

The others

Report on the computer software contest at the Forty-First Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology

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Key words: Free software—JSA—CD-ROM—copyright

Introduction

We held another computer software contest at the Forty-First Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology (JSA), held in Tokyo in April, 1994. This is a brief report of report this contest from a member of the executive committee. The aim and procedures have been explained in the previous three reports [1-3]. This report will only cover items differing from the previous three events.

We recruited another member (TU) to the Executive Committee. Katsuyuki Miyasaka, who had been active in this committee for the last three events has been replaced by another (YK) with the recommendation of the former.

Results

We received 24 entries for the contest. Out of these 24, 7 are for computers on MS-DOS (mainly the NEC PC-9801 series), 11 are for the Macintosh, 5 are for MS-Windows, and 1 for both Macintosh and MS-Windows. The total number of co-workers for all 24 programs was 82.

We received donations from various sources—some cash plus three-million-yen worth of instruments and goods for prizes. Examples of prizes were: a set of noninvasive continuous blood pressure monitoring system with pressure wave-form generation capability, a pulse-oximeter, a desk-top computer, two notebook PCs and three hand-held computers.

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Received for publication on May 9, 1994; accepted on June 21, 1994

The grand prize was withheld again this year because no entry reached the high standard of quality of the first 2 years.

The authors and titles of the top six prizes for excellence, the prize for young researcher, and the two special prizes are listed in Table 1. All entries were awarded prizes. All software are announced as free software (freeware) except the two explained in the Discussion.

The attendees and audience members requested on-site use and a personal demonstration of the software; they also requested on-site copying of the software. The committee made efforts to meet these requests.

Discussion

The number of entries increased substantially this year over the previous 3 years. We interpret this to indicate that the contest is now gaining popularity among the members of the Society.

The two special prizes deserve some comment. Both were regarded as excellent to outstanding, even provocative. The one by Nagata ("CD-ROM from the Sixth Geriatric Anesthesia Society Meeting") is the record of a small meeting. It was arranged in the form of a CD-ROM. It contains all slides, partial recording of oral presentations, static images of individual speakers, and the entire text of the speeches. Superficially, it resembles a video recording, yet it makes full use of the capabilities of multi-media personal computers. In spite of its very innovative nature and its extremely high quality, however, the grand prize was not awarded to this software. This CD-ROM could not be distributed freely because the copyright, held by the meeting from which the CD-ROM was produced, prohibited its free distribution.

The other by Gamou (Resident Manual Prepared Using Software for an Electronic Book—) is an elec-

Table 1. The authors and titles of the top 6 prizes, the prize for young researchers, and the additional 2 special prizes. These titles were translated from Japanese by the authors of this paper

Grand Prize: Withheld

Prizes for Excellence

Katayama K et al. Dept of Anesthesiology, Teine-Keijinkai Hospital. Electronic References for Pediatric Care of Anesthesia and ICU.

Nishimura H et al. Department of Neurosurg, Neurosurgical Res Center Akita Prefecture. Data Correction Software Applicable for Various Instruments.

Oohashi Y et al. Dept of Anesthesiology, National Cardiovascular Center. Electronic References for Anesthetic Care of Congenital Heart Diseases.

Sanuki M et al. Dept of Anesthesia, Hiroshima University School of Medicine. Mackintosh Viewer for Medical Personnel

Tanaka Y Dept of Anesthesia, Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto Prefectural University. Program for Clever Scheduling of Daily Anesthesia.

Uchida O et al. Dept of Anesthesiology, National Cardiovascular Center. Program for Anesthesia Call Scheduling.

Prize for Young Researchers

Hayashi K Dept of Anesth, Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto Prefectural University. Simulation of Myocardial Action Potentials.

Special Prizes

Gamou M et al. Dept of Anesthesiology, Faculty of Medicine, Yokohama Metropolitan University. Resident Manual Prepared Using Software for an Electronic Book.

Nagata S et al. Dept of Anesthesiology, Tokyo Metropolitan Geriatric Inst. CD-ROM from the Sixth Geriatric Anesthesia Society Meeting.

tronic textbook of anesthesia. It contains many figures which are essential for a textbook of this nature. Again no provision for distribution is available mainly because of its technical difficulty.

The size of the programs has grown markedly again this year over previous years. Until 2 years ago, they were each presented on a single floppy diskette. Last year, we received two entries on the order of 10 megabytes for the first time. This year, one entry in a form of a CD-ROM occupies 340 Megabytes. Another in a form of an electronic book, or 8 cm CD occupies 100 Megabytes. Their distribution via electronic mail or in diskette format, which was already considered unrealistic, is impossible for some of the software. We have been considering making a CD-ROM from these software, but the scheduling is difficult.

It has already been arranged that both the Forty-Second (1995) and the Forty-Third (1996) Congresses

of the JSA are to hold similar software contests. An official announcement has been made stating that we will welcome entries from abroad for the session in 1995. The English version of the OS for both Macintosh and MS-Windows will be available if we receive entries which require them.

For the contest, we maintain a general policy that the programs entered shall be distributed free with all the supporting information available to the user. Under this proviso we welcome entries from abroad to these contests.

Acknowledgments. We wish to thank President Keisuke Amaha and the Executive Staff of the Forty-First Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology for making this contest possible. We also wish to acknowledge the following companies who generously made donations to support this contest and supplied prizes for the contest. Their English Names were translated somewhat arbitrarily by the authors from their Japanese names.

Sponsoring companies (in alphabetical order)

Apple Computer, Inc; Ciba-Corning Diagnostics, Inc.; Corin Electronics, Inc.;
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 Elsevier Science Japan, Inc.; Fuji R-C, Inc.; Hoechst-Japan, Inc.;
 Igaku Shoin, Inc.; Kayaku Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.;
 Kamekura Industry, Software Division; Kyoudou Oxygen Company, Inc.;
 Kodama Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; Mitsubishi Trade Co., Inc.;
 Mochida Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; Nellcor-CMI, Inc.;
 Nihon Kohden Corporation, Ltd; Nikken-Chemical Company, Inc.;
 Nippon Organon, Inc.; Nippon Upjohn, INC.; Nissan-Chemical Industry, Inc.;
 Ohmeda Japan, Ltd.; Ohtsuka Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.;
 Ono Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; Plat-"home", Inc.;
 Radiometer Trading K.K.; Shionogi Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.;
 Softec Softwares, Inc.; TBS-Britannica, Inc.; Terumo Japan, Inc.;
 Tokibo Trading, Inc.; and Yokogawa-Hewlett-Packard, Inc.

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