It’s hard to believe that SNUG 2016 is already behind us. It truly has been a marathon … not a sprint!

As we close the books on this chapter and start gearing up for SNUG 2017 (SNUG’s 25th anniversary) conference planning, we wanted to share with you some of our successes from our most recent annual conference and meeting.

SNUG 2016—our 24th annual Healthcare Information Technology Summit—was a success!

Here are a few conference highlights:

New for SNUG 2016: Featured Speakers! This year, we were so fortunate that not one, but two, laboratory leaders were able to join us and present feature sessions on Wednesday. These educational opportunities helped attendees get the most from their time at the annual SNUG conference and increase their return on investment.

Jane M. Hermansen, MBA, MT(ASCP), Network and Outreach Development Manager, Mayo Medical Laboratories / President-Elect, CLMA presented two special one-hour presentations. Special thanks to Jane for presenting these informative sessions!

R. Bruce Wellman, MD, Pathologist/Medical Director, Carle Physician Group/Carle Foundation Hospital, and SueAnn Hedrick, MT, LIS Technical Specialist, Laboratory and Pathology Services, Carle Foundation Hospital, presented a special one-hour session. Special thanks to Dr. Wellman and SueAnn for presenting this informative session!

Keynote Speaker, Robyn Benincasa SNUG 2016 was all about the Olympic spirit of teamwork, and our keynote speaker inspired us with her riveting presentation on “extreme teamwork” during the opening session. A world-champion eco challenge adventure racer and founder of Project Athena, Robyn shared her secrets for creating Human Synergy—or as she puts it, “that magic that allows groups of ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things together.”

SNUG 2016 Presentation Breakdown SCC users were encouraged to present, and of the 63 total sessions, 28 were presented by SCC staff, 23 were presented by SCC users, six were joint SNUG/SCC presentations, and seven were presented by SNUG Platinum vendors. Of the 63 total sessions, 16 were unique, 18 were repeats, two were round-table sessions, and three were featured speakers.
**SNUG 2016 Attendance**  This year, 126 attendees representing 59 different SCC client sites attended the annual conference. There were 43 first-time attendees, a record number! Special networking activities, such as the first-time attendee breakfast, helped break the ice and welcome them.

**Brazilian theme for the Vendor Reception**  As a nod to the location of the 2016 Summer Olympics—Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—we gave the vendor reception a Brazilian vibe with Caribbean-inspired cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. Attendees had an opportunity to win prizes and socialize with the SNUG exhibitors and sponsors who help make the conference possible each year.

**2nd annual Vendor “After Party”: Rio Carnival!**
SNUG Platinum vendors, STS—Software Testing Solutions and S&P Consultants, know that we love to dance, and they came through for us in a big way!

STS and S&P joined forces and hosted a Rio Carnival–themed “After Party” that followed the vendor reception. They supplied masks and beads to get us in a Carnival mood, and we continued the party until late in the evening as we danced the night away.

**SCC’s annual SNUG Appreciation Banquet**
SNUG Diamond sponsor, SCC Soft Computer, continued their annual tradition and hosted an elegant “black and gold” banquet Wednesday evening in keeping with the Olympics conference theme with a nod to the location of the first Modern Olympics Games, which were held in Athens, Greece, in April 1896.

The annual SCC SNUG Appreciation Banquet is a wonderful opportunity for SNUG attendees to socialize and network with each other and their SCC support team in a relaxed setting.

After the social hour, the newly-elected SNUG 2016/2017 SNUG Executive Board and Annual Committee was introduced. We enjoyed a fabulous dinner and dessert. The party continued until late in the evening as we danced the night away for a second night in a row!

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**SNUG Member / Conference Attendee Testimonials**

**Don’t just take our word for it!**

*We couldn’t have said it any better than these active SNUG members! Your organization could be the next SNUG conference success story!*

As a result of SNUG 2016, our organization was able to use learned information to directly impact calculations and RBS setup in SoftLab. We found a few calculations to update and have added a step for testing new calculations going forward.

Perhaps of largest impact was learning that our prospective design for an upcoming test utilization project (using RBS rules for duplicate test ordering) may not be the best approach for our workflow—saving us time, energy, and potential undue stress over the course of the project.

Nikki Van Ingen, MSA, MT(ASCP)
Manager, Lab Informatics and Client Services
Holland Hospital
SNUG Treasurer

I have been lucky enough to attend the SNUG conference almost every year. I always come back with a lot of new information – information that is very useful to our LIS team and/or laboratory staff.

Every year I learn or hear something that makes me say ‘well, that piece of information alone was worth the cost of the conference’ and it’s funny, because I hear others saying the same thing!

Jayme Osborn, MT (ASCP)
LIS Manager
Akron Children’s Hospital
2006/2007 SNUG President
SNUG Elections

Wednesday morning, April 20, during the annual SNUG business meeting at the annual conference, SNUG members cast their ballots and elected the 2016/2017 SNUG Executive Board.

The incoming SNUG Executive Board was introduced Wednesday evening at SCC’s annual SNUG Appreciation Banquet.

You can find the contact information for the 2016/2017 SNUG Executive Board on SNUG’s website under the Contacts tab http://snuginconline.org/snugboard.html.

We have an exciting year ahead! We welcome your suggestions, questions, ideas, and comments.

I'm so pleased to introduce the 2016/2017 SNUG Executive Board and Annual Planning Committee.

2016/2017 SNUG Executive Board

- **SNUG Past President**
  - Melinda Doherty, Baylor Scott and White Health

- **SNUG President**
  - Corbin Ellsaesser, Christiana Care Health System

- **SNUG Vice President**
  - Debbie Czarnecki, NorDx—MaineHealth

- **SNUG Secretary**
  - Steve Pleschourt, Mayo Clinic

- **SNUG Treasurer**
  - Nikki Van Ingen, Holland Hospital

- **SNUG Assistant Secretary**
  - Kenneth Singleton, Sparrow Health System

- **SNUG Assistant Treasurer**
  - Shawna Andriese, Sparrow Health System

- **SNUG Membership Chairman**
  - Brenda Duff, Orange Regional Medical Center

- **SNUG SIG Coordinator**
  - Sharon Black, Texas Health North Point Laboratory

- **SNUG Customer Service Coordinator**
  - JoAnn Logue O’Malley, Beaumont Health

- **SNUG Board Member**
  - Chung-Hee Row, National Institutes of Health

- **SNUG Auxiliary Board Member**
  - Earle Barnes, National Institutes of Health

2016/2017 Annual Planning Committee

- **SNUG Annual Planning Chair**
  - Melinda Doherty, Baylor Scott and White Health

- **Planning Committee Member**
  - Melissa Craft, St. Francis Medical Center

- **Planning Committee Member**
  - Laura Jones, River Oaks Hospital

- **Planning Committee Member**
  - Tim Fink, National Institutes of Health

- **Planning Committee Member**
  - Tony Barnes, National Institutes of Health

Special Thanks to our 2016 sponsors, SNUG’s “Partners in Innovation”

The exhibitors and sponsors help make SNUG’s annual conference possible and give attendees an opportunity to learn more about third-party tools that can help boost efficiency.

**DIAMOND**
- SCC Soft Computer

**PLATINUM**
- American Proficiency Institute
- BC Solutions
- Informs
- RBC Technologies
- RCM Enterprise Services
- STS | Software Testing Solutions
- S&P Consultants
- Validation Partners
- Voicebrook

**GOLD**
- Oracle
- Zebra Technologies

**SILVER**
- ANX
- AvNet
- Impulse Healthcare Solutions
- Telcor

**BRONZE**
- Elkay

The SNUG 2016 Vendor Game
Go for the Gold!

During the Vendor Fair on Tuesday, attendees visited each vendor and received a stamp on the vendor’s gold medal.

At the Vendor Reception that evening, attendees turned in their completed game cards to be entered into drawings for fabulous prizes as they networked with SNUG sponsors and fellow attendees.
SNUG 2017: Week of May 21st

Plans are underway for SNUG 2017, SNUG’s 25th annual healthcare information technology summit.

Preliminary details will be included with your membership mailer during Q4 2016.

The SNUG Executive Board is counting on knowledgeable and articulate subject matter experts like you who are willing to share their insights and real-world experience with their peers and fellow SCC users.

If you have a lesson learned, best practice, or a tip or trick that has helped increase your department’s productivity, we hope you’ll consider sharing your knowledge and experience by presenting a poster or educational session at SNUG 2017.

Watch for updates on www.snuginconline.org.

SNUG 2017 Venue*

We’ll be returning to the Sheraton Sand Key Resort on spectacular Clearwater Beach for SNUG’s 25th annual conference, meeting, and expo.

SNUG 2017 CONFERENCE HOTEL RATE:
The Sheraton is offering us a block of rooms at the following conference hotel rate.*

1 Bedroom (1 – 2 persons): $189.00

*Rate is per night (standard room), plus 13% tax.

This special SNUG conference attendee rate expires at 5:00 P.M. EDT on Thursday, April 20, 2017.

ADVANTAGES TO STAYING IN THE CONFERENCE HOTEL:
In addition to the convenience of staying at the conference site, you’ll save money on ground transportation. Once you’re there, you have everything you need. And, if we book enough rooms, SNUG gets the conference space FREE, which helps us control costs. We pass on the savings to you!

SNUG 2017 Conference Rates and Membership Fee†
The conference rates for SNUG 2017 will be the same as the 2016 rate. (This rate has been unchanged since 2008.)

To help you with budgeting for 2017, here are the rates for SNUG 2017† (an informational mailer will be sent in early 2017):

†All fees listed are in U.S. dollars and are paid to SNUG, Inc.

SNUG 2017 CONFERENCE FEES (Per Attendee)

Plan your attendance at the 2017 SNUG Healthcare Information Technology Summit to fit your schedule. The best value is the full conference rate for SNUG members; however, if you’re only able to attend for one or two days, we’ve provided rates to help defray costs.

Attend the full conference or choose daily rates.

FULL CONFERENCE

$375 ................................................. SNUG Members
$1,000 ................................................. Non-members

DAILY RATES

$150 (one day) .................................... SNUG Members
$300 (two days) ................................ SNUG Members
$250 (one day) .................................... Non-members
$500 (two days) ................................... Non-members

ANNUAL SNUG MEMBERSHIP FEE‡:
(Per Soft Production Environment)

$350 .............................................. per Calendar Year

‡2017 SNUG membership drive begins in fourth quarter.

For your scheduling purposes, this will be the same venue for SNUG 2018 (week of May 20th) and SNUG 2019 (week of May 19th).