



Glenn Scales, CBET  
NCBA President

## PRESIDENT'S FORUM

### President's Forum

The first week in December marks an important date in the history of the NCBA. On December 4-6, the NCBA Annual Symposium will be held at the Pinehurst Hotel In Pinehurst, North Carolina. Sonny Richards has put together an excellent mix of programs for our members. As you well know, the Symposium had to move to a new location and Pinehurst is an excellent setting for our annual meeting. In addition to the incomparable facilities, we have the opportunity to host our traditional golf tournament at one of the country's foremost golf clubs. Because of the season, the Pinehurst Hotel will be decorated for Christmas. This would be a great opportunity to bring your spouse or a friend with you to the meeting.

At this time the NCBA Golf Tournament has over 80 golfers signed up. We have a number of vendors who have been very helpful in their sponsorship of the tournament. Please be sure to thank them for their support. Many

of these same vendors have also provided financial support by sponsoring a table at the Luncheon and the Pig Pickin'. Yes, that's right, we will have the Pig Pickin' Tuesday night following the Vendor Social in the Exhibit Hall. This should be a spectacular event and everyone will be very pleased with the arrangements being made for us by the Pinehurst Hotel.

Thanks in large part to our stature in the Biomedical community, the NCBA has been approached by AAMI to partner with them in sponsoring the annual AAMI Meeting and Expo, scheduled for June 9-12, 2001 in Baltimore, Maryland. Part of this partnership involves sharing membership information as well as providing advertising and announcements on the NCBA web site. This partnership offers unique benefits for both the NCBA and you as individual members.

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2000 AT-LARGE  
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**2000 Standing Committees**  
\*Denotes Chairperson

**Rules and Bylaws**  
\*Glenn Scales, Chris Dissinger,  
Obie Godley

**Nominating Committee:**  
\*Tommy Ballard, Lane Rushing

**Finance Committee:**  
\*Jim Tripp, Brian Poplin, Lane  
Rushing, John Noblitt

**Membership Committee:**  
\*Diane Aker, Lane Rushing,  
Obie Godley, Linda Leitch

**Education Committee:**  
\*Sonny Richards, Chris Dissinger  
Helen Jones, John Noblitt,  
Brian Lefler

**2000 Special Committees**

**Newsletter Committee:**  
\*Lane Rushing, Howard Wigle, Helen  
Jones, Larry Kodak, Julio Huerta

**Scholarship Committee:**  
\*Lane Rushing, Jim Tripp, Dan  
Harrison, John Noblitt, Linda Leitch  
Brian Poplin

**Vendor Coordination:**  
\*Ken Logan, Mark Sonntag, Chris  
Dissinger, Diane Aker, Jim Tripp

**Hotel Coordination:**  
\*Helen Jones, Chris Dissinger, Sonny  
Richards

**Public Relations:**  
\*Chris Dissinger, Mark Sonntag, Ken  
Logan

**Internet Committee:**  
\*Linda Leitch, Mark Sonntag, Ray  
Laxton, Brian Poplin, Chris  
Dissinger

**Professional of the Year:**  
\*Brian Poplin, Howard Wigle, Lane  
Rushing, Dan Harrison, Obie Godley

**Archives Committee:**  
\*Glenn Scales, Obie Godley

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NCBA News is an information service of the North Carolina Biomedical Association (NCBA). It has a distribution of about 500 and is published six (6) times per year. Articles and ads are due on or before the first day of even months. The newsletter is mailed on or about the first day of the odd months.

While the NCBA makes every effort to assure that its content is accurate, articles are the products of individual authors and the NCBA is not responsible for the content.

NCBA News intends to disseminate information and ideas to its subscribers. While the NCBA News accurately reflects the source of the articles, the content is of variable quality and validity. The Newsletter Committee will attempt to verify all articles, but neither the Editor nor the NCBA is responsible for information.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!! Articles of interest to our readers are constantly needed and sometimes in short supply. If you have written any articles that may be of interest to our readers, submit it to Newsletter Committee Chairman Lane Rushing.

One of the most important events of the Symposium takes place at the Tuesday lunch – the annual election of Board of Director positions. Several of the current Board members will be running for re-election, plus we have several members running for office for the first time. I would encourage you as members to consider running for office. Speaking for myself, my time spent working with the NCBA has been one of the most professionally rewarding experiences of my career. The NCBA is a wonderful organization that provides an excellent service for its members and I am very proud to have been a part of it over the years. If all goes as expected, this is my last letter to the membership as President. I would like to thank the membership for your support and encouragement. I have had a great Board of Directors to work with this year. Please be sure to thank them when you see them at the Symposium. In an effort to make our Symposium more readily available to you and others, the NCBA has also started talking with the Virginia Biomedical Association about the possibility of a combined meeting several years from now that would allow the two organizations to bring in even more vendors and offer a wider selection of classes. If you have ideas or would like to become involved in the preliminary planning, contact former NCBA President Ray Laxton at 919-681-2525 or e-mail [laxto001@mc.duke.edu](mailto:laxto001@mc.duke.edu)

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Pinehurst next month.

Glenn Scales, CBET  
President, NCBA

### CRITIKON SERVICE TRAINING

Moses Cone Health System will be providing classroom space for Critikon service training. **March 27** will be the Dinamap MPS Select portable monitor. **March 28** will be the Dinamap Compact and Dinamap Pro 400 (day 2). **March 29** will be the Dinamap Pro 100 (day 3).

Classes begin with a functional description of the product and its applications. Theory of operation and signal processing flow are presented at a block diagram level. Hands on demonstration covering service modes, calibration, disassembly and re-assembly will be included. Course materials include a manual and information handouts. The manual and handouts are for your personal reference. Certificates are awarded to all attendees who complete the course instruction.

If interested, please contact Critikon at (877) 274-8456 ext. 2099 or visit [www.critikon.com](http://www.critikon.com). **Please do not contact Moses Cone Memorial Hospital!**

**Cost:** \$69 per day  
Meals & Lodging will be at the expense of the attendees.  
Moses Cone Health System has corporate hotel rates.

**Classes start:** 8:30 – 5:00 with a 1 hour lunch.

**Location:** Moses Cone Memorial Hospital  
1200 North Elm Street  
Greensboro, NC 27401

**Cancellation:** Three weeks in advance if minimum attendance is not met.

### NCBA NEWS ADVERTISING

*NCBA News* is accepting advertising that relates to biomedical equipment and of interest to our readers. Suggested subjects are: Positions Desired, Positions Available, Biomedical Equipment Wanted or For Sale (New or Used), or Announcements of Educational Opportunities or Service Schools in the area.

Advertising is open to all individuals, hospitals, and companies. The decision to carry a particular ad or classified will be the decision of the Editor with support of the NCBA Board. Camera ready copies of actual size ads required. **Corporate Members please remember what free advertisement your member-**

**ship allows.** Please contact the Newsletter Editor for other pricing. **\*\*Prepayment of all advertising is required.\*\***

#### Classified Advertising

Except "Position Wanted" notice by members (one ad per year – limit 50 words – no charge) the following ads apply:

(Per 75 words)	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non</u>
Individual	\$5.00	\$7.00
Institute	\$15.00	\$25.00
Corporation	\$20.00	\$30.00

# AAMI Partnership

NCBA Board Meeting  
September 15, 2000

## AAMI Partnership

### Members present:

The NCBA is proud to announce that we will be co-sponsoring AAMI's Conference and Expo which will open on June 9, 2001 in Baltimore, MD. The NCBA name and logo will be featured on all future AAMI promotional materials for the Conference, plus the NCBA will be given complimentary meeting space for an NCBA business meeting in conjunction with AAMI's Annual Conference, plus an NCBA booth in a high traffic area.

**G**lenn Scales, Brian Poplin, Linda Leitch, Obie Godley, Chris Dissinger, Jim Tripp, Sonny Richards, Ken Logan, Mark Sonntag, Helen Jones, Mark RenFoe.

President Glenn Scales called the meeting to order at 10:15.

Representatives from AAMI, including Shirley Nycum, the Vice President of Education, will be joining us at the NCBA Symposium in December. A special open forum meeting is being scheduled for Tuesday morning so that members can drop in to receive up to date information from Steve Haupt, former SBET President, on AAMI's renewed efforts in the biomedical community. AAMI is also planning on having a BMET Board of Examiner attend to answer questions about the BMET certification program.

President Glenn Scales discussed pro's and con's of the NCBA being a partner with AAMI's annual meeting in Baltimore, MD in 2001. The Board discussed options and questions they wanted to discuss with AAMI's representative Shirley Nycum at an 11:00 am teleconference.

If you've never spent a few days in Baltimore, this is a perfect time to discover this waterfront jewel. Begin at the bustling Inner Harbor where more than 100 great shops and restaurants share the water views with the acclaimed National Aquarium, The Baltimore Science Center, and the Baltimore Maritime Museum.

**Treasurer Report:** Jim Tripp said he has Glenn Scales and Chris Dissinger's signatures for signing checks. Paid for a three year bond policy for \$150,000 for Jim Tripp and Glenn Scales with a \$1,000 deductible. He will get Chris Dissinger bonded as well. Jim Tripp went over the balance sheet. Jim discussed liabilities with Brian Poplin. Jim researched and found out our IRS tax status is a 501(c)6. The bylaws state we are a 501(c)3. Brian is going to check with the tax attorney to see if it is possible to change it from a 501(c)6 to a 501(c)3. That will allow the NCBA Board to be able to set up a NCBA Foundation for investing money into the Triangle Foundation. Jim discussed software changes on our new laptop with Quicken to Quicken Pro. He has had problems formatting. He has to make sure all information is uniform in Quicken before transferring it to Quicken Pro.

Venture a few blocks from the Inner Harbor and you'll come to what is considered one of the most beautiful ball parks in the country: Camden Yards, home of the Baltimore Orioles baseball team and the city's new NFL franchise, the Baltimore Ravens. Baseball enthusiasts need only walk around a corner to get from Camden Yards to the Babe Ruth Birthplace and Baseball Center. Here vintage radio broadcasts, rare historic photos, and a rich collection of baseball memorabilia tell the story of baseball's most legendary player.

Looking for some memorable meals? Don't leave Baltimore without feasting on the the regional favorite blue crab – steamed, fried as cakes, or softshell. They don't taste any better than they do here. Baltimore's Little Italy, also adjacent to the inner Harbor, boasts more great restaurants than you can take advantage of but try anyway! For information on this waterfront jewel, view to the Best of Baltimore web site at <http://www.aami.org/meetings/aami2001/baltimore.html>.

**Membership Report:** Glenn reviewed the report on behalf of Diane. Diane is setting up corporate and individual memberships as registrations come in.

**Education report:** Sonny said he has all the classes lined up for the symposium. He just completed a stand alone class by Agilent in Pinehurst.

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Nine individuals attended. The participants enjoyed the class and would like one on Risk Management. Jim Tripp is trying to put together a stand alone ventilator class. Craig Kesley has agreed to give a stand alone Datascope Passport class sometime the 3rd week of October. He will try to schedule several more stand alone classes by March, 2001.

**Scholarship:** Sonny Richards reported for Lane Rushing. Lane has not received any scholarship registrations. Sonny discussed to have each community college report at the symposium what they spent the grant money on to the membership. Lane found out that Stanley Community College has increased their tuition and request the Board to increase the scholarship to \$600-\$1,000. Because we have to report any grants in excess of \$600 to the IRS, the Board decided not to increase the scholarship.

**Rules and Bylaws:** Glenn said there was nothing to report. Glenn did say that he, Chris Dissinger, and Obie Godley will draft a policy/procedure on replacing Board members in mid-year resignations. Sonny asked if the Board will choose past Board members tentatively till the position is filled. Glenn made a recommendation to have an amendment to the bylaws that the Ex Officio has the right to vote as a tie breaker.

**Newsletter:** Mark Sonntag is learning the editor position from Howard Wigle. He is about 90% completed with the October/September issue. This issue will be going out to all hospitals east of the Mississippi. The Board discussed what needed to go into this issue (hotel, registration, golf registration, symposium classes, NCBA membership registration).

**Nominating Committee:** No report.

**Internet Committee:** Linda Leitch asked why the symposium classes are not on the website. Glenn said the pages have been up for two weeks, asked Linda to "refresh" her bookmark on her computer.

**New Business – Teleconference:**

Shirley Nycom, Vice President for Education with AAMI, made a telephone presentation on how the NCBA

can be a partner with AAMI at AAMI's annual meeting in Baltimore, MD in June 2001. Shirley said that AAMI would be very flexible on how we could support them. She discussed how CMIA (California Medical Instrumentation Assoc.) assisted them last year by providing mailing lists, 2-3 sessions, monitors for classes, assist speakers. In turn AAMI provided free registration, free booth in vendor area, cover letters and CMIA logo's on all AAMI literature. Brian Poplin asked if there would be and financial obligation on the NCBA. Shirley said there would be none. Glenn Scales said that he didn't see any reason why the NCBA couldn't give a copy of the mailing list for the NCBA to get member rates and our logo on literature in return. Glenn concluded the meeting by telling Shirley he would get back with her next week after talking with the Board on what direction the Board wanted to take with being a partner. The Board discussed the different options. Brian Poplin made a motion to move forward with the co-sponsorship in Baltimore, 2001. To provide a session for a free booth, and appoint Glenn Scales as a liaison to act as a person to give authority to assign a speaker and marketing options. Linda Leitch second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Professional of the Year:** Brian Poplin stated that the Manager of the Year award is now on the internet. October 1st is the deadline. He structured the Professional of the Year award the same as Manager of the Year so any company can support it. Hill Rom's commitment terminated with the 1999 award. Hill Rom has verbally committed to renewing for \$1,000 a year for the next 5 years. Brian asked the Board if there are any ideas for other scholarships/awards that the Board feels vendors could help support. Linda Leitch suggested having an education scholarship for those who are continuing their education.

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**New Business:** No issues raised. Minor discussion on items discussed in

**The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, January 12th at 10:00am. Glenn Scales will host the meeting at Duke Hospital in Durham, NC.**

## AAMI Partnership (continued)

At AAMI 2001 there are many ways to jump-start your thinking and develop solutions to current challenges.

- Courses give attendees practical, in-depth, skill-building instruction on focused topics.
- Sessions provide a forum in which experts share viewpoints and relevant experience on technical, management, or scientific topics.
- Symposia are day-long programs providing multifaceted exploration of specific technologies, or related management topics

As a result of this arrangement with AAMI, NCBA members will receive the following benefits:

- AAMI membership registration rate to NCBA members who are not AAMI members.
- Free exhibit hall passes and invitation to the Saturday night welcome reception for NCBA members who cannot attend the meeting.

**Old Business:** Brian Poplin asked to have more Public Relations notices in publications about what the NCBA is doing in the biomedical community, for example scholarships, grants, awards, corporate support. Brian suggested we have a press releases to local newspapers, hospital newsletters, and manufacturers when a member receives an award or grant.

**Symposium Planning:**

**Education:** Sonny Richards reviewed classes confirmed for the symposium. So far 24 classes have been setup. Baxter Flogard and Office Management classes will be held off site at Moore Regional Hospital. Keynote address speaker has not been confirmed but the topic will be from a hospital administrator's point of view on cost control and managing in a changing environment.

**Hotel Accommodations:** Helen Jones and Sonny Richards have assigned classes to classrooms at Pinehurst. Helen said she needs to discuss the menu and audio/visual needs with her contact person at Pinehurst Resort. Helen said that the AAMI Certification Review class at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center has 7 openings in October. She asked if the NCBA could donate old unused bags to the Women's Crisis Center in Winston-Salem. Ken Logan said he will check the storage building. Glenn suggested that several of each year's bags be preserved for historical purposes.

**Vendor Relations:** Ken Logan said 23 booths and 18 vendors have registered so far. Ken reviewed the vendor budget. Southern Exhibitors price has doubled compared to last year because of the expenses that normally were covered by the hotel like tables, drapes, and chairs. Vendor packets with shipping labels and information for the vendors will be sent out as soon as Ken receives registrations.

**Membership:** No report.

**Finance:** Jim Tripp has 11 paid vendors, several of which have more than one booth and/or sponsoring golf.

**Bags and T-shirts:** Obie Godley requested a figure for how many bags and shirts. Obie asked if the Board wanted

T-shirts or golf shirts this year. The Board recommended golf shirts with the NCBA logo on the sleeve. The Board discussed how many shirts and bags to order. Obie will order around 450 bags and 48 golf shirts.

**Seminar Planning:** No report.

**New Business:** Sonny Richards commented that Lane Rushing said NC State University is constructing a convention center at Centennial Campus. Maybe the Board should look into using it for future symposiums. Mark Sonntag wanted to know what is the future for the NCBA website. Linda Leitch said that she is making a questionnaire/poll to be placed in the symposium bags to see how the membership wants to proceed with the website. She gave an example of having the newsletter sent via email rather than postal mail. The poll will give the internet committee an idea of how to proceed with our website.

**Adjournment:** Brian Poplin made the motion and Chris Dissinger second. Motion was unanimous.

**The annual NCBA Board of Directors Retreat is scheduled for Friday, February 9th and 10th, 2001 at the Crown Reef Resort in Myrtle Beach, SC.**

**The Board will meet in the Conference Center which is part of the Resort, but across the street from the hotel (this is also the location of the registration desk).**

**The contact information for the hotel is listed below. When you make your room reservations, make sure you tell them you are with the NCBA Board meeting so we receive the "room night" credit. Just as at Pinehurst, we need to book a certain number of room night to offset the cost of the Board meeting room.**

**Crown Reef Resort  
2913 South Ocean Blvd.  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
800-405-7333 or 800-626-8077  
800-600-6932 (sales office)  
www.crownreef.com**

**Pitt County Memorial Hospital  
Biomedical Technicians**



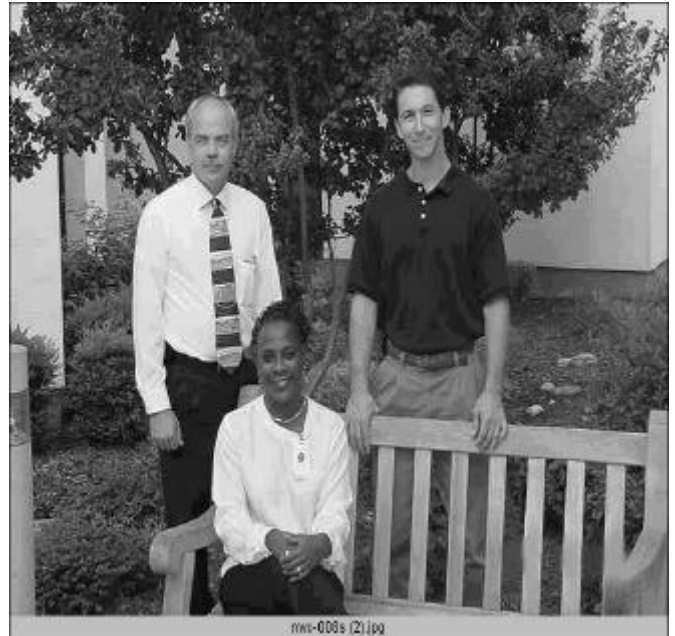
Front Row: Melvin Lynch, Jan Measley, Allen Thompson  
Back Row: Chris Marslender, Jim Brady, Paul Pakowski, Walt McCauley, Paul Ristow

**Pitt County Memorial Hospital**  
**Electronic Technicians**

Michael Wade and Joel Muhaluk



**Pitt County Memorial Hospital**



Obie Godley, Samantha Blow, Joey Cahoon

**Pitt County Memorial Hospital**  
**Part – Time (students)**



Jonathan Moore and Brandon Vick

**Pitt County Memorial Hospital**  
**Biomedical Department**



**NCBA Board of Directors  
Special Meeting  
Pinehurst, NC  
December 4, 2000**

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was convened at 11:25 am to discuss issues pertaining to the election of Directors.

Glenn announced that according to the Bylaws, we can't accept any absentee ballots. There was an agreement among the Board that Monday's attendees should be able to vote. Lane made a motion to accept ballots on Monday to be counted along with the votes accepted at the General Business Meeting on Tuesday. Chris seconded and the motion carried.

A second discussion concerned a requirement of the Bylaws that each elected Director receive a majority vote. There was a concern that the time needed to collect, count, and redistribute ballots in order to insure a majority vote was too time consuming. Chris made a motion to accept and elect the five nominees with the highest vote total. Sonny seconded, motion carried.

Lane commented that the Scholarship checks had initially been intended to be presented to the two schools for administration and distribution to the students. Lane recommended that the \$600 totals be divided into two checks, one to be presented to each student at the Business Meeting, the other to be forwarded to the school for administration at a later date.

There was some concern about how Corporate Members would receive Newsletters. It was decided that we will continue to register and bill as in the past, and send Newsletters only to those additional Corporate Members which forward the correct mailing information to the Membership Secretary.

Glenn adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

**ARTICLES WANTED**

**The Newsletter Editor is in need of articles to be placed in the NCBA newsletter. All members are encouraged to submit life experiences in the field, tech-tips, your company biography, employee ads, etc. If a picture is submitted please send in jpeg or gif format.**

Thanks you.

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**CE Mark and Third Party Certification**

Have you seen the CE Mark on equipment coming into your facility? Have you wondered what it really means? Have suppliers, distributors and equipment manufacturers been telling you the CE Mark means their products are electrically safe?

Most of us have seen the "CE" mark on electrical products and materials. This marking has caused a great deal of confusion in non-European countries, especially in the US, where electrical safety certification has become increasingly important. We see the CE mark on everything from Industrial and Medical equipment to children's plastic toys.

"CE," roughly translated, means Conformity for Europe. Conformity to what? Where is it accepted and why? What are the implications for our Hospital Purchasing and Biomed departments?

To answer these questions, it will be helpful to understand the differences between a US Listing (Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory) and a CE "Self-certification."

**US (NRTL) Listings:**

- ◆ Product construction complies with US National Standards, (UL/ANSI, etc.), and compliance is verified by a Licensed NRTL, such as UL, MET, CSA, ETL.
- ◆ Complete testing and review are performed by the NRTL to the appropriate Standard.
- ◆ All Listed products are tested for electrical safety.
- ◆ Quarterly Factory Inspections are performed by the NRTL, to insure the product still complies with the US Standards.
- ◆ Products are Listed in a Laboratory directory.

**CE Self-Certification**

- ◆ Manufacturer is responsible for designing and verifying the product complies with European Standards (EN, IEC, and Directives).
- ◆ Testing and evaluation may be performed by the manufacturer.
- ◆ Some products are evaluated only to certain EMC Standards (ElectroMagnetic Compatibility = Non-Safety).
- ◆ No Factory Inspections are performed.
- ◆ No listing in a directory – no way to verify consistent production.

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## Halifax Regional Medical Center Biomedical Engineering Department

The Biomedical Engineering Department is co-managed by two long time NCBA members, H. Clark Martin and Thomas (Tom) M. Helms. Clark and Tom have found that the co-manager concept works well in a small shop. This concept gives both the authorization to order repair parts, to writing and approve policies related to their department, and to serve on the varied committees within the hospital.

Clark Martin, CBET, started his biomed career in the U.S. Army in 1985 where he received both the basic and advanced Medical Equipment Maintenance at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center. After completing his military requirements, Clark enrolled at Stanly Community College where he received an Associate in Applied Science degree in Biomedical Equipment Technology in 1992. Clark started his career by accepted the position of BMET at Moses H. Cone Hospital in Greensboro. In 1993, he accepted the position of Senior Biomedical Engineer at Morehead Memorial Hospital in Eden, NC, where he remained until accepting his present position in 1995.

Tom Helms, a native of Florida, started his biomedical career in 1988 after serving in the U.S. Navy as a Hospital Corpsman for six years. He received his basic and advanced training in medical maintenance at the Tri-Service School in Denver, Co. finishing in 1990 and completed the Navy Leadership Development Program in 1991. After completing his military requirements in 1995, Tom worked for eight months at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Sioux City, IA, where he was in charge of the Outreach Program of the Biomedical Department. In this position, Tom was responsible the service and the preventative maintenance of medical equipment at several off-site clinics and member hospitals. He started his career at Halifax Regional Medical Center in 1995.

In 1995 when they were brought in to reorganize the Biomedical Engineering Department at Halifax, Clark and Tom found a department with over \$250,000 in outside contracts. Though a very aggressive renegotiation policy, they have been able to reduce the outside contract cost by 80% with the only remaining contract in the Radiology and Clinical Laboratory Departments.

When ask what is the biggest challenge facing a two person shop, both replied that it was time and staff. In addition to managing over 2000 pieces of equipment in the hospital, they also provide support to five clinics and three Doctor's offices. In having this large of an equipment database, they have had to implemented a very aggressive PM programs that has freed them from doing unscheduled repairs. They have been able to accomplish this by having one of the best-equipped shops in the State. Both have DNI Nevada Medtester Safety Analyzers loaded with the Sentinel 32 Equipment Management program and they use Palm Pilots to make the system portable. They implemented a Barcode system for all the equipment making the PM program totally paperless. To help round out the system, they have started getting work orders thorough the hospital e-mail system. To date, they received approximately 20% of the work orders this way, freeing them to complete PMs and stat orders.

When ask what makes working at Halifax refreshing and different from other hospitals, they both replied that having a hospital that wants to get the job done right the first time and is willing to buy the test equipment needed. By utilizing the latest technology, they have been able to cut back the administrative duties associated with the job.



Clark.jpg

Clark Martin



tom.jpg

Tom Helms



group.jpg

### Product Construction.

With a CE marking, the manufacturer is wholly responsible for ensuring the product complies with the European Standard for the product category. The manufacturer may be held accountable for safety issues if someone is injured, or if they are audited by a European agency. While US and European Standards are similar in some respects, most manufacturers don't have an experienced Regulatory Engineer, or the staff and facilities needed to properly perform the tests and electrical construction evaluations. In contrast, the US system holds the licensed NRTL responsible for any safety issues, relying on our product safety professionals.

### Safety Testing vs. EMC.

Product testing can be extensive, depending on the complexity of the equipment and the requirements of the product category. Product Safety Engineers undergo years of training, especially for categories such as Medical equipment. Many products for the CE market are only tested for EMC, and may still have serious flaws with regards to electrical safety. Products tested to US or US/Canadian Standards always include evaluation and testing for electrical safety. EMC testing does not evaluate a product for electrical fire and shock hazards.

### Factory Inspections

All products Listed by US NRTL's are regularly inspected by the Laboratory to ensure the manufacturer is consistently building the product in accordance with the Listing report and the US Standards. Production Line testing is mandatory, including the proper testing methods and calibration of test equipment. If changes are made, these are evaluated by the Laboratory, require Listing Report revisions, and sometimes re-testing. With a CE product, none of this is required.

### Directory Listing and Traceability

For the US, all Certified products are "Listed" in a Laboratory Directory. This directory can be in book or electronic format, and the Laboratory is required to keep this directory updated. If a product marking or construction is questionable, an Inspector can verify the product is actually Certified by referencing the Directory of the laboratory whose Certification logo is on the product. The manufacturer is required to mark the product with the Laboratory logo, and the corresponding Listing number. With a CE product, none of this is available.

The bottom line: A CE mark on a product does not assure that it meets the minimum US safety requirements. Since the manufacturer is solely responsible for any safety evaluation or testing, this represents a potential conflict of interest. If a product does not have the Mark of an accredited US laboratory, then hospital purchasing agents, biomedical departments, contractors, and Inspectors may consider the equipment to be potentially hazardous. In these cases, it is prudent to require the equipment manufacturer or seller to contact their local NRTL for an onsite evaluation.

The Field Evaluation program allows onsite certification of equipment, provided the equipment is compliant, or can be modified to meet the defined level of electrical safety (UL/ANSI Standards). Some cord-connected equipment can even be sent directly to the testing laboratory. When selecting a test lab, make sure they have a proven track record in certification of Medical and Laboratory equipment, and a reputation for great customer service.

Gregory R. Smith  
Product Safety Project Engineer  
MET Laboratories, Inc.  
Research Triangle Park, NC  
800-321-4655

## AAMI Announces Poster Competition for 2001 Annual Conference

As part of AAMI's ongoing effort to bring new perspectives and experts to AAMI 2001 Annual Conference and Expo, Poster Sessions are being significantly expanded. The poster format offers a means of presenting ideas that may not be well suited to a classroom presentation. In addition, posters offer an opportunity for in-depth, on-one-on dialogue with experts.

Submissions are being accepted through December 15 in the following categories:

Business & Management, Technology & Support, Information Technology, Imaging, Risk Management & Regulatory Affairs, Medical Innovations & Research Track. Submissions can be made on-line at [www.aami.org](http://www.aami.org).

Benefits:

- Complimentary one-day registration, which provides admission to all educational programs that day
- Expo pass good throughout the exposition
- Registration for additional days at 25% off the regular rates
- Opportunity to gain speaking experience
- Recognition by your peers
- Eligible to win full-registration to AAMI 2002
- Digitally captured for Internet viewing in AAMI's Virtual Library
- Get published in *Biomedical Instrumentation & Technology*

Presentations will be judged according to the relevance of topic, layout, and design. The award for "Best Poster Presentation" will be announced during the Awards Luncheon. For more information about submitting a poster abstract, contact Poster Session Chair, Caroline Campbell at [cac1@mhg.edu](mailto:cac1@mhg.edu).

## Deliver more benefits to your members by joining AAMI!

Dear Biomedical Organization Officer:

By joining AAMI as a biomedical organization member, your local society can start bringing additional benefits to your members. How? AAMI has developed — and is continually working — to deliver products and information that are helpful to the local BMET. Through a biomedical organization membership, your organization would receive:

- **A free copy of *How to Establish and Maintain a Local Biomedical Organization*.** (A \$50 value) This guide comes in a handy 3-ring binder and is **packed with details** such as establishing by-laws, electing officers, setting up meetings, preparing newsletters, and raising operating funds. You'll also **find samples** of by-laws, meeting announcements, newsletters etc. to get you started.
- **Membership on the Biomedical Organizations Committee.** This committee is comprised of members of the local biomedical societies and is the voice between the local societies and AAMI. ***This is the forum for letting AAMI know what you need.*** Projects underway by this committee are Biomed World on the AAMI web site, a survey of training needs for BMETs, raising of travel funds for attending AAMI Annual Meetings, the development of a directory of U.S. schools that offer programs for biomedical technicians, and cooperative efforts with universities, such as Penn State, to support BMET education.
- **Three individual memberships in AAMI.** Your organization can choose three representatives to receive full membership benefits. This includes **access to AAMI's members-only section of the web site**, a subscription to *AAMI News* and *Biomedical Instrumentation & Technology*, and **discounts** on AAMI products and services.

(continued page 13)



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- **Free web site listings.** Your organization can post current news and events on the AAMI web site—*free of charge!*
- **Two free months of membership for your members.** When members of your organization become members of AAMI—they can receive two free months of membership. If you distribute AAMI materials at your meetings, your members will have an opportunity to benefit from AAMI membership.

AAMI wants to partner with local biomedical organizations to deliver more products and services to the BMET community; therefore, AAMI is offering the greatly reduced membership rate of \$100 to biomedical organizations who join AAMI. For this reduced rate you get all the benefits listed above (at least a \$545 value), but more importantly, you will have a direct link to AAMI so that we can facilitate communications between our organizations and help deliver products and services that would be of benefit to your members.

Please submit the enclosed membership application today and partner with AAMI so that we can meet the needs of the local BMET communities together!

Sincerely,

Christine Gilbert  
Senior Director,  
Membership & Customer Service

October 3, 2000

W. Glenn Scales  
President, NCBA  
In care of Duke University Medical Center  
DUMC Box 3661  
Durham, NC 27710-001

Dear Glenn:

We are delighted that NCBA has decided to be a partner of AAMI 2001 Conference & Expo, which is scheduled June 9-12, in Baltimore, Maryland. This letter confirms the agreement between the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) and the North Carolina Biomedical Association (NCBA).

***AAMI agrees to provide NCBA with the following:***

1. AAMI membership registration rate to NCBA members who are not AAMI members.
2. Free exhibit hall passes and invitation to the Saturday night welcome reception for NCBA members who cannot attend the meeting.
3. NCBA name and logo will appear on meeting promotional materials
4. Complimentary meeting space for a NCBA business meeting (based on availability) in conjunction with AAMI's Annual Conference.
5. NCBA booth in high traffic area.

***NCBA agrees to provide AAMI with the following:***

1. A list of NCBA members, by October 10, for purposes of verifying NCBA membership. (It will be necessary to verify NCBA membership in order to extend the AAMI member rate).
2. Assistance with marketing for AAMI 2001, which would include such things as a letter from the NCBA President inviting NCBA members to AAMI 2001, mailing lists of other Virginia medical technology organizations, distributing brochures at NCBA meetings and other relevant meetings that NCBA members attend, posting information on relevant web sites and in local hospitals, placing camera-ready ad copy (to be provided by AAMI) in NCBA's newsletter and updated mailing lists, as needed. More specific information on the marketing plan will be available in next couple of months.
3. Complimentary booth at NCBA's Fall Symposium

AAMI is pleased to have NCBA as a partner for the AAMI 2001 Annual Conference & Expo and looks forward to working with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Nycum  
Vice President, Education

Cc: John D. Hughes, Jr., MS  
Mary Frye Coker, CBET BS AASA  
Kathy Warye, AAMI

## SCHEDULE OF NCBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS FOR 2001

**January 12, 2001      Time: 10:00 A.M.**  
Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC  
Host – Glenn Scales      Phone 919 681-6638

**February 9-10, 2001      Time: 8:30 A.M.**  
Annual Retreat  
Crown Reef Resort & Convention Center  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
(See page 6 for details)

**Board Meetings are open to the NCBA Membership. Please plan to attend.**

*Website: <http://www.ncbiomedassoc.com>*

*North Carolina Biomedical Association  
6300-138 Creedmoor Road PMB 272  
Raleigh, NC 27612-6730  
Phone: (919) 688-6890*

