

# Report on the Computer Software Contest at the 39th Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology

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We held another computer software contest at the 39th Congress of the JSA. The aim and procedure were similar to those for the first contest in 1991. Twenty-four softwares entered the contest; the machines are divided approximately two to one ratio between NEC PC9801 series and Macintosh. We received donations of 2 million yen worth of instruments and goods for prizes plus some cash. They were given away to those who made entries for the contest.

Most of these programs have been registered as free softwares at various computer networks. A plan is under way to distribute them in diskette forms. (Key words: free softwares, JSA, Computer network)

(Suwa K, Watanabe R, Nishi S, et al.: Report on the computer software contest at the 39th congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology. *J Anesth* 7: 124-126, 1993)

We held another computer software contest at the 39th Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology, held in Fukuoka, in April, 1992. This is a brief report of this contest from the member of the executive committee. The aim and procedures have been explained in the previous report<sup>1</sup>. This report will be limited only to what was different from that of the previous year.

For the 39th Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology, we again negotiated with the President and the Organizing Committee of the Congress

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*Executive Committee of the Software Contest  
at the 39th Congress of the Japan Society of  
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and decided to hold another software contest. The rules and procedures for the contest were modified slightly, in accordance with the experience in the previous year.

1. The softwares should be submitted to the Committee before the Congress so as not to delay the distribution after the contest.

2. The source program need not be supplied. Only the execute file and the documentation are required.

We recruited another member (RW) to the Executive Committee. The Committee not only prepared and held the contest, but functioned as the judging Committee. No separate judging Committee was formed.

## Result

We received 24 entries for the con-

**Table 1.** The titles and authors of the top 5 prizes  
(the titles translated from Japanese by the authors of this paper)

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Grand Prize

Uchida O et al. Department of Anesthesiology, National Circulatory Disease Center. A Microbubble Detection System by Digitizing Transesophageal Echocardiogram.

Prizes for excellence

Nitta K et al. Department of Anesthesia, Uwajima City Hospital.

Ten thousand titles from various Japanese Anesthesia and/or related Journals.

Watanabe R et al. Department of Anesthesia, Fukuoka University Medical School. A method of Processing Authors and titles for the 39th Congress of JSA.

Sanuki M et al. Department of Anesthesia, Hiroshima University School of Medicine. Anesthesia Memo on Macintosh Hypercard.

Hagihira S et al. Department of Anesthesia, Kansai Labor Injury Hospital. Anesthesia Information and Tutorial System for Bed-side Use.

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test. Out of these 24, 14 are for computers of NEC PC9801 series, 6 are for Macintosh, one is for NEC and Macintosh, one is for NEC, Macintosh and IBM-compatible, and one for UNIX-based Hewlett-Packard Engineering Work Station. Another entry is a pure set of data, consisting of approximately ten thousand Japanese anesthesia literature titles. Number of the total co-workers for all these softwares are 83.

We received donations from various sources some cash plus 2 million yen worth of instruments and goods for prizes. Compared to the previous contest, the donations consisted less of medical equipments and more of computer hardwares and of softwares, utilities and CD-ROM's.

The grand prize was won by Dr. Uchida and others to their "A Microbubble Detection System by Digitizing Transesophageal Echocardiogram" (the title translated by the authors of this paper). It analyzes and quantitates the images of air bubbles of transesophageal ultrasonic instrument. The system consists of an ordi-

nary NEC 9801 computer and a transesophageal ultrasonic instrument, plus an inexpensive graphic board. The authors received a 32-bit note-type computer with a large harddisk drive as the prize. The authors and titles of the other four top prizes were listed in table 1. All entries received some prizes.

### Discussion

While we have no data substantiating such statements, we believe that the judging committee this year made the judgment more on the quality of the softwares themselves, and were less influenced by the presentation. It was partly because all softwares were presented more skillfully than last year, and partly because the member of the committee were more experienced. The judging committee also had some preliminary information of the softwares via various routes.

All of these softwares have been registered as free softwares at various networks. We plan to hold a similar contest for the next Congress.

It is our understanding that the Or-

ganizing Committee of the 11th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists, to be held in Sydney in 1996, is giving serious thoughts of holding an international version of such a contest. In the meantime, we will welcome entries from abroad to this contest.

We maintain a general standard policy that the programs entered shall be distributed freely with all the informations available to the user. We will of course welcome overseas companies to sponsor this contest. An appropriate acknowledgment will be made.

**Acknowledgments:** We wish to acknowledge the President Kenjiro Dan and the Executive staff of the 39th Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology for making possible to hold this contest. We also wish to acknowledge the following companies who generously made donations for enabling this contest and supplying prizes for the contest. Their English Names were translated somewhat arbitrarily by the authors from their Japanese names.

#### *Sponsoring companies*

Chugai Publishing Company, Inc.; Chest-Bird, Inc.; Ciba-Corning Diagnostics, Inc.; Dainabott Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; Excerpta

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#### **References**

1. Suwa K, Miyasaka K, Tanaka Y, et al: Report on the Computer<sup>o</sup> Software Contest at 38th Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology. *J Anesth* 5:441-444, 1991