

# VPH Newsletter: August/ September Issue

## *VPH Newsletter*

### **Monthly newsletter of the Virtual Physiological Human Institute for Integrative Biomedical Research & The Digital Patient News**

**-August/September 2012-**

We are still in the process of de-briefing the long week in London, first with the Board of Directors and the General Assembly of the VPH Institute, and then with the excellent VPH2012 conference, but I can already say that our community is moving in the right direction, and the momentum is increasing. The list of things that are going on is very long, here just a few picks.

The VPH Institute, in close collaboration with the VPH NoE, is calling for bids to host the next conference of the VPH Series, VPH 2014.

This could be a great opportunity to give visibility within your organisation and your country to VPH research, so please consider this invitation seriously.

As the institute starts to operate on multiple fronts, we need financial resources, and the primary source are the fees of our members. Last year we invoiced only the supporting members, but this year all institutions that joined before the 31/05/2012 will receive an invoice. The good news is that the Board agreed to extend the benefit to all new members, so all those who will join after May 2012 will receive their first invoice only in October 2013. This will give a chance to try before you buy. As usual those organisations that do not pay their fee will remain members for the time being, but will lose all the benefits, including access to protected resources, the newsletter, and the right to vote at the General Assembly.

The Policy Affairs work group will enter a particular active phase, as the first draft of the Horizon 2020 work programme will be rolled out. If you are affiliated to a member institution in good standing, and you are interested in participating to the definition of the policy recommendations that the VPH Institute will make during this process, please contact our Manager, Martina Contin.

We are exploring the creation of a new work group on Data Access and data sharing, that looks at the problem both in term of interoperability but also of ethical-legal framework. We will announce it as soon as it will be established, but if you are interested, please let Martina know.

We are seeking for sufficient resources to consolidate and sustain indefinitely the two VPH web



presences, Biomed Town and VPH Portal. Biomed Town will be completely rewritten using more modern web technologies, and will host all community services. The VPH NoE recently released the VPH Portal, and we agreed to sustain it after the end of the NoE. It will host all resource services. If you are interested in contributing to the re-writing of Biomed Town (most likely using Drupal), and/or of the VPH Portal, let us know.

Regards,

Marco Viceconti – VPH Institute Executive Director

## **VPH at large**

*News of general interest for the VPH Research community*

### **VPH Institute: successful General Assembly on Sept 17th in London**

On Sept 17th, the VPH Institute held its second General Assembly: the enthusiasm and its member engagement have sensibly increased from last year. Important initiatives were discussed and approved, which will make the Alliance near future very exciting!

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### **Call for Bids VPH2014**

The VPH Institute has opened the call for bids to host the next VPH conference in 2014. Interested organisations should submit their bid by January 13th, 2013.

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### **The VPH Institute Board of Directors for the upcoming year (2012/13) has been announced**

At the General Assembly held on Sept 17th in London, the representatives of the supporting members who now form the Board of Directors, were formally presented to the VPH Community.

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### **VPH Portal is on-line**

The release of the new portal of the VPH community was announced during the VPH2012 conference in London. The website is now up and running: [www.vph-portal.eu](http://www.vph-portal.eu)

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### **Prof Hunter was assigned a new important role in the Biophysical Journal**

Peter Hunter, representative of the VPH Institute supporting member University of Auckland, was recently appointed chair of the System Biophysics section of the Journal.

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## **VPH featured in 2013 FP7 Work Programme for ICT**

The European Commission has published its 2013 FP7 Work Programme for ICT. Virtual Physiological Human is specifically mentioned under Objective ICT-2013.5.2, (Pg 58)

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## **OECD shows support for R&D declining**

The Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), an influential organisation in policy making, published a new report on 13 September 2012 entitled “OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2012.”

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## **Liberal political group supports pre-clinical safety assessments**

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), the 3rd biggest political group in the European Parliament have put forward amendments to the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020

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## **Commissioner Dalli says imaging technologies vital for personalised medicines**

On 18 September 2012, members of the Policy Affairs Working Group attended an event hosted by the European Alliance for Personalised Medicines (EAPM).

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## **DISCIPULUS News**

### Consulting the ‘Three’ Communities for the Digital Patient Roadmap

*Strategies to be adopted in the on-going consultation of the three communities ((i) clinical, (ii) scientific/technological/industrial and (iii) general public) in building the final roadmap for the digital patient have been finalised.*

Within the clinical community, it is taking the form of a questionnaire made up of five key questions (six for UK clinicians). You can see these questions at:

[www.biomedtown.org/biomed\\_town/discipulus/reception/wiki/INTRODUCTION](http://www.biomedtown.org/biomed_town/discipulus/reception/wiki/INTRODUCTION)

The focus is on the issues of adoption of VPH technology into clinical practice. The clinician answers these questions through a face-to-face interview or by phone. Several such interviews have already taken place, conducted by a number of our DISCIPULUS partners, and the plan is to pool these answers together and summarise the output. If you are a clinician and would like to

participate, please contact us via our DISCIPULUS website:  
[www.digital-patient.net](http://www.digital-patient.net).

For the scientific/technological/industrial community, the vehicle for consultation is also a questionnaire, but here, the information gathering process is divided into four parts:

- general questions
- industry-specific questions
- technology-stimulated questions
- scenario-stimulated questions

The general questions focus on digital patient realisation issues; the industry-specific questions look at the current structure of the technological industries; technology-stimulated questions identify a current technology that has the potential to evolve into a future Digital Patient – the **exercise video game** has been identified as one such technology, having many of the features that will be present in the digital patient; and last, but not least, scenario-stimulated questions look at how clinical conditions could benefit from the digital patient. The last two groups of questions attempt to ‘spark the imagination’, complementing the realisation issue of the first group and the structural issue of the second group. The questionnaire has been distributed to a wide spectrum of companies and academics throughout Europe, if you would like to take part, please contact us via our website:  
[www.digital-patient.net](http://www.digital-patient.net).



And then, there is the general public. Their views will be vital to the completeness of the roadmap and one way we will be facilitating their involvement is by running a short film/video competition which will be open to primarily student filmmakers throughout the world, in which they tell us what the digital patient means to them and their families or communities. Full details will be announced soon. In the meantime, you can participate in our public forum:  
[www.biomedtown.org/biomed\\_town/discipulus/reception/forum](http://www.biomedtown.org/biomed_town/discipulus/reception/forum)  
 For those new to DISCIPULUS, it may be helpful to visit our website in the first instance  
[www.digital-patient.net](http://www.digital-patient.net)

## **Second Consultation Meeting, 26 – 27 November 2012, Barcelona**

The registration for the Second Consultation Meeting event in November 2012 at Barcelona is now open.

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## **Details of Structure of the Second Consultation Meeting to be Released Soon**

The format and structure of the Second Consultation Meeting is currently being designed and will be released about a month before the meeting event.

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## **Forthcoming events**

### **5th International Congress on Automation and Autoimmunity**

Sept 27th, 2012 Brussels Airport

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### **8th Modern Drug Discovery and Development Summit (M3D)**

October 24-26, 2012 Philadelphia

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### **From Imagination to Knowledge Visualization in Multiscale Human Body Modelling**

26 October 2012, Genoa

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### **VIGOR++ Workshop 2013 - Advances in VPH Technologies and the VIGOR++ Tools**

12 February 2013, Amsterdam

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