

# InfoSphere

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## The Virtual Health Care Team™

The Virtual Health Care Team™ is a website which consists of a collection of interdisciplinary cases designed for students, physical therapists, social workers, occupational therapists, dieticians, physicians, nurses, speech pathologist/audiologists and radiologists interested in Health Related Professions (HRP) concepts.

Today the VHCT™ contains 12 cases. The very first case – Breast Cancer – was created in 1997. The other cases include:

- Assistive Devices
- Does He Have Alzheimer's Disease?
- Geriatric Assessment
- Guillain Barre
- Misuse of Antibiotics
- Near Drowning
- Post-Polio Syndrome
- Rheumatoid Arthritis and Aerobic Exercise
- Special Needs Child and
- Surreptitious Coumadin Ingestion.

The flow of each case is designed to follow the patient from initial diagnosis to normal life activities. Each case has a table of contents, is told in a storybook fashion and includes photographs of the patients, family and friends. The Breast Cancer Case table of contents shown below is typical of most of the cases.

1. Fill-out form - student registration

2. Patient Presents
3. History and Risk Factors
4. Second Opinion and Treatment
5. Preoperative Evaluation
6. Surgery and Team Support
7. Chemotherapy and Radiation
8. Rehabilitation and Discharge
9. Lymphedema
10. Education
11. Energy
12. Concerns
13. Evaluation

The 'Breast Cancer case' begins with registration in Segment 1: Fill-out form; then to segment 2: Patient Presents, to meet the patient, Nancy. Items 3-12 continue the case and are linked to other web resources that assist the user with case objectives and questions.

What's so unique about this type of learning? "Other universities are developing and implementing VHCT™ cases, but what distinguishes MU from the others is that we use actual patient cases that link to other World Wide Web resources within the case. We also try to stress the interdisciplinary team," said Richard Oliver, PhD, Director, Health Related Professions.

The development and use of VHCT™ Web-based training is growing.

The mix of the tools used (listed below) is a unique blend of technology, resources and

psychosocial interaction:

- VHCT™ is interactive and animated
- Members of a health care team incorporate recommendations
- External links provide resources
- 'Help' links are used which provide additional information about a disease, procedure or treatment that may not be known to the reader
- Accuracy is ensured by an editorial review board
- Students evaluate the cases and,
- Templates (standard format) are used for each case development

### Kidney Transplant Case

The Kidney Transplant Case, as with the other 11, demonstrates how these cases intertwine the clinical and psychosocial aspects of the patient. You will meet the patient and family by viewing their photographs in their family and clinical settings. Case author, Anne R. Campbell, MSPH, CHES, begins the case with a short introduction:

"This case tells the story of Sam, a young man who experienced kidney disease and kidney failure before age 30. The timeline covers his diagnosis to date as he has experienced the highs and lows of receiving a renal transplant. It also describes the experience

of the patient's brother, Charles, in donating a gift of life by donating his kidney. Clinical management and outcome are interwoven with the views of participants and the multiple effects on the patient and his family during their transplant 'journey.' Patient identifiers have been changed in this true story. The overall goal is to provide a unique experience for learning about the clinical aspects of renal transplantation amid the backdrop of its effects on the recipient and his donor and family."

The table of contents contains 34 topics which are necessary to tell Sam's story. With each click to the next topic there is the text explanation of the current activity and in most cases a picture relating to that moment. Also included are reference links for all aspects of the case: medication, treatment plans, insurance, rejection, etc. Intermittent links at the end of a topic ask the student to take a self-test on the objectives. To illustrate the psychosocial elements here are

*Continued*



## Virtual Health Care Team Continued

five of the 34 segments. (Each topic is accompanied with the text describing the aspect of the topic.)

- Item 3: Family History. A family photo of Sam, his wife and daughter at home.
- Item 9: Donor Evaluation. A photo of Sam's brother at home seated in an easy chair.
- Item 15: Transplant Surgery. A photo of the surgery taking place. A photo of the kidney taken from Sam's brother to be put into Sam's body.
- Item 22: Return to Work. A photo of Sam back at work with a new position.
- Item 26: Rejection Problems. Blood tests show problems.

This case demonstrates the complexity of a kidney transplant, clinically and psychologically. "Tremendous amounts of resources are provided in a convenient format that lets the user decide which hyperlinks to use to enhance learning. Also, the fact that these are real patients in actual clinical and life situations creates an impact much different than textbook learning," said Campbell.

Go see for yourself. Meet and learn about Sam and his family by visiting <http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/~shrp/vhctwww/case10>.

The Kidney Transplant Case is supported in part by the Missouri Kidney Program, University of Missouri at Columbia.

What's in the cyberstars for VHCT™ cases? Case Number 13, "Mechanical Low Back Pain," is in the works. This case differs from the others in that anatomical models are used to show spinal flexion (flexing and bending) and spine anatomy. The anatomical structures move as they would when someone bends over. "Dr. Gerald Browning, case author has incorporated animations and videoclips to emphasize the concept of maintaining a lordosis (curvature of the spine) in the lower back," explained John Reid, PhD, professor of ITS, psychiatry/neurology and education.

The VHCT™ site was recently named a "Top Ten" site by the University of Southern California. You may visit the VHCT™ cases at <http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/~shrp/vhctwww/index.html>.

This is the foundation of success nine times out of ten – having confidence in yourself and applying yourself with all your might to your work.

Thomas E. Wilson

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## What Exactly is Year 2000 Compliance?

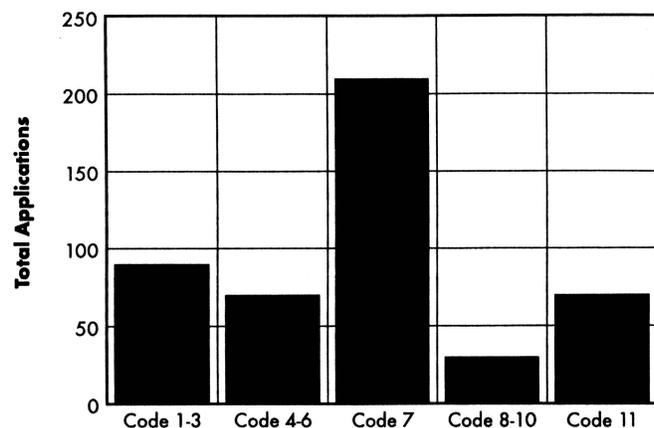
In our efforts to insure that the University of Missouri at Columbia Health Sciences Center systems are Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant, it is necessary to understand, agree and focus on one important definition – the definition of Y2K compliance. The technology industry uses terms such as "Year 2000 compliant" and "Year 2000 ready." Both terms are interchangeable.

The term 'Y2K Compliant' is based on adherence to the guidelines as defined by the Institution of Electrical Engineers:

- No value for current date will cause any interruption in operation.
- Database functionality must behave consistently for dates prior to, during, and after Year 2000.
- In all interfaces and data storage, the century in any date must be specified either explicitly or by unambiguous algorithms or assumption rules.
- Year 2000 must be recognized as a leap year.

Below is a graph illustrating the current status of Y2K progress. This particular graph shows the many different levels the software applications experience before they reach compliance. "As you can see from the legend below, we have developed 11 different codes to address the application status," said Mowaffak Mohammad, Computer Project Manager. More than 453 applications have been coded effective March, 1999.

UMHSC Departments Based Applications/  
Summary of Y2K Compliance Status



### Y2K Compliance Code

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1: No vendor response                                     | 7: Compliant, not tested                                       |
| 2: Functionality will be replaced                         | Number of Applications: 212                                    |
| 3: Not needed   | 8: Compliant – tested  |
| Number of Applications: 83                                | 9: Compliant – tested and implemented                          |
| 4: Not Compliant, upgrade now available                   | 10: Compliant – Tested, Implemented and manual backup in place |
| 5: Not Compliant, upgrade availability announced (date)   | Number of Applications: 29                                     |
| 6: Not Compliant, no announcement on upgrade availability | 11: Tested by Vendor Only                                      |
| Number of Applications: 72                                | Number of Applications: 58                                     |

# From the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library

## Is My Favorite Journal Available Electronically?

Journals are an eclectic set of publications, produced by professional organizations, research institutes, state and federal governments, and commercial publishers. Each publisher has its own philosophy regarding costs, distribution, and the importance of financial profit. Many of them charge libraries more than individuals for their subscriptions, and almost all of them demand the copyright to the material published in them. Health Sciences Library (HSL) subscription costs range from \$25.00 per year to over \$15,000 per year per title.

With the ability to make text available over the Internet, publishers are also taking different approaches to providing their articles electronically in full-text format. Some offer free full access with a print subscription; others provide access to only the table of contents; others require additional fees, sometimes at several times the print subscription cost. Costs for an institution are frequently more than for an individual. While most electronic subscriptions are tied to a print subscription, some publishers are offering electronic-only as a purchase option. Still others are bundling all of their titles and requiring libraries to pay for all of the publisher's titles in order to have any electronic access. HSL provides access to some titles through the database vendor, OVID, which is an optimal situation, due to the linking of the full text directly from the bibliographic citation. In some cases, "Journals at Ovid" titles are less expensive if we also subscribe to the print, for others, it does not matter.

This year, the HSL has been making a concerted effort to determine which titles can be offered at no cost, the routes of access and what offers are available through the various vendors. We have purchased electronic access to additional titles from funds not included in our print subscription allocation. In many cases, we have based title selection on input from our users in response to our electronic journal survey. We invite your suggestions for titles that you would like made available at your desktop. We will investigate each suggestion to determine if we can add it.



Our goal has been to offer as many titles as possible to our users through the HSL electronic journals web site. Our current access at this writing is 284 electronic titles. We require that in order to be listed on the site, the entire journal contents must be available. We also try to work around passwords and codes so that our users do not have to deal with them. If you encounter difficulty using any of our titles, please contact the Information Services Department, **882-6141**.

Ask an Information Question      Request an Interlibrary Loan  
Request an Expert Search      Search MERLIN and Ovid Databases  
Register for an Ovid workshop      Register for HSLNET

All of these services are available from our website:

<http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/library>

## MedLine/CINAHL/ PsycINFO/Internet Workshop Schedule

### April

MEDLINE	Thursday 8	12:00-1:30 p.m.
CINAHL	Tuesday 13	3:30-5:00 p.m.
Internet Searching	Thursday 22	10:00-11:30 a.m.
PsycINFO	Monday 26	3:30-5:00 p.m.

### May

MEDLINE	Wednesday 5	10:00-11:30 a.m.
Internet Searching	Thursday 20	3:30-5:00 p.m.
CINAHL	Tuesday 25	12:00-1:30 p.m.
PsycINFO	Wednesday 26	10:00-11:30 a.m.

### June

MEDLINE	Tuesday 8	3:30-5:00 p.m.
CINAHL	Thursday 17	3:30-5:00 p.m.
PsycINFO	Wednesday 23	10:00-11:00 a.m.
Internet Searching	Tuesday 29	12 Noon-1:30 p.m.

You can search journal literature on the OVID system using Windows or Web. These workshops focus on Windows; you may request Web instructions. Enrollment is limited to eight each. Special dates available. Call 882-6141 or go to <http://www.hsc.missouri.edu/library/docs/wsreg.html> to register or for more information.

## Cybertips

### Characters, Symbols and Animation

Have you ever needed to insert a character or symbol for a special report or project? Microsoft Word has more than 220 symbols and 12 special characters. You can insert symbols like this shamrock, ♣, an accent aigu which is used over the e in some French words, é, or use the abbreviation for the word copyright, ©.

Go to Insert; click on Symbol. A chart pops up allowing you to select a symbol. A single left mouse click enlarges the symbol so you can see the detail; a double left mouse click on the symbol places it in your document.

If you click on the Special characters tab, you will be offered a choice of more than 12 special characters. The elipsis can be inserted by typing

'alt+ctrl+'. And there you have it...3 neat and tidy uniform dots. Sometimes a company name or product will have this character ® immediately following the last letter in the name. Use of these names when published must accompany this character which stands for 'registered.' If you use the toothpaste Colgate® you will see that it is a registered product.

If you ever want to call attention to something and Bold face just won't hack it, try the new animation feature. Go to the Format tab and click on Font. Then click on the Animation tab and make your choice. Please note that the 'animation' tab only appears on your screen. It will not appear on your hard copy.

# PowerChart is Now Online at the University Health Sciences Center



**P**owerChart is the Patient Centered Care Online (PCCO) computer system that provides access to clinical results and patient demographic information.

A PowerChart pilot was initiated in November 1998 at Ellis Fischel Cancer Center (EFCC). The pilot was suspended in January 1999, to allow time to research and clean up shared medical record numbers in various Health Sciences Center (HSC) computer systems.

On March 3, 1999 staff at EFCC were again given access to PowerChart, and on March 5, staff at the University Hospital and Clinics were given

their first access to the system. All staff who have completed PowerChart training, have received User IDs and passwords are encouraged to access PowerChart and get acquainted with the application.

PowerChart is a computer system that provides timely and user-friendly access to clinical results. Clinical information can be viewed by multiple staff at the same time, and can also be viewed remotely. An example would be a nurse looking at results on the nursing unit, while a physician may view the same results on a computer at another location.

At the present time, patient demographic informa-

tion and radiology results from the MARS (Missouri Automated Radiology System) are available in PowerChart. Future features of PowerChart will include:

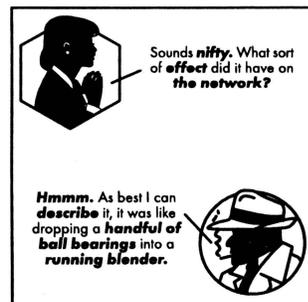
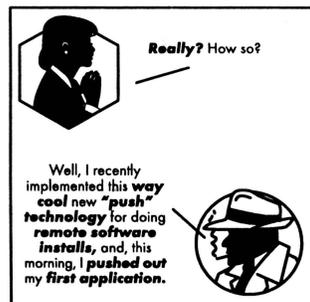
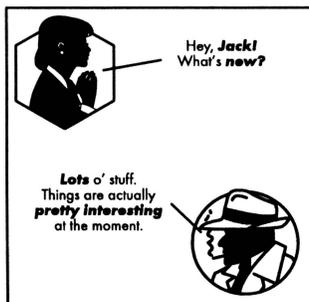
- Laboratory results from the ALG (Advanced Laboratory Group) system
- Transcribed documents from the Maxima Dictation/Transcription system
- On-line editing and signature of transcribed documents, such as discharge summary or history and physical exam.

Staff at EFCC completed PowerChart training in November 1998. Staff at

University Hospital and Clinics began training in January; this training will be completed in mid-1999. For information about PowerChart training schedules, you may contact Education and Consulting, or refer to the on-line training catalog from that department.

Staff will be granted security access to PowerChart after successful completion of PowerChart and security training. If you have completed this training, and have not yet received a UserID and password to PowerChart, you may contact Bill Saracini, Information Security Administrator at **884-2591**.

## Jack Hammer, Network Detective by Alan Arnold



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