



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Veterans Health Administration  
Washington DC 20420**

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**March 26, 2004**

**CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER LETTER**

**MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NATIONAL MEETING**

1. The Medical Library Association (MLA) will hold its national meeting in Washington, DC, May 21 through May 26, 2004. The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will hold two meetings for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Library Network (VALNET) librarians on Tuesday, May 25, and Wednesday, May 26, 2004.
2. This year's MLA program will focus on the power of innovation and will provide programs that discuss a variety of topics including open access to electronic journals, data mining, and digital information repositories. Attendance at this conference will enable each facility's library staff to attend sessions covering a wide variety of library and information science issues.
3. The VA program on May 25 will focus on managing electronic journals, a major challenge currently facing VA health care professionals and librarians. This session features presentations by the two VA contract periodical vendors and covers issues such as: pricing, access, and licensing. On May 26, there will be a strategy and planning meeting designed to generate discussion and surface issues and innovative ideas to improve information services in the VA library community. Discussion topics include: VALNET's virtual reference pilot project, integrating access to knowledge-based information into the electronic health record, and the librarian's role in My Health<sub>e</sub>Vet. An additional informal session on held May 25, at VA Central Office, will provide opportunities to receive an orientation to the resources available in VA Central Office Library and the Employee Education Service (EES) broadcast studio, and to speak informally with VHA program officials.
4. VHA professional librarians direct the functions of the organization that is responsible for identifying, locating, analyzing, and delivering knowledge-based information to VHA health care providers. Attendance at this conference of each facility's librarian is encouraged. Facilities are responsible for registration, travel expenses, and per diem.
5. Questions may be referred to Ginny DuPont, Network Librarian, Communication Service, VHA Office of Information, VHA Central Office, at (202) 273-8522.

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Acting VHA Chief Health Informatics  
Officer

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