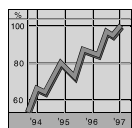




Collector Team Contributes to Cutting Edge Research

In July 2003, *The Journal of Trauma* published an article entitled "A New 'TRISS-Like' Probability of Survival Model for Intubated Trauma Patients." One of several researchers contributing to the project is Lawrence W. Bain, Jr. (Larry), a Senior Data Analyst for Digital Innovation. Larry worked closely with principal researcher Edward G. Davis, Ph.D., contributing to the "New Model's" development and testing. Several other clinical and research professionals known for their work on trauma related research projects also made significant contributions to Dr. Davis' research for this project: Ellen McKenzie, Ph.D.; William J. Sacco, Ph.D.; Robert F. Buckman, Jr., MD.; Howard R. Champion, FRCS (Edin); and Peter S. Lees, Ph.D., CIH.



Current methods of estimating the probability of survival for intubated patients are often missing required data. TRISS and ASCOT are two probability of survival models that control for injury severity, age, and type of injury (blunt or penetrating) in trauma patients, and also characterize the patient's physiologic condition. Both methods use the Revised Trauma Score or its components, Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS), systolic blood pressure, and (unassisted) respiratory rate, as measured on ED admission. However, when patients are paralyzed and/or intubated in the field because of the nature or severity of their injuries or to increase transportation safety, GCS components and unassisted respiratory rate may not be measurable on ED arrival.

The exclusion of this subset of seriously injured patients calls into question the usefulness of the resulting outcome evaluations. In order to include more patients and increase the overall percentage of patients included in outcome evaluations, inappropriate conventions are sometimes used to record data

(Continued on page 2)

10th Annual Collector Users Conference Revised Offerings & A Spectacular Skyline Highlight this Special Anniversary Year

Early planning meetings for the **10th Annual Collector Users Conference** have stirred great excitement among DI conference team members. In addition to several wonderful guest speakers, this 10th anniversary event will feature a revised training format, with more hands on lab time and additional opportunities to get to know your colleagues. Plus, for the first time, new Collector users can also attend an optional pre-conference, one-day introductory Collector training session. If you need even *more* reasons to attend, the location provides plenty. Our conference hotel, The Adam's Mark in scenic **Denver, Colorado** is a full-service hotel, located on the main drag of downtown Denver's mile-long shopping and entertainment district, Sixteenth Street. With restaurants, comedy clubs, museums and retail stores galore, you'll find plenty to do - right outside the front door. Roam at your leisure, or hop on one of the free shuttle buses that service the downtown area.



The weather in Denver is also quite tempting. The sun shines more than 300 days a year on average, and you can anticipate daytime temperatures in the low 70's (F) - perfect for a wide variety of outdoor activities over the weekend!



Please mark these important dates on your calendar and make plans to join the DI Conference Team and your Collector colleagues from around the world as we celebrate this special anniversary event!

Thursday, September 30 and Friday, October 1, 2004

New for 2004!

New User Pre-Conference Training Day (optional):
Wednesday September 29

(offered in addition to full conference registration)

CONFERENCE AGENDA

In response to feedback from previous years, an exciting new training format will be in place for 2004. Within the three training tracks, a series of "Collector Mission Possible" themes will teach functional and cognitive skill sets that attendees can apply to

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

DI Research Contribution	1	Web Training Schedule	3
10th Annual Conference	1	Welcome New Clients	3
UC2003 Wrap - Up	2	"The Back Page"	4
DI Contact Information	2	UC2004 Registration - Insert	

Nashville Memories: UC2003

This past October, more than 100 Collector Users converged on Nashville, Tennessee to participate in the 9th Annual Collector Users Conference. Nashville's nickname of "The Music City" proved extremely apropos as many attendees spent their free time discovering the charm and talent of multitudes of musicians performing throughout the city.



Thursday evening at the Wildhorse Saloon proved to be a special treat for all in attendance. DI reserved the third floor balcony for conference attendees and we enjoyed a great view while Country Music Television (CMT) taped an interview with, and a performance by, country music star Keith Urban. Even those not familiar with the star enjoyed the excitement of the evening, the ample room to sit & talk, the opportunity to dance, and even play pool or video games.

In addition to the fun, Collector Conferences are also known for the tremendous amounts of information presented by guest speakers and DI trainers. The 2003 event was no exception. With the introduction of a hands-on lab component, attendees had the opportunity to practice their new skills right away! A special thank you is extended to our guest speakers, who presented a variety of trauma-specific topics and research summaries: Rangı Dansey, Auckland, New Zealand; Sharon Kasic, British Columbia, Canada; Cynthia Eisenhower, Karen McElwee and Chris Wargo, Geisinger MC, PA; Roseanne Rutkowski and Sherry Davis, Kansas Department of Health; Kathy Schmitt and Patrick Michaelis, Washington State.

New for '04!



Each year DI uses the feedback we receive from Collector users to develop new learning opportunities and training workshops. As the number of conference attendees increases, more DI staff attend also, meeting with attendees and presenting additional workshops to meet growing needs.

Program and registration information for the 10th Annual Users Conference is now available. The 2004 event will incorporate several suggestions presented by users and past attendees, and we hope you will join us for this special anniversary year in Denver, Colorado! (see article on pg. 1 and insert for more information)

DI Staff Member Contributes to Research

(Continued from page 1)

for paralyzed and/or intubated patients, which can result in inaccurate outcomes assessments. Neither the exclusion of paralyzed and/or intubated patients nor their inaccurate inclusion in outcome evaluations is useful to hospital, regional, or statewide assessments.

Research to develop the new Intubated Model was initiated by Drs. Davis, McKenzie and Sacco, in order to provide a tool that estimates intubated patients' probability of survival, and to enable a more accurate study of patient outcomes.

Two new models were developed for patients who arrive at the ED paralyzed and/or intubated - one for patients with blunt injuries and one for patients with penetrating injuries. Pediatric patients are assessed using the blunt or penetrating model appropriate for their injuries. (TRISS has historically used its blunt model for all injuries to children.) The new models do not include respiratory or neurologic assessments, but use values of pulse and systolic blood pressure. Using Pennsylvania Trauma Outcome Study (PTOS) trauma registry data from October 1993 through September 1996, the new models have been found to be excellent predictors of survival/death outcomes using standard measures of discrimination and calibration, for the entire patient sample and for etiologic subsets.

Not unexpectedly, the new Intubated Model results are generally "lower" than those for TRISS/ASCOT. These lower results may result from several factors. First, the new model norms are based on more current data ('93-'96) than previous AIS-90 based TRISS/ASCOT norms (late '80's), presumably reflecting improved care and outcomes. Secondly, the new models more accurately assess the severity (and hence probability of survival) of paralyzed and/or intubated patients by using only data that can be reliably obtained from them.

A complete description of the project background, methods, results and conclusions can be found in *The Journal of Trauma*, Vol. 55, Issue 1, pp. 53-61.

For information regarding the integration of this new research with your Collector Trauma Registry, please contact DI's Sales department.

OUR Contact Information Has CHANGED Has YOURS?

To improve our customer service, DI recently installed a new phone system. A few of the new DI phone extensions are listed in the DI Contact Information box to the right. We appreciate your patience while we learn to use our new system. Please help us to provide timely information to you and others at your facility. Use the newsletter@dicorp.com email address to inform DI of any Collector personnel changes. Please include the following information:

1. User's name, position title, phone, fax and email
2. What action should to be taken: Add to, delete from, or replace some one on the current list.



DI Contact Information

Fax: 410-893-3199 **Web site:** www.dicorp.com
Collector Technical Support: support@dicorp.com
 800-344-3668, option 4 **OR** 410-838-4034, option 4
Collector Sales: 410-838-4034, ext. 234
General Questions/Projects: 410-838-4034, ext. 255
Billing/Invoicing: 410-838-4034, ext. 235
The Difference (email): newsletter@dicorp.com
DI's Mailing Address: 134 Industry Lane
 Suite 3
 Forest Hill, MD 21050

Once again DI has the pleasure of sending a warm winter welcome to many new Collector facilities throughout several states. We also acknowledge the addition of several new *Outcomes* software users.. As our user base grows we are able to continue offering more products and services to all of our clients.

New Outcomes Software Users:

- State of Alaska
- Lawrence General, MA
- University Medical Center, TX
- Providence St. Peter Hospital, WA



New Collector Users:

- The State of West Virginia
- Affinity Health System, WI :
(Mercy Hospital and St. Elizabeth's)
- NorCal EMS, CA
- Imperial County , CA
- George Washington University Hospital
- Sentara Healthcare: Norfolk & VA Beach
- North Coast EMS
- Santa Cruz
- 30 more hospitals in Iowa
- 39 more hospitals in Kansas

Spring Web Training Dates!

Digital Innovation offers Collector training sessions in a variety of affordable formats. Internet training was introduced this past summer and received extremely positive feedback. DI is pleased to announce that have been made a part of our regularly scheduled group web training sessions. Training Modules 1-5 will be offered on a monthly basis. Dates will be announced and posted on DI's website 2-4 months prior to the presentation date. In addition to these regularly scheduled web group sessions, users may request individual sessions ranging from 90 minutes to a full day or two.

Multiple-facility web training enables facilities that may not be in close proximity of one another to reap the benefits of shared training costs, without requiring staff to travel and miss time at the office. When at least 3 facilities have registered, the multiple-facility discount is applied, making this already economical and convenient training an even better value. Registration is limited to 9 facilities, maintaining a low instructor to student ratio.

Web training dates for the Spring 2004 sessions are listed below. Each three hour session begins at 12 noon (ET).

February

Mon., Feb. 2 - Module 1: *Data Entry / Customization Options*
Wed., Feb. 4 - Module 2: *Basic Queries & Standard Reports*
Mon., Feb. 9 - Module 3: *Using the Gather Feature*
Wed., Feb. 11 - Module 4: *User Defined Reports*
Mon., Feb. 16 - Module 5: *Outcomes Overview*

March

Tue., Mar 2 - Module 1: *Data Entry / Customization Options*
Thu., Mar. 4 - Module 2: *Basic Queries & Standard Reports*
Tue., Mar. 9 - Module 3: *Using the Gather Feature*
Thu., Mar. 11 - Module 4: *User Defined Reports*
Tue., Mar. 16 - Module 5: *Outcomes Overview*

Look for future training dates on the DI website, and in each issue of *The Difference*. In addition to the group sessions listed above, individual sessions can also be scheduled.

Remember - Registration for each training session is limited!

Traditional Training Options Are Still Available!

Training at Digital Innovation & On-Site Regional Training

For registration information contact Donna Youngberg at 410-838-4034, ext. 230, or dyoungberg@dicorp.com

Coming Soon: 10th Annual Collector Conference

(Continued from page 1)

their own objectives at their own facilities. Lecture sessions and two (yes 2!) formal hands-on lab activities will be included for each training level - basic, intermediate and advanced Collector skill levels.

PRE-CONFERENCE TRAINING WORKSHOP

New Collector users take note! Another new addition for 2004 is the pre-conference Basic Training session, scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 29th. This one day session is an opportunity to gain the data entry, system navigation and basic reporting skills that are the foundation for the basic track conference workshops. A minimum of 15 registrations is needed by August 31st in order to hold the class, so please do not delay! (Full conference registration is also required.)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

To register for the 10th Anniversary Collector Users Conference, use the registration form inside this newsletter or complete the form on DI's website at www.dicorp.com. Conference costs are as follows:

Conference Fee: \$350

Optional Pre-Conference Training: \$160
(Conference registration required)

Late Registration Fee: \$40

(A late fee will be assessed for registration received after 8/15/04 and/or payment after 8/31/04)

AAAM CODING COURSE OFFERED!

This will be the third year that DI and AAAM have coordinated our Fall program offerings to provide more affordable opportunities for training. AAAM is offering the Basic Coding course just prior to the Collector Conference - Tuesday and Wednesday, September 28 & 29th, also at the Adam's Mark Hotel. This is a great way to get double training for your travel dollar!

Visit the AAAM website for Basic Coding Course registration information: www.carcrash.org.

For more information please call Donna Youngberg at 410-838-4034 ext. 230 or visit DI's website: www.dicorp.com.





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To:

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www.dicorp.com

Product Support: *THE BACK PAGE*



DI's Product Support Staff Answers Commonly Asked Collector Questions

Situation: If Collector is exited without going through a proper shutdown procedure, the user may receive an error message. Improper shutdowns can be caused by a number of circumstances. For example, a network server crash, closing out of another program using the Task Manager, or accidentally clicking the Collector icon when Collector is already in use may cause one of the following messages to appear:



“There is already an active login from this directory”

“CVW is already running ”

In both cases, some of Collector's files did not shut down properly, and the program believes it is still active. To reset Collector to its proper settings, follow the steps below:



Resolution A: The message **“There is already an active login from this directory”** will only appear if you are running in a network environment. The “Reset Net” function is used to correct the error:

1. Be sure all users exit Collector.
2. From your computer desktop, click START | Programs | Collector |Reset Collector Network System

Resolution B: The message **“CVW is already running ”** can appear in stand-alone or network installations. Use the following steps to reset your system:

1. If your Collector is installed as a stand-alone system, rebooting the computer is usually the easiest method.
2. For network installations (or stand-alone users who do not wish to reboot):
 - a. From the client workstation open a DOS prompt,
 - b. go to the directory where your Collector files are located.
 - c. type Tools \ KillCVW
 - d. If this does not end the session, rebooting your computer is necessary.

