



INSIDE:

Low - Tech Nuclear Fusion Device



Charles Verzi
ETBA President

President's Corner

Charles Verzi

First let me encourage everyone to attend this month's membership meeting at Johnson City Medical Center. The meeting will be held in auditorium 1 on the 7th level. The BC Group will be making a presentation about their test equipment and services that they offer. It is the second in a series of vendors of biomedical test equipment. Our March meeting featured Fluke Biomedical. These are great opportunities for us to view the latest in equipment and services that are just for us.

Big thanks for Reed Medical for sponsoring dinner at that meeting.

If you haven't noticed we have been having problems with the ETBA website. This is a problem with our ISP. We are in the process of changing vendors and ask that you bear with us during this transition. Randy has been doing a wonderful job of maintaining the site but when the vendor won't let you log on then you can't do much about the content.

At the March meeting I had a long discussion with Roxanne Brazen from Blount. She has been a supporter of the ETBA for a long time. Several years ago she assumed the duties of department director. I thought this was great because it's always good to see someone rise in the ranks and be rewarded for their hard work and efforts. But during our conversation she mentioned it would have been great to have some help during her transition. She felt a little lost at that time and had to learn the ropes without a mentor. I felt bad. I felt bad as a member of the ETBA because this is where we can really help. With all of the experience and knowledge as a group we could have been her mentor. We all make assumptions and mine was that she didn't need help. I'm sorry for this and would like to challenge the membership. We are a community of biomedical technician and I think our greatest strength is that spirit of support that a community brings. So if you find out that someone is in need of help lets get the word out. And if you need help please ask for it. We all need to take advantage of every available resource.

Another thing that came out of the March meeting is the need of the ETBA to sponsor more educational events. We are listening. So we are going to start with an all day best practice meeting. Hopefully we can make this an annual event. It is going to be scheduled after the AAMI meeting so look for the announcement. If you have never attended one of these events this is a round table with different leaders taking time to talk about many aspects of our jobs. So I would like to encourage anyone that would like to participate by either presenting or attending to suggest different topics. Once the topics are set we will schedule the meeting and release the agenda. And this is in no way a meeting for just managers. It would be great if we can get a representative from every local hospital to attend and share their experiences with the group.

If you cannot attend the next meeting I hope that you have a wonderful and very safe summer.

Mini Fusion Device

Randy Bueckman

I ran across this in an article in USA today in April. I am always looking for information that may affect our careers or technology that may be coming in the future. This one really caught my eye because it is such a simple and inexpensive technology that could be easily adapted into the medical field.

First, a definition of Nuclear Fusion may be appropriate. Nuclear fusion forges a single heavy atom out of two lighter ones, releasing energy and neutrons. A simple video of the process can be found at <http://www.jet.efda.org/pages/content/fusion1.html>.

While the energy released may have benefits to the medical field, the neutron generation is what is most likely to be developed. Current neutron generators require tritium (a radioactive form of Hydrogen) and high voltage. This new discovery uses a \$50.00 pyro-electric crystal that is cooled. As it warms back up to room temperature it generates an electric field that reacts with Deuterium (a heavy form of hydrogen gas). The reaction causes the atoms to slam into a target fusing the atoms and releasing neutrons. Neutrons easily pass through matter.

May 16, 2006

6:30 PM

**ETBA Membership Meeting at
Johnson City Medical Center**

www.msha.com

Mike Clotfelter, Vice President - Business Development, BC Group International, Inc. Will be presenting at this meeting on the 16th. The meeting will be in auditorium 1 on the 7th level of Johnson City Medical Center. Hope to see you there!



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<http://www.etbiomed.org>

Inside:

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