

# VPH Newsletter: October Issue

## *VPH Newsletter*

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

*-October 2012-*

Dear VPH Friends,

This month the British political and cultural magazine “NewStatesman” has published an article on VPH: this is a very positive sign of the increasing interest our initiative is gaining also to the community at large. Times are now mature to promote the Virtual Physiological Human at the largest possible extent.

Another encouraging news comes from the discussion on the “non-animal testing” held during the EC workshop on 10 October 2012: the VPH vision was very much in line with the focus of the event on how imaging technologies, data platforms and high-throughput computation systems could in the near future significantly reduce or replace animal toxicity testing, which in two words means... *in silico clinical trials!*

October has been very busy also for the active support the VPH Institute has given to the Discipulus team to engage our community with the Digital Patient initiative. If you are interested to participate, you are still in time to register to the next Consultation meeting:  
<http://secondconsultationmeeting.eventbrite.co.uk/>

In the Discipulus section of the newsletter you will find a long list of good reasons to join us in Barcelona.

Since the last newsletter issue was circulated, all the VPH members should have received the first invoice for VPH Institute associative quota of the upcoming year. Do not hesitate to contact us in case you have any particular requirements, if not we thank you in advance for promptly taking care of the payments so to ensure your support to our initiative.

You will find more interesting news on the links below.

Best regards,



Martina – VPH Institute Manager

## **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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### **...Soon the bunnies will be smiling again!**

The NewStatesman dedicate an article on the Virtual Physiological Human, explaining in layman's terms how computer simulations will not only reduce the need to test drugs on animals (and poor bunnies), but will be able to create realistic simulations of human organs and tissues that will open to door to the most revolutionary applications!

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### **Digitalization of medical images in Catalonia**

The VPH Institute member, Catalan Agency for Health Information, Assessment and Quality (CAHIAQ) belongs to the Catalan Ministry of Health and is the entity responsible for the promotion and the management of the digitalization of all the medical images. This project is coordinated through a specific unit and started in 2008.

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### **VPH presented at the SIAM Life Sciences Conference in San Diego**

The VPH ambassador, Prof Peter Hunter, gave a presentation on the "Computational Physiology and the VPH/Physiome Project" at the SIAM Life Sciences Conference recently held in San Diego (Aug 7th/10th, 2012)

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### **European Parliament workshop on non-animal testing**

On 10 October 2012, members of the VPH Policy Affairs Working Group (PAWG) attended a Workshop in the European Parliament entitled "Advancing Safety Science and Health Research under Horizon 2020 with Innovative, Non-Animal Tools".

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### **eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020 not yet published**

The eHealth Action Plan due to be published at the end of October 2012 has been delayed. On 06 November 2012 Commissioner for the Digital Agenda Neelie Kroes announced that the plan would instead be published “before the end of this year.”

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## **NMSBuilder alpha release available!**

One of the running VPH funded projects, NMS Physiome, recently released a new user-friendly tool package for developing OpenSim musculoskeletal models from patient-specific biomedical data.

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## **Read the THROMBUS Newsletter**

THROMBUS "A quantitative model of thrombosis in intracranial aneurysms", is a collaborative VPH project funded by the European Commission in the Seventh Framework Programme in biomedical research field. The Project, started on February 1st 2011, is now at Mid-term.

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## **PhD position in musculoskeletal biomechanical modelling now available at Sheffield University**

A PhD on "Individualised Modelling for Pre-Operative Planning of TKR" has been advertised by Sheffield University. Deadline for application: January 1st, 2013

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## **DISCIPULUS News**

Dear Colleagues,

It's almost time...

The much awaited Second Consultation Meeting on the 26th and 27th of November 2012 in Barcelona is almost here. This meeting is a pivotal event on our journey towards the ‘Digital Patient’ Roadmap that will provide the basis of our input to ‘Horizon 2020’, which will impact the development of personalised medicine in Europe over the next seven years.

The event will provide a glimpse of the future in terms of medical practice. This meeting is very important so we need your involvement.

At the time of writing, we still had places left so check our website ([www.digital-patient.net](http://www.digital-patient.net)); if there are still places, and you are interested in any aspect of the Digital Patient, we really encourage you to register and join us in Barcelona! The success of this meeting will depend on the participation of all interested parties so the importance of your involvement cannot be overemphasised. Material we get from this meeting will inform the final roadmap for the Digital Patient which will be submitted to the European Commission in March 2013. Don't leave it to the last minute, get



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clicking! DISCIPULUS will pay the cost of one night's accommodation and organised meals, for further details, visit our website.

## **Discipulus: What Does the Second Consultation Meeting Need to Achieve?**

The meeting needs to achieve one thing: Consensus – How Can We Make the Digital Patient Happen?

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## **Digital Patient: How Far is the Technology at Present?**

A question that might come to the minds of some of the participants taking part in the roadmap for the Digital Patient, especially those unfamiliar with VPH (Virtual Physiological Human) related research is: 'How far is the technology at present?'

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## **What Does the Digital Patient Need to be Able to do for the Patient?**

Once the Digital Patient is finally realised, this tool should not be seen as some sort of convenient virtual diagnostician for patient and doctor (or healthcare worker); it has to be seen as much more than that. Forget the fact that it will be a sophisticated computer program; the Digital Patient will need to be able to address the greatest medical challenges of the twenty-first century.

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## **DISCIPULUS: Come and Join Us, and Speak to Us!**

DISCIPULUS will be at the Second Consultation Meeting in force, providing you with all the information you need and answering any of your questions.

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## **Forthcoming events**

### **ALDE Conference: 'Medical devices: is the new legislation enough to protect patients?'**

Wednesday 14th November, 2012, Brussels

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### **Economist Conference: Life Science Frontiers "Bridging the gap between science and healthcare"**

November 22nd, 2012, Uppsala

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## **eHealth Symposium “Fact not fiction: The future of eHealth is already here”**

December 6th/7th, 2012, Brussels

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## **2013 World Conference on Information Systems and Technologies**

March 27th/30th, 2013, Algarve (Portugal)

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## **E-Health Week 2013**

May, 13th/15th, 2013 in Dublin

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## **Biomedica 2013**

June 19th 2013, Aachen (Germany)

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