WORKSHOP

Cyberinfrastructure for Public Health Impact: Challenges and Opportunities for Practitioners and Researchers

Thomas A. Horan, William Chismar, Brad Hesse, Abdul Shaikh, Sue S. Feldman, and Catherine Staes

This half-day workshop will introduce concepts and developments relevant to a rapidly growing area of Health IT known as Public Health Informatics. The workshop will address challenges and opportunities relating to citizens participation in creating data, utilizing data, and enacting data for public health.

Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, US Health and Human Services, said, “People in communities can actually improve the quality of their healthcare and their public health systems if they just have the information to do it—to make it happen.” She continued, “Our national health data constitute a precious resource that we are paying billions to assemble, but then too often wasting...When information sits on the shelves of government offices, it is underperforming. We need to bring these data alive.”

Bringing together policymakers, public health practitioners, and researchers, this workshop will feature four panel discussions. The first panel, a discussion emphasizes collaborating for data-sharing, communicating, and utilizing health-related data for empowering communities followed by a showcase of innovative applications – finalists of the National Cancer Institute’s CHDI Developer Challenge that integrate and visualize publically available data for cancer prevention and control. The third panel, a discussion on broader applications of health-related data for improving healthcare quality and outcomes, will be followed by three pioneering examples of information use for public health impact. The session will conclude with an opportunity for HICSS membership to discuss potential priority areas for research on presenting and communicating data for public health impact.

Thomas A. Horan (tom.horan@cgu.edu) Tom Horan, PhD, is Director of the Kay Center for E-Health Research and Associate Professor of Information Systems at Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California. Dr. Horan has 25 years of research experience, specializing in the design and assessment of electronic health systems at the Federal, State and local levels.

William Chismar (chismar@hawaii.edu) Bill Chismar, PhD, is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and a Professor of Information Technology Management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Shidler College of Business. His research focuses on the economic and organizational impacts of information technology in healthcare. He founded and continues to chair the Information Technology in Healthcare track at HICCS.

Bradford W. Hesse (hesseb@mail.nih.gov) Brad Hesse, PhD, is Branch Chief of the National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB). Dr. Hesse's professional focus is bringing the power of health information technologies to bear on the problem of eliminating death and suffering from cancer, a cause to which he remains steadfastly dedicated. While at the NCI, he has championed several initiatives that evaluate and progress the science of cancer communication and informatics, two of which include the Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS) and the Centers of Excellence in Cancer Communication (CECCR).
Abdul R. Shaikh (shaikhab@mail.nih.gov) Abdul Shaikh, PhD, is a Program Director in NCI's Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch. With a diverse background in public health research and practice, his current responsibilities include overseeing Branch-related NIH grants and contracts, coordinating scientific discussions through conferences and workshops, staying abreast of new technologies with an eye toward implications for health communication research, and pursuing his own program of research in technology-mediated health communication and psychosocial determinants of health-related behaviors.

Sue S. Feldman (sue.feldman@cgu.edu) Sue Feldman, RN, MEd, is the Assistant Director of Kay Center for E-Health Research at Claremont Graduate University. In her specialty area of disability informatics, she has led a nationwide study and two case studies on the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) medical evidence for disability determination process.

Catherine Staes (catherine.staes@hsc.utah.edu) Catherine Staes, BSN, MPH, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in Biomedical Informatics at the University Of Utah School Of Medicine, Rocky Mountain Center of Excellence in Public Health Informatics. Her research and teaching concerns the domain of public health informatics and the development of standards, decision support, and other informatics methods and tools to support public health goals.

04/30/10