



Number 23

# Health Sciences Information Service

## Alaska's Medical Library

November 2003

### Focus on the Medical Library



#### **Why medical information is critical and medical librarians are life-savers:**

Traditionally, physicians consulted colleagues for information, then their trusted medical reference texts, and finally whatever medical journals they could lay their hands on. Today, rapid advances in medical knowledge demand the use of new tools. These tools include comprehensive online databases such as MEDLINE, Internet Listservs, and e-mail. To effectively serve their patients, health care practitioners either learn to master this technology themselves, or enlist services that can do this for them - such as Health Sciences Information Service.

In a 1992 study on the impact of the hospital library on clinical decision-making, 80% of surveyed physicians changed their care as a result of evidence-based answers to their questions.

These changes reduced mortality risk in 19% of patients, avoided hospitalization in 12% of cases, changed diagnostic tests in 51% and drug choice in 45%. Overall hospital stay was reduced in 19% of patients. [Rochester Study. Bulletin of the Medical Library Association, 1992; 80(2): 169-178.]

### Do you have an information gap?

- 🌐 Is there a journal article, report and book you've found referenced, or remember seeing somewhere lately and would like to read? You need HSIS article/document delivery. <http://www.lib.uaa.alaska.edu/hsis/forms.htm>
- 🌐 Seeking contacts for a certain specialist in the lower 48? Call for quick reference assistance. (907) 786-1870 or toll-free in Alaska 1-888-997-7878
- 🌐 Need recent review articles on drug therapy for Alzheimer's Disease? Call us for a custom HSIS literature search.
- 🌐 Are you presenting at a health fair and need interesting consumer health material? You need HSIS reference consultation (907) 867-1609 or toll-free number
- 🌐 Has your clinic just cancelled your favorite journal but you need to keep up with its new content each month? Sign up for HSIS Table of Contents (TOC) service. <http://www.lib.uaa.alaska.edu/hsis/forms.htm>
- 🌐 Pursuing an ongoing interest in a particular topic in your specialty, and want to be alerted to newly published research in this area? You need an HSIS autoalert. <http://www.lib.uaa.alaska.edu/hsis/forms.htm>
- 🌐 Do you have a question about using PubMed? Or would you like to take a class on more effective searching? You need some HSIS individual or group training. Call (907) 867-1609 or toll-free number



#### **HSIS is your medical library**

Let us bridge your information gap! We offer fast response, specially in clinical emergencies. Next time you need information, pick up the phone, fax us or send an e-mail.

***We belong on your medical team – alongside the radiologist, anesthetist, surgeon, nurses, pharmacist and physical therapist.***



#### **Meet our new office manager**

Stephanie Dyer comes to HSIS from UAA's Interlibrary Loan service. She is our friendly first point of contact for clients, and handles our accounts. Stephanie also receives donations of journal back issues and books for our health sciences collection.

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Sally Bremner 11/27/2003