

VPH Newsletter: March issue



VPH Newsletter

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

-March 2012-

Dear fellow VPHers:

it seems yesterday but it has been almost an year that the VPH Institute has moved its first steps. Twelve months that have been incredibly busy for most of us, which makes probably a bit difficult to appreciate in full the achievements of our community.

Since last December, with the election of the President and of the Trustees the VPH Institute has been fully operational in all its organisms. These four months have been of intense work, mostly invisible to our members, as we are setting up essential elements of our communication infrastructure such as the web site and this newsletter.

We have been supporting the policy initiatives of the European Alliance for Medical and Biological Engineering, and in particular the organisation of an Experts Meeting at the European Parliament, where we advised various MEPs on what we consider truly necessary changes in the draft of the Horizon 2020 proposal of the European Commission. One point on which we insisted, very important to the VPH community, is the



recognition of health technology as a whole as key enabling technology in the area of industrial research, where in the commission draft this is limited to biotechnology.

Another important activity has been the support of the Discipulus Support Action, lead by our member institution UCL. Discipulus has a close relationship with the VPH Institute; as you will see the Discipulus newsletter will be distributed as an insert of the VPH Institute Newsletter. This is a service model that I would recommend for other VPH projects in the future.

Probably the most important news in this issue is the call for supporting members for 2012/2013. The governance model of the VPH Institute recognises two types of members: Ordinary Members, and Supporting Members. Supporting Members are institutions that contribute in an extraordinary way to sustain the operations of the institute, both financially, and by delegating one of their members to sit in the Board of Directors that governs our institute. The Board of Directors has never been intended as the "Boy's club" of VPH, and I hope that over the years there will be a rotation, as interests and commitments change in our member institutions. If your institution wants to play a key role in the further development of the VPH vision, this is a great opportunity.

Next appointment with many of you at the 3rd VPH study group on VPH Toolkit, on May 7th, 2012 at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona.

Godspeed with your VPH Research!

Marco Viceconti

Executive Director, VPH Institute

VPH at large

News of general interest for the VPH Research community

VPH Institute: Call for supporting members

Each member of the VPH Institute is welcome to express their interest to become supporting member for the YR 2012/2013. The dead-line expires on April 22nd, 2012.

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Want to know something more about the VPH Institute current supporting members?

The current supporting members are also the founding members of the VPH Institute as they collaborated with us since the creation of this organisation and, thanks also to their financial support, they made our existence possible. The supporting members institutions sit in the Board of Directors and they are actively collaborating in the achievements of the business plan of the Institute, which was presented and approved during the General Assembly meeting held in September last year.

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VPH paper in the most downloaded and cited articles of

Royal Society

The Royal Society has recently published the list of the ten most cited paper for its journals, and in the listing of Interface Focus we are happy to see a VPH paper!

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The case for open computer programs

This paper, recently published in Nature –vol. 482, Feb 23rd, 2012– by Darrel C. Ince, Leslie Hatton & John Graham-Cumming gives voice to a debate that has interested the scientific community for a while: linking data and models to publications. The authors argue that, with some exceptions, anything less than the release of source programs is intolerable for results that depend on computation.

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HAMAM: successful outcome for project to improve breast cancer diagnosis through integrated clinical workstation

Wednesday, February 29 saw the official end of the ambitious HAMAM (Highly Accurate Breast Cancer Diagnosis through Integration of Biological Knowledge, Novel Imaging Modalities, and Modelling) project, which has culminated in the successful development of a prototype clinical workstation, combining the various technologies and information required to characterise and classify suspicious breast tissue.

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DISCIPULUS News

Dear reader,

The process of consultation for the Digital Patient roadmap has begun. It kicked off with a meeting in Barcelona in which a small cross-section of the stakeholder groups were invited to discuss their experiences and views on the Digital Patient initiative. The meeting has proved a huge success, and has already begun to shape the future research roadmap. In particular, several real-life clinical scenarios were worked through, which will help showcase the potential of Digital Patient technologies. The articles below provide a brief taster of what was discussed at the meeting - a full report will be made available later, and the information will be integrated into the final roadmap.

The consultation process has only begun with this meeting, and we will be continuing the dialogue throughout the project. We aim to set up several working groups, based around email and telephone conversations, which can tackle some important issues using their unique expertise and experiences. As part of the consultation process, we urge you to get involved if you feel that you have something to say. We intend to open as many avenues for dialogue as possible, and are



currently investigating the possibility of a wiki, or some other online collaboration solution. We hope that you can participate, and help direct the future of bioengineering research!

First DISCIPULUS consultation meeting a success

The first consultation meeting of the project took place in Universitat Pompeu Fabra, in Barcelona on the 30th of March. The meeting was convened to try to answer the question: “How can specific clinical scenarios be improved using commercially viable Digital Patient Technologies?”

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The opportunities for the Digital Patient

Many participants in the consultation process are excited about the possible opportunities provided by the Digital Patient initiative, based on their own personal experience. Many of these opportunities are quite novel, and indicate the potential of the Digital Patient on the clinical, research and industrial sectors.

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The challenges facing the Digital Patient initiative

Some important challenges to be overcome were brought up during the meeting. These challenges provide food for thought on how best to structure the research roadmap in order to tackle them.

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Discipulus: Views from clinicians and industry

As part of the consultation meeting, representatives from two of the important stakeholder groups discussed within their groups about what they thought were the most important issues going forward.

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Forthcoming events

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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INBIOMEDvision Training Challenge

The VPH FP7 (Call 6) INBIOMEDvision project is organising a Training Challenge, aimed at advanced students (Masters, PhD or equivalent).

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The International Conference on Computational Science 2012

Since its inception in 2001, ICCS has attracted increasingly higher quality and numbers of attendees and papers. The proceedings series have become a major intellectual resource for computational science researchers and serve to both define and advance the state of the field. ICCS 2012 in Omaha will be the twelfth of a series of highly successful conferences.

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18th Congress of the European Society of Biomechanics

The 18th Congress of the European Society of Biomechanics (ESB2012) will be held at the Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, on 1st to 4th July 2012.

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The Second Consultation meeting for the Digital Patient roadmap

Tuesday, 27th November 2012 (preliminary date)

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Virtual Physiological Human Institute for Integrative Biomedical Research
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