

Report on the computer software contest at the 40th congress of the Japan society of anesthesiology

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We held yet another Computer Software Contest at the 40th Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology, which took place in Morioka in April, 1993. This is a brief report of this contest from a member of the executive committee. The aim and procedures have been explained in the previous two reports [1,2]. This report will be limited to aspects of this event that differed from the previous two events.

Twelve programs were entered in the contest. Out of these 12, 4 are for computers of the NEC PC9801 series, 5 are for Macintosh, 2 are for both PC9801 and IBM-compatibles, and one is for PC9801, IBM-compatibles, and Macintosh. The number people cooperating on the development of these 12 programs was 48.

The grand prize was withheld this year, because no entry reached the high standard of quality of the previous two years.

The authors and titles of the top four prizes for excellence and of the two special prizes are listed in Table 1.

We distributed questionnaires to the audiences asking their opinions of this contest and of computers in general. Various requests were made from the audiences. On-site use and on-site copying of the software were eagerly requested.

We observed a definite change in the types of computers used. Now the Macintosh has the largest share of entries, and IBM compatibles, which had been virtually nonexistent in this country because of the language barrier, are beginning to appear with their special operating system (DOS/V), which handles Japanese characters.

The two special prizes need explanation. Both were regarded as "excellent" to "outstanding." The program by O. Uchida et al. combines detailed tutorials on meth-

ods and remarks on anesthesia, figures of surgical correction, and the graphical presentation of hemodynamic changes before and after surgery. The idea and the method was graded as "superb," but the software itself was considered far from completion. The other by Katayama was graded even higher. It was almost in its completed form, but the grand prize was not awarded because its huge size (more than 8 megabytes in a partially compressed form) made it difficult to distribute to the members of the Society.

The size of programs has grown substantially this year. Two of them were in the vicinity of 10 megabytes. Their distribution via electronic mail or in diskette format is now quite unrealistic. We have begun to discuss the possibility of distributing all of the free software of the last three contests on CD-ROM.

It has already been arranged that both the 41st (1994) and the 42nd (1995) Congresses of the JSA are to hold similar software contests. With 3 years of experience, and with Macintosh and IBM-compatibles becoming increasingly popular in Japan, we are now considerably closer to the international environment than we were a few years ago. For the contest, we maintain a general standard policy that the programs entered shall be distributed free with all the supporting documentation available to the user. Under these conditions, we welcome entries from abroad to these contests.

We were informed that the Organizing Committee of the 11th World Congress of Anaesthesiologists, to be held in Sydney in 1996, is giving serious thought to holding an international version of this contest.

Acknowledgments. We wish to acknowledge the President Reiji Wakusawa and the Executive staff of the 40th Congress of the Japan Society of Anesthesiology for making this contest possible. We also wish to acknowledge the following companies who generously made donations for enabling this contest and for supplying prizes for the contest. Their English names were trans-

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Received for publication on May 14, 1993; accepted on November 22, 1993

Table 1. Titles and authors of the top 4 prizes and of the additional 2 special prizes. (Titles translated from Japanese by the authors of this paper)

Grand Prize: withheld

Prizes for Excellence

Nishimura H et al.

Department of Neurosurgery, Neurosurgical Research Center, Akita Prefecture
Application Manager on MC (Matrix Calculator)

Suwa K

Department of Anesthesia, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tokyo
Anesthesia Textbook on Electronic Media

Sanuki M et al.

Department of Anesthesia, Hiroshima University School of Medicine
Entry into Database of all Forms of Medical References

Harada K et al.

Department of Anesthesia, Iwate Medical School
A Simple Anesthesia Patient Database

Prize for Visualization

Katayama K et al.

Department of Anesthesiology, Teine-Keijinkai Hospital
Simulation of Bronchoscopic Images Using Digitally Recorded Data

Prize for Originality

Uchida O et al.

Department of Anesthesiology, National Cardiovascular Center
Electronic References for Anesthetic Care of Congenital Heart Diseases

lated somewhat arbitrarily by the authors from their Japanese names. Sponsoring companies (in alphabetical order): Ciba-Corning Diagnostics, Inc.; Dainabot Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; Excerpta Medica, Inc.; Fuji-Xerox, Inc, Morioka Branch; Fuji R-C, Inc.; Daidou-Hokusan Trading Co, Inc.; Hoechst-Japan, Inc.; ICI Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; Kayaku Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; Katena Software, Inc.; Kyodo Oxygen Company, Inc.; Kyowa-Fermentation Company, Inc.; Midori Juji Pharmaceutical Company, Ltd.; Mochida Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; NEC-San'ei Equipment, Inc.; Nihon-Digital Equipment Corporation, Inc.; Nihon Kohden Corporation; Nihon-Seiyaku Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; Nikken-Chemical Company, Inc.; Nissan-Chemical Industry, Inc.; Ohmeda & NEC San-ei, Ltd.; Ono Pharmaceutical

Company, Inc.; Radiometer Trading K.K.; Tanabe Pharmaceutical Company, Inc.; TBS-Britanica, Inc.; Terumo Japan, Inc.; Tokibo, Inc.; Yokogawa-Hewlett-Packard, Inc.. There was yet another company which donated a gas monitoring system; it wished to remain anonymous.

References

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