

VPH Newsletter Christmas 2012 Issue

VPH Newsletter

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

-Christmas 2012-

Dear colleagues and friends:

in my role of Executive Director of the VPH Institute it is my pleasure to take this opportunity to wish a merry (or "happy", depending on which side of the ocean you are) Christmas and a very happy new year.

For most of us these will be working holidays, with the deadline for call 10 set on January 15th, 2013 (why grants deadlines are always just after holidays?).

My thoughts also go to the poor souls involved with EUHeart, VPHOP, and other call 2 projects that are closing now, and will have their final review in early January. Who said that academics do not work hard?

There are many things I would like to talk to you, but let me pick two I see particularly important for next year.

Few days ago we were informed that IT Future of Medicine was not supported for funding in the first batch of FET Flagships proposals. This is surely a loss for the many members of our community who worked hard in this project, but I think it is also an opportunity to sit down and re-think where we want to bring *in silico* medicine research in the next seven years, and who are the other biomedical research communities we need to ally in this journey.

All VPH Institute members were invited to join the AVICENNA proposal for the CSA on *in silico* clinical trials. If you have not done it yet, please send the letter of endorsement you found in our invitation to Martina (manager@vph-institute.org). We want you all on board, we need to speak with one voice on this regards! The industrial response to our invitations is good, but there is still a lot of work before the VPH can be considered an industry-baked research initiative; this is another priority for the VPH Institute next year.

So again, let me wish you, also on behalf of the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, and our President Denis Noble, truly happy holidays!



See you next year!!!

Marco Viceconti
Executive Director

VPH at large

News of general interest for the VPH Research community

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 gives its views on the discussion paper "Addressing the New Challenges for Risk Assessment"

The European Commission recently launched a public consultation to receive feedback on the jointly drafted preliminary opinion on risk assessment of the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR), Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) and the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER).

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The VPH Institute contributed to the consultation on directions for Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) research

As part of the ongoing effort to chart and shape the evolving landscape of future and emerging technologies, the EC published a public consultation to identify promising and potentially game-changing directions for future technological research. For the occasion the VPH Institute produced and submitted a document with the collaboration of the Policy Affairs working group.

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The European Commission published the eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020

The eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 was published on 06 December 2012. The Action Plan specifically endorses VPH and confirms that funding will be available in the future for VPH under Horizon 2020.

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Single European Patent to be introduced in 2014

After almost 40 years of debate and diplomacy, a historic agreement to establish a single, harmonised European patent system has been achieved.

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Health experts advocate implementing personalised medicine

Leading health experts are pushing for personalised health care in a new report by the European Science Foundation's (ESF's) membership organisation and the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC). According to the report, dedicated funding and support is required to ensure personalised medicine can be implemented across Europe's healthcare systems.

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MEDTECH beware: my next blood glucose monitor will be an i-phone

Bastian Hauck, type-1 diabetic and founder of Adventure Diabetes, tells us the patient prospective on the slow evolution of Healthcare informatics: "...While reality increasingly goes digital to meet on my iPhone – friends via social media, work via mobile computing and the Cloud – my home via remote access, Bluetooth and Wifi, and even my phone itself via GPS, smart gestures and SIRI, my diabetes does not."

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Research Associate & Scientific Software Developer Openings in image computing/modelling, Sheffield, UK

This is a pre-announcement of upcoming R&D positions at the Center for Computational Imaging and Simulation Technologies in Biomedicine (CISTIB) at the University of Sheffield. The positions refer to two new exciting projects on patient-specific musculoskeletal and brain modelling in the context of paediatric diseases and dementia syndrome.

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DISCIPULUS News

The Second Consultation meeting of Discipulus:
...a Meeting 'To Write the Roadmap'!

'To Write the Roadmap' was the phrase used by the PI of DISCIPULUS, Dr Vanessa Diaz, in her opening address of this key meeting on a rainy Tuesday morning of the 27th of November at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona.

A hundred and fifty attendees came to this meeting; almost three times the number that attended the First Consultation Meeting back in March 2012, also in Barcelona.

The key objective of this second meeting was to explore the scientific and technical challenges that needed to be achieved in order to make the Digital Patient, a reality!

Thank you to all the experts that came to Barcelona and to all the ones that are helping us in this ambitious task!

We wish you all a happy new year and excellent 2013.

Discipulus team

DISCIPULUS: What Were the Topics Discussed on the Big Day?

The intellectual crux of the meeting on Tuesday the 27th of November, centred on six clinical challenges and six scientific and technical challenges.

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DISCIPULUS: How Were These Topics Discussed on the Day?

Following opening addresses by the PI of DISCIPULUS (Dr Vanessa Diaz) and the Facilitator of the Meeting (Isabelle Read), each clinical challenge was presented by a clinician who was a recognised expert on the condition underlining the challenge.

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DISCIPULUS: A Productive Day; More to Follow in the New Year

Towards the end of the Second Consultation Meeting, a lot of material from the scientific and technical challenge break-out session had been generated from which the Digital Patient Roadmap could be built. There was a final plenary session in which this rich resource for the roadmap was reviewed.

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Forthcoming events

Engage2013

January 22nd 2013, Brussels

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4th International Workshop on Computational Phantoms for Radiation Protection, Imaging, and Radiotherapy

20/22 May, 2013, Zurich



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FIMH 2013

20-22 June 2013, London

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Virtual Physiological Human Institute for Integrative Biomedical Research
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