

# Data Speak!

Tri-Analytics, Inc.

Data Driven Solutions for Improving Outcomes  
Collecting Better Data, Developing Better Information, Achieving Better Outcomes



## Making Data Speak: Part 2

In the previous issue of *DataSpeak!*, we highlighted Tri-Analytics' process for designing and managing medical data systems focused on improving patient outcomes. We explained the first two steps in the four step process: asking the right questions and developing and supporting necessary systems. In the following paragraphs, we explain the final two steps of this process.

### Step Three: Data Management & Reporting

**Analyzing and Disseminating Information.** Periodic and ad-hoc reports are prepared at the central site and are typically distributed in electronic format via the internet. Reports to project participants typically compare patient groups or condition-specific data with that of other sites in a way that protects each participant's confidentiality. Reports to the data system sponsor summarize data submission activity, data quality and completeness, database contents, database management and field staff activities.

**Confidentiality.** Different projects demand different solutions, and we have implemented various levels of security necessary to protect data confidentiality: transferring to the central site only those personal identifiers needed for project goals, assigning alias numbers to institutions and submitted patient records,

encrypting data before it is transferred, restricting access privileges, virus scanning, etc.

**Additional Research and Analysis.** TAI supports ad hoc requests for data and studies. TAI's experienced analysts can plan and perform analyses to answer questions and extract the maximum value from a database.

**Tri-Analytics' Commitment to Add Value.** Typically, a TAI analyst team is assigned for the life of the project. The expertise developed through such long-term exposure to an individual project allows the analysts to spot emerging trends and data anomalies. TAI analysts and personnel are also available to review and explain participants' reports, for web-based or on-site consultations, and for scientific presentations.

### Step Four: Taking Action

**Change: It's Up to You!** Although Tri-Analytics provides the necessary information, the project's participants must provide the energy, the commitment and the determination to re-evaluate and change what might be deeply entrenched patterns of behavior. The payoff for us all will be better systems of care, reduced costs and improved patient outcomes. .:

If you are interested in finding out more about how our data management and consulting services can help you achieve better outcomes, give us a call at 800-706-0337, or email [info@trianalytics.com](mailto:info@trianalytics.com).

## DataSpeak! Highlights

- ▲ NRCPR Proves Value to Participants
- ▲ Getting to Know Us: Scott, Saron
- ▲ TAI Project Updates
- ▲ Dear Tech Nerd: PI v3.0 Menu Issues

## Our Commitment to Quality

Tri-Analytics, Inc. is committed to providing specialties within the healthcare industry worldwide with the highest quality centralized clinical data management services, software solutions and supporting research. With over 20 years of clinical database management, software, and research experience, our goals are always 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 an email to [wcopies@trianalytics.com](mailto:wcopies@trianalytics.com). We are committed to focusing on our customers' needs and satisfaction, and we value your suggestions for improvement.

Wayne Copes, Ph.D.  
President  
Tri-Analytics, Inc.

## Training This Quarter

### Project IMPACT Live Web Training

July 17-19

August 28-30

September 18-20

Live web training sessions for version 3.0 are 2:00-4:00 PM ET on the dates listed above.

To register, contact Kimm Streit at Project IMPACT, 714-938-3885, fax: 714-938-3882, or email: [kimm@sccm.org](mailto:kimm@sccm.org).

### NRCPR

#### NEW Live Web Training

After the NRCPR training CD release last quarter, the NRCPR is offering two new 2-hour live web training sessions to complement the CD: Advanced Features and Reports Interpretation.

Advanced Features focuses on administrative functions, transfer issues, managing multiple facilities and data entry personnel, and hands-on clinical practice scenarios.

Reports Interpretation focuses on how to interpret your comparative quarterly NRCPR participant reports and make appropriate changes in your facility based on the data presented in the reports.

The cost for each training session is \$199 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) for more info.

#### 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).

## Get to Know Us!

Get the inside scoop on TAI employees — more to come!



### Data/Product Manager, Systems Admin. Scott Carey

Scott has been with TAI for over 8 years. He started out working on data collection software for various projects, but soon transitioned into a data/systems analyst during TAI's management of the Maryland Cancer Registry. Along the way, Scott also designed and managed a data system for the Delaware Screening for Life Program (an ongoing CDC funded state program that provides breast and cervical cancer screenings for uninsured women). In 1999, TAI was awarded a contract to manage the AHA's National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation (NRCPR). As the Data/Product manager for this project, Scott has had the opportunity to assist in designing, developing and implementing the systems required to move the NRCPR forward. It's a complex project that continues to be an exciting and rewarding challenge.

*Birthplace:* Germany (an "Army brat")

*Education:* Information Systems Management

*Married:* In 1993 to Cheryl (she's the greatest!)

*Children:* Rebekah (4 going on 20), Kyle (2) — in the throes of potty training, and Nate (8 months) — his smile could light up the West Coast in a blackout.

*Favorite Food:* Ribs (and plenty of napkins)

*Favorite Activity:* Wrestling with my three kids.

Kyle loves to 'pounce' on me when I'm not looking. He then breaks into a belly-laugh that is the absolute best sound in the world. I've got the worlds BEST family (a totally unbiased opinion)!

When not at work, I love to be with my family. Lately, we've been going to the neighborhood pool quite a bit. The kids are at a great age and they LOVE the water. We also just bought a "fixer-upper," which is filling up much of my "free" time. I was a carpenter for 10 years, so I can do most of the work myself. We're redoing

the kitchen and family room, new oak railings on the steps, new windows, removing 6 different types of wallpaper (yes, all in the same house). I should be busy for the next 60-70 years.

Scott's best picture appears on the back cover. Visit [www.toad.net/~careybroph/](http://www.toad.net/~careybroph/) for more.



### Dir. of Customer Service & Support Saron D. Mack

Saron, "jack-of-all-trades," has worked at TAI for over 5 years, where she manages

customer service and support activities. She began working at TAI as a technical support/training specialist for the Collector Trauma Registry and then began managing these activities in 1997. She also wrote on-line help and documentation for Collector and ICDMAP-90. After Collector transitioned to TAI's software development partner, Digital Innovation, Saron began managing training and support activities for Project IMPACT: SCCM's Critical Care Data System and other TAI projects. Saron recently launched a customer service team for NRCPR and administers the company and project web sites and the *DataSpeak!* newsletter. She thoroughly enjoys working at Tri-Analytics.

As an outdoor enthusiast, Saron loves hiking, camping, backpacking, sports, and other recreational pursuits. She plays on a church softball team with Donna Youngberg from DI. Saron also enjoys playing the oboe, english horn, piano, and banjo. She recently bought a 1953 Dodge pickup truck and is restoring it. Saron is also a youth counselor at her church and enjoys planning activities for the youth at her home in the "boonies" of Harford county. Recently Saron designed an informational web site, MyHearing.org, for her sister, Harmony, and looks forward to launching her own web site, zondu.com, later this year. Yes, there is a story behind "zondu" and it will be explained on the web site. She's also taking a class in Russian this summer to prepare her for a mission trip to Ukraine in September to work with children in hospitals and orphanages. a : ` \$: ` 34FJF! .

# TAI Project Updates

## ACFAS Outcomes Study

On June 30 TAI completed the final report for the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) Outcomes Study. The report was based on data collected from November 1, 1999 to April 30, 2001. The study contained data on over 800 patients, which represents the largest sample of podiatric surgery patients ever studied in the US. TAI prepared a report for each of the 14 participating sites that compared their patients, their care, and their outcomes with those of patients with the same condition treated at other participating sites. The College was also provided with a summary report for each condition.

TAI had technical responsibility for this project, which began in 1998. TAI worked with ACFAS representatives in the development of the study data sets; managed the development of project software by Digital Innovation, a TAI strategic partner; trained site representatives in October 1999; and managed the study's central database. Throughout the 18-month data collection period, TAI provided study participants with technical support, answering questions about software use and data submission requirements. TAI provided monthly reports to the College, giving the number of patient records submitted in that month and to date in the study. TAI also prepared a 6-month summary report in June 2000.

## National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation

Beginning in July, the NRCPR is offering two new live web training sessions: *Advanced Features* and *Reports Interpretation*. *Advanced Features* is designed to supplement the clinical and technical materials addressed by the NRCPR training CD. *Reports Interpretation* is designed to help participants understand and utilize the information presented in their quarterly NRCPR participant reports. The beta training sessions received enthusiastic responses. Both sessions will be available on a monthly basis.

For more information, visit [www.nrcpr.org](http://www.nrcpr.org), call 888-820-3282, or email [tevans@trianalytics.com](mailto:tevans@trianalytics.com).

## Project IMPACT: SCCM's Critical Care Data System

The National Institute of General Medical Sciences, one of the National Institutes of Health, announced four years of support for the PI-based study of Genetic Predisposition to Severe Sepsis. The study is coordinated by Timothy Buchman, Ph.D., M.D., and Barbara Zehnauer, Ph.D., faculty at the Washington University School of Medicine.

The goal of the project is to determine whether there are associations between developing sepsis, dying from sepsis, and genetic markers called "SNPs," short for single nucleotide polymorphisms. These markers, which can be identified by amplifying DNA recovered from discarded blood or respiratory secretions, have already been associated with predisposition and outcome through studies of small populations in Europe and the Orient. The purpose of the project is to see if those associations remain true in the larger and more diverse population represented by the Project IMPACT participants.

## Sierra Sacramento Valley EMS Agency

TAI completed its 14<sup>th</sup> report to the Sierra-Sacramento Valley EMS Agency (SSV-EMSA) on May 31. There are now 7 California trauma centers participating in the system. TAI manages the central trauma database for SSV-EMSA and provides confidential reports every 4 months to the 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.

## ICDMAP-90

Last quarter, TAI's involvement with ICDMAP-90 ended. ICDMAP-90 is software that translates ICD-9 codes into AIS-90 and ISS. TAI developed the project in conjunction with Dr. Ellen MacKenzie at Johns Hopkins University. TAI provided sales and marketing, distribution, and technical support services for the product. For ICDMAP-90 information and technical support, please contact Tony Carlini at 410-502-8455 or email at [acarlini@jhsph.edu](mailto:acarlini@jhsph.edu).

# Dear Tech Nerd

Project  
IMPACT 3.0:



Why can't  
all of my  
physicians fit in the pick list?

The "Physician and Non-Physician Providers" pick list has a limit on the total number of characters (including spaces) allowed in the menu. If your entire physician and non-physician providers list does not fit in the menu, consider removing providers who are not part of the care in your ICU. Also, consider using only last name and first initial instead of the physician's full name.

For more instructions, refer to the updated PI user software documentation which will be shipped with the version 3.1 software this quarter. ☺

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

Dear Tech Nerd  
c/o Tri-Analytics, Inc.  
23 E. Ellendale St., Suite A  
Bel Air, MD 21014 USA

Fax: 410-838-1148  
[newsletter@trianalytics.com](mailto:newsletter@trianalytics.com)

### Credits

#### Editor-in-Chief

Saron D. Mack

#### Contributing Editor

Karen Milanicz

#### Contributing Writers

Scott Carey, Brenda Clark, Andy Copes,  
Saron Mack, Karen Milanicz, Barbara Rosolowski

#### Proofreaders

Rita Dreyer, Barbara Rosolowski

# What's New?



## NRCPR Proves Value to Participants

Over 200 hospitals in 42 states have joined the NRCPR. Over 7,800 resuscitation events have been submitted through June 30, 2001. And participation and submitted events are expected to grow even faster during the next 12 months. Here is feedback from one of the NRCPR participants:

“Our hospital joined the NRCPR because we wanted to compare our code patients with those in other hospitals. We suspected that we might be providing CPR to many patients with a very limited chance of surviving to hospital discharge. Although code data were already being collected, we believed that two years of participation in the NRCPR and the comparisons in the quarterly reports would provide us with an objective assessment of our situation.”

“We are nearing the end of our first year of participation and have already gained valuable insights into how our patients compare.”

“Data and information are replacing anecdotes and impressions”

“In addition, we’ve used the *Frequency of Events by Time and Location* and *Event Type* reports to help with staffing decisions. Data and information are replacing anecdotes and impressions. We look forward to continued participation in the NRCPR!”

*Brenda Clark, Administrative Director  
Wadley Regional Medical Center, Texarkana, TX*

## TAI Tidbits: Did You Know?

- ▲ TAI’s youngest employee is 16
- ▲ TAI’s oldest employee is 79
- ▲ 67% of TAI’s employees live within 10 miles of the office

## Get DataSpeak! Via Email

TAI is offering our newsletters via email in a PDF format to those who’d like them via email instead of snail mail. If you’d like to receive your DataSpeak! 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!

see pg. 2



Guess Who?

23 East Ellendale Street, Suite A  
Bel Air, MD 21014, USA

TRIANALYTICS, INC.

