compliance information is available on the web site for all products supplied by Tri-Analytics, Inc.

All Collector systems that currently have windows users are Y2K compliant and ready for distribution. Prior to distribution, we may contact you to confirm exactly which version you have to help ensure a smooth update. Several systems are currently being converted from DOS to Windows. The DOS version of Collector will not be Y2K compliant. Contact Andy Copes at **800-706-0337** or acopes@trianalytics.com for information on upgrading to Windows. ♣

Change of Name/Address?

Please phone us at 800-706-0337 or email newsletter@trianalytics.com if your name or address is incorrect. Thanks for your help!

Ideas & Suggestions

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

Your opinion counts!

Are You Using Your Data?

Have you used your data lately? If so, we'd love to hear about it and share your story with other readers. Call or drop us an email !

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