

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER
MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 2002
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL, DENVER, CO

Quote of the Month:

"There is nothing so annoying as to have two people talking when you're busy interrupting."

Mark Twain

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:15 pm.
2. Member present: Benson, Bergschneider, Boyle, Bradley, Cherington, Collier, Cochran L, Cochran T, Foley, Glancy, Kithil, Kozak, Larson, London, Maas David, Maas Donald, Mains, McDonough, Molen, Nichols, Olsen, Olson, Resignolo, Ross, Russon, Sherman, Staelin, Terrill, Yarnell.
3. I brought the following article from the literature (abstracted in part here):
 - a.) Jonas L, Fulda G, Nizze H. Detection of gold particles in the neck skin after lightning stroke with evaporation of an ornamental chain. *Ultrastructural Pathology* 2002;16:153-9.

"The stroke caused a partial evaporation of a gold ornamental chain on the neck, resulting in a tattoo of the neck skin. A biopsy of the skin 6 months after the event showed the accumulation of gold particles of different size in the dermis down to the subcutaneous fatty tissue."
4. Phil Yarnell introduced one of his patients who was struck by lightning. The patient is a 40 year old postal carrier who was struck by lightning on August 5 during while working. He was inserting a key into a mailbox. The patient agreed to return at a future LDC meeting when there is more time for discussion of to case.
5. Charles Mains reported on plans to develop several areas of direction for LDC. These areas include: research, education on lightning safety, clinical panels, grants and funding, marketing. Members of LDC will meet with Charles and members of the St. Anthony Hospital Administration prior to our next meeting.
6. Rich Kithil announced the National Lightning Safety Institutes 2002 Lightning Safety Awards. NLSI provides awards to "those individuals who provide leadership in lightning safety issues and who serve as role models for others. This year's Awards are in several categories:

- a. Medicine Award - Michael Cherington, MD, Founder of LDC, Denver, CO
- b. Medicine Award - Mary Ann Cooper, MD, University of Illinois at Chicago
- c. Individual (USA) Award - Ron Holle, Tucson Arizona
- d. Individual (International Award) - Aage E. Pederson, PhD, Former Asc Prof.
TU Denmark
- e. US Government (Individual) Award John Tobias, PhD, US Army
Communications Electronics Command

I was honored that Rich presented my Award to me at today's meeting.

I suggest persons interested in learning more about these Awards and other lightning matters check NLSI's excellent website: www.lightningsafety.com
<<http://www.lightningsafety.com>>

Rich distributed CDs to all present. The CD is entitled: "Lightning Safety for People and for Structures."

8. Sheryl Olson reported a patient who was struck by lightning earlier this year. He was a 13 year old boy who was standing by a lake. CPR was administered. At the hospital he was intubated. He experience blurred vision for 24 hours.
9. Our main presentation was superb: "Some Simple Physical Principles of Lightning - A Brief Discussion of Basic Principles with Demonstrations Using a Homemade Van de Graaff Generator" by Dave Benson and Dick Burrows.
10. These minutes do not represent official positions of Lightning Data Center. They reflect the comments of members present.
11. Next meeting: Friday, November 8, 2002 at 11:30 am in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital. Our speakers will be David Boyle and David Maas. Their topic: Nikola Tesla.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cherington, MD