ACCE News November/December 2005

It has been awhile since our last update to our ACCE family. The ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation initiatives are in full swing. Here is a summary of important activities that have occurred over the last quarter and future plans.

1) Clinical Alarm Management and Integration

Hopefully most of you are already aware of the Clinical Alarm Survey currently in progress. This survey will continue to accept responses until January 1, 2006. The link can be found on the following websites: www.acce-htf.org and www.accenet.org. The clinical alarm task force requests that every ACCE member review the survey and encourage your hospitals, local societies, and other professional staff to complete this important data collection tool. The results will be very useful in the development of an ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation white paper on issues, guidance and best practices. The results will be reviewed by other professional societies and possibly manufacturers to improve alarm management tools for our busy clinicians. Look for more to follow in 2006 as the survey comes to a close and the data analysis begins.

Task force members have been very busy promoting the survey, developing articles for publication in multiple professional journals, and working with other groups in reviewing project goals. Yadin David and Tobey Clark recently attended the annual MEDSUN meetings in San Diego and Baltimore to encourage additional participation in the survey and discuss the goals of the task force. The reception from risk managers and safety officers was very encouraging. Notice of the survey is being promoted in the American Association of Critical Care Nurses newsletter, and articles on alarm issues are being run in 24 x 7, Journal of Clinical Engineering, Biomedical Instrumentation & Technology, and Facility Care. There will even be a session at the 2006 AAMI conference chaired by Alan Lipschultz on the Standardization of Clinical Alarms. The task force is also working on updating the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation website to specifically address this ongoing project including best practices, success stories, practice guidelines, and data results.
All of this work is very encouraging in light of the fact that JCAHO has integrated the clinical alarm national patient safety goal within their standards. The task force appreciates all your support – please complete the survey and continue to check out our website for updates.

2) Professional Credentialing Committee

The most recent Clinical Engineering Certification exam was held in November 2005. As of close of registration there were 17 scheduled to take the exam. This vital professional program keeps growing with every exam. The Healthcare Technology Certification Commission continues to develop questions for the test bank in order for the creation of new exams. To keep on track with the changing knowledge base within the clinical engineering field, ACCE will undertake the clinical engineering body of knowledge survey in 2006 and the analysis of that data will drive future questions and exams. Please look for announcements of this field balance check and complete when requested. All clinical engineers are encouraged to pursue certification and to maintain their certification through the renewal process.

3) Patient Safety and Education Committee

Legal review of the request for bid and contract documents has been completed and approved by the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation Board of Directors. This timed nicely with the completion of the first educational module “Taking Medical Devices from Home to Hospital”. This was the first attempt to follow the approved legal documents and the development procedure and proved to be very successful. The next plan is to complete this module within the new Patient Safety and Education Committee website section on the ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation website. The primary goal of these education modules is public education. Author solicitation is underway for additional educational module development. Marv Shepherd is integrating the next module “Oxygen Fires” within the framework of the legal documents for future presentation.

The ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation would like to thank Marv Shepherd for all his leadership and skills in chairing the committee. Though he has stated it many times, apparently he now means it and will retire in January 2006. Ode Keil has agreed to continue Marv’s success as chair of this committee. We are comforted that Marv will still be available for questions and expert guidance and even a great glass of wine should you be in California.

4) Fundraising:
Though the Sarbanes-Oxley compliance provides additional challenges in corporate fundraising Board members have still been successful. Our financial future continues to be strong yet we must work diligently under these guidelines to keep moving ahead. Remember those individual donations are also critical. The support from ACCE members has been tremendous. Any support is greatly appreciated and if you would like more information please visit our website: http://www.acce-htf.org

5) Board Updates

Do to the many projects we are currently undertaking there arose a need to expand our Board. We recently welcomed Jim Keller to our Board in October. Marv’s retirement will open another position in January. The ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation Executive Board is currently reviewing potential candidates. As emphasized in previous updates the Board is at a critical juncture and is looking for “doers” who can help propel the mission forward to the next level.

The ACCE Healthcare Technology Foundation continues to move forward on many projects. We again would like to thank our supporters and please let us know if you have any questions or an interest in a particular project. We thank you for your support of the Foundation’s mission either personally or through your daily contacts. More information is available at our website: http://www.acce-htf.org

A non-profit organization advancing healthcare through technology

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