

**MAC/MLA 2005 ANNUAL MEETING  
ROUND TABLES  
DISCUSSION SUMMARIES**

The 2005 Mid-Atlantic Chapter Round Table Discussions were held during lunch on October 6, 2005. The participants covered eleven timely topics: AHIP; Best Practices for Electronic Reference; Collaboration/Consortia/Partnerships; Consumer Health; Go-Local Endeavors; Health Literacy; Informationist; Is Paper Passé?; Mobile Technology; Recruitment Issues; and Turf to Worth. Because of high interest, there were two tables each for Turf to Worth and Is Paper Passé? Below are summaries to some of the discussions.

**AHIP Roundtable Discussion**  
2005 MAC Annual Meeting  
October 5, 2005

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Handouts included brochures and a CD-ROM with information from mlanet.org, a Microsoft Excel file for keeping track of earned AHIP points, MLA News articles about AHIP, and other information describing the purpose of AHIP and the details of qualification.

- The Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP) is a credentialing program that recognizes individuals for active professional development. Years ago, qualified professionals were required to take a test, but now the system is point-based.
- AHIP helps track and organize professional development experiences.
- AHIP credentials help justify/validate members' qualifications and their status as information professionals.
- Members of AHIP do not have to be MLA members, but this may require paperwork for getting points for participating in a non-MLA sponsored events.
- AHIP is meant to be inclusive as opposed to exclusive and boasts 1200+ members
- Levels of Membership
  - **Provisional** – Members with less than five years of professional experience in the health information field. Provisional members are assigned mentors to monitor and support their career development

- **Members** – Members with 5 years or more professional experience and at least 50 points earned for professional accomplishment in the past 5 years.
  - **Senior** – Members with 5 years or more professional experience and at least 80 points earned for professional accomplishment in the past 5 years – at least 5 of which must be from professional organization activities. No more than 50 points may be from continuing education credits.
  - **Distinguished** – Members with 10 years or more professional experience and at least 120 points earned for professional accomplishment in the last 5 years – at least 10 of which must be from professional organization activities and at least 5 from MLA activities. No more than 50 points may be from continuing education credits.
- Members can earn points from participating in activities such as facilitating/recording at MLA round tables, attending MLA and MAC meetings, attending Webcasts, publishing, etc.
  - MLA should have a record of attendance (at MLA meetings) for all MLA-approved courses and events.
  - Due to a concentrated portfolio renewal during the 2005 year, some of the AHIP members were randomly selected by MLA to receive an additional year for Academy renewal to help the Academy evenly distribute membership in the program.
  - One can earn up to 3 points per year for up to 15 points per credentialing period (5 years) for attending meetings.
  - To be safe, applicants should send in slightly more points than required for renewal.
  - Duties required of as part of a person's normal work responsibilities do not qualify for AHIP points.
  - It was suggested that the AHIP information could be better organized on MLANET. For example, the Individual Participant Form (Form IPR), which provides an avenue for applicants to earn CE points through non-MLA- approved CE activities, is only available on the Forms page and not linked or easily identifiable from other places within the AHIP information.
  - Documentation of activities is vital: get letters of involvement detailing contributions.
  - MLA does not provide archiving for tracking officer positions and activities from past years.
  - The AHIP Credentialing Committee reviews portfolios from all over the country.
  - Potential and renewing members should make themselves available to answer questions about their documentation from the Credentialing Committee, if necessary.
  - The recommended method is to track activities and collect proof of involvement along the way, instead of waiting until the 5 years have gone by.
  - The Senior and Distinguished levels require a mixture of CE and professional organization activities.
  - Point of discussion: Are provisional members better served by working with a mentor at the same institution or by communicating with someone further away?
  - Barbara Wright volunteered to be added to the official mentor list for MAC since she is already participating in those activities.

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