

VPH newsletter: February Issue



VPH Newsletter

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

-February 2012-

Dear VPHers:

These are busy time for all of us, with call 9 at the door. Many of you have shared their ideas with me, and I can say that also this call, whatever are the winning proposals, will see emerging a set of excellent projects, that will push the boundaries a step further. The request to include environmental factors made many of us scratching their heads at the beginning, but after a short while some great ideas started to circulate, so I am sure in the end we shall meet successfully also this new challenge.

Meanwhile the stick goes up again. Discipulus is drafting the first research roadmap for what hopefully will become a key topic of next framework program, the Digital Patient. I hope we shall be able to announce the big Discipulus all hands meeting in the next issue. Useless to say we need you all to attend, and before that to actively participate in the discussion that Vanessa Diaz and the rest of the Discipulus team will steer.



VPH Institute
Building the Virtual
Physiological Human



In September as usual will be a busy VPH time, with the VPH NoE meetings, the VPH Institute General Assembly, and this year also VPH 2012. All this will happen in London. But before this I hope to see many of you at the Third Study Group organised by the VPH NoE in Barcelona, at UPF premises in May 2012. If you failed to submit your application on time, would like to participate, please contact Cecily Doyle at UPF CISTIB. While the study group is fully booked, there might be a few drop-offs that free some places. In May 2012 there will also be the Board of Directors of the VPH Institute. At this meeting it will be elaborated the action plan for 2012/2013 for the institute, that soon after we shall start to discuss with all member institutions, so as to go to its formal launch at the General Assembly in September. If your organisation is not a member of the institute yet, this is the best time to join in. The general membership it is free for this year; just send an email to Martina Contin, manager@vph-institute.org. I could go on, but you got the message: we live in exciting times for VPH research; jump on board we are sailing off.

Marco Viceconti

VPH Institute, Executive Director

VPH at large

News of general interest for the VPH Research community

Meet the members of the VPH Institute

From its incorporation less than one year ago, the Institute has gained the interest of a considerable number of worldwide institutions that applied for the Institute membership: we currently have 58 member institutions, of which nine are supporting members.

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How to become an VPH Institute general member?

Joining the VPH Institute is very simple: download the application form, compile it, and send it to the Institute manager following the instructions enclosed. As soon as it will be received, the Board of Directors will review your request and just in few days you could be officially on board!

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The VPH INSTITUTE web-site is under construction.

The Institute will shortly have its web-site ready: www.vph-institute.org. Help us to build our new "home"!

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VPH2012 Conference - Extension of deadline for abstract submission

Due to numerous requests for an extension of the deadline for the call for abstracts, the VPH2012 organizing committee decided to extend the deadline to 18th March 2012. If you still have not done it, the VPH Institute invites you to give your contribute to this event, which is one of the

most important for our community.

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EAMBES: Recommendations to Horizon2020

The EAMBES Policy Affairs working group has recently analysed the Horizon 2020 document and produced some recommendations which will form the basis of subsequent policy actions in support of Biomedical Engineering research across Europe. The recommendations will now be presented at the EAMBES Expert Policy Workshop hosted by dr Ulmer at the European Parliament on March 27th, 2012.

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DISCIPULUS News

Clinicians today are expected to keep up with current knowledge on some 10,000 diseases and syndromes, and over 1000 medical tests. There is a risk that the ever-increasing body of information within biomedical science will cause information overload. This includes patient data, clinical trial data, longitudinal studies and research data. For example, in 2008, there were 18 million papers in the biomedical science literature, and the annual number of papers being added to this is expected to exceed 1 million this year. Clinicians are also struggling to effectively treat patients suffering from multiple, interconnected and long-term diseases.

Physiological modelling offers the potential for making sense of vast interconnected sources of data. At the simplest level, they can highlight correlations with statistical models, while at the most complex they can accurately simulate the mechanisms of action of diseases and treatments.

The Digital Patient will bring to bear the vast tools of information and physiological modelling on the information overload encountered in healthcare. It will absorb information of all relevant types and translate it systematically into knowledge: about what treatment may be best, about planning the treatment, and about understanding the phenomena themselves. The raw materials for the Digital Patient will be information. This is no small matter, as the information currently available is fractured, incomplete, and not standardised. In fact, patient data may always be relatively incomplete, and our challenge will be to build robustness for this type of information.

The Digital Patient initiative will tackle three key levels of information handling: Access to information (i.e. how it is interacted with, manipulated and visualised), Information blending (where several information sources may be combined to produce entirely new, second generation information), and the 'knowledge avatar' (where information is translated into usable knowledge on patient physiology and treatments). This project represents a new and exciting approach to healthcare information handling. There are many challenges ahead, and indeed, we may not thought of all of them yet.

The DISCUPULUS Team



DISCIPULUS

The information explosion – and how to harness it

The time taken to translate biomedical research into clinical practise remains too long. The volume of research in biomedical science is ever increasing. We may soon reach a point where no individual can hope to process all the information available into effective healthcare strategies.

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Information Overload at the Frontline

Research shows that electronic health record systems can induce information overload for primary care professionals.

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DISCIPULUS consultation meeting planning

The preparations for the first exercise in community consulting are in full swing. The list of invited expert attendees is taking shape, and the agenda for the meeting is nearly complete.

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Forthcoming events

EAMBES Expert Policy Workshop at the Euro-Parliament

On March 27th, 2012 the EC Parliamentarian Thomas Ulmer will host an Expert Policy Workshop organized with the collaboration of EAMBES. This will be a great opportunity for the Alliance to increase the European Union's support on the need to promote MBE.

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First Consultation Meeting for the Digital Patient roadmap

The first consultation meeting of the DISCIPULUS project will take place in Barcelona on 29th – 30th March 2012 and it will be hosted by UPF.

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3rd VPH-NoE Study Group

The third VPH NoE study group (SG3) will be held in Barcelona in May 2012. The event, organised by the University of Sheffield, Super Computing Solutions, Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli, and Universitat Pompeu Fabra, will take place at UPF premises the week after the IEEE International Symposium on Biomedical Imaging (ISBI 2012).

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VPH Institute 2012 General Assembly

The VPH Institute invites you to attend the first General Assembly meeting scheduled for September 17th 2012 in London.

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CBMS 2012

The 25th IEEE International Symposium on Computer-Based Medical Systems (CBMS 2012) will be held at the Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma, Rome, Italy, on 20-22 June 2012.

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Virtual Physiological Human Institute for Integrative Biomedical Research
VPH Institute IVZW - International non-profit Association according to Belgian Law
Web: www.vph-institute.org Email: manager@vph-institute.org