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Subject: Lightning Data Center minutes - March 9, 2001

Lightning Data Center  
St. Anthony Hospital  
Minutes  
March 9, 2001

Quote of the Month:

"I am particularly keen on the old black-and-white films that BBC2 often show at this time. Well, that particular afternoon, I struck gold. It was the 1958 classic crime drama, Gideon of Scotland Yard, directed by John Ford and starring the late and great Jack Hawkins as the eponymous detective. When I switched on, Gideon was being held at gun point by the baddie in a room in some posh country house. The dialogue went like this:

Gideon: If you were fool enough to fire that gun....Baddie: 'Why do you use the subjunctive?'  
An absolute classic piece of dialogue!"

David Jack, Sublimely Subjunctive, Lancet 2001 Vol.357

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:15 pm.
2. Members present: Anderson, Becker, Boas, Burroughs, Cherington, Foley, Hislip, Hodge, Keen, G Larson, R Larson, Lines, McDonald, McDonough, Molen Moore, Mouchantat, Olson, Paton, Roberts, Sellon, Staelin, Wachtel, Wallin, Yarnell.
3. I brought two articles (abstracted in part here) that were recently brought to my attention. Phil Krider sent the first article, and Thomas Peterson gave me the second one.
  - a.)Anderson RB. Does a Fifth Mechanism Exist to Explain Lightning Injuries?  
IEEE Engineering in Med Biol 2001 pp 105-112.

"Lightning struck a supporting steel pole of a tent in which 26 schoolgirls, two adult supervisors, and seven dogs were sleeping. There were injuries to 23 girls, four of which were fatal, and four of the dogs died....speculation of a fifth mechanism; namely, that the bodies could be charged sufficiently during the lightning leader process to cause upward streamers to be initiated from them. When the leader finally reaches ground, these streamers would be discharged through the bodies, and the resultant current might well be sufficient to cause injuries."

b.)Peterson TF. Acquisition and Display of Local Geomagnetic and Atmospheric

Data, in Synchronism with Biological and Physicochemical Measurements.  
Biophysics 1998;43:663-668.

"The following hypothesis to explain biogeomagnetic effects is proposed:

1. That variation in Earth's magnetic field cause differences in the concentrations of electric charge at the surface of the Earth.
2. That these charge concentrations change with time...
3. That concentration of charge creates a local 'earth ground' potential...

4. That change in the ground potential external to each living cell causes a difference in intercellular fluid.
5. That these changes in membrane potentials affect the rates of ion and electron transfer across cell membranes and through ion channels.

4. Ken Langford recommended the following web site on EMF: [microwavenews.com](http://microwavenews.com).

5. Howard Wachtel announced that Nobel Prize winner Dr. Eric Kandel will be visiting the University of Colorado Boulder campus next month. He will be giving two presentations:

Tuesday, April 10, 2001 5 to 6 pm MCDB Auditorium MCDB 2B70 Neuroscience Seminar "Molecular Biology of Memory: A Dialogue Between Genes and Synapses"

Wednesday, April 11, 2001 8 to 9 pm Gamow Memorial Lecture Macky Auditorium. "The Past, the Future, and the Biology of Memory Storage."

6. Steve Wallin was our guest speaker. He gave an outstanding presentation entitled, "From cell phones to lightning: Electrical charges, Never Silent: Part A."

The discussion that accompanied Steve's lecture included many issues including: health risks (if any) of MRI, EMF, RF; electroporation (Dr. Raphael Lee's term); delayed syndromes associated with lightning and electrical trauma.

Steve's colleague, Dr. Carolyn Claubenslee, will present Part B of this topic at a later meeting (probably June).

7. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC. They reflect the comments of members present.

8. Our next meeting will be held in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital at 11:30 am on Friday, April 13, 2001.

Peter Kummerfeldt will be our speaker. His topic will deal with survival techniques in the wilderness and the Colorado outdoors. Peter will provide us with the exact title that we plan to send out with a reminder before the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cherington, MD  
Chair, Scientific Committee  
Lightning Data Center