



Fall Issue, 2003

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From the President's Pen

Dear Alabama HIMSS Members,

As the president of Alabama HIMSS, I would like to extend a warm welcome and invite you to join in our professional activities. I am very excited about the continued interest in Alabama HIMSS. Our seminars provide valuable educational information as well as great networking opportunities with your peers. Attendees represent such entities as provider organizations, vendors, insurance companies, and academia.

The leadership of Alabama HIMSS has recently experienced some very positive growth. The number of volunteers is the highest ever and everyone is working very hard. Following are the new board members who will be serving a one year term expiring June 30, 2004: President Elect / Program Chair – Melanie Simison, Mobile Infirmary

Treasurer – Jennifer Cole, UAB Hospital

Secretary – Nancy Campbell, Siemens

Publications – Gladys Amerson, Children's Hospital and Lynn Graves, UAB Hospital

Membership – Craig Champion, UAB Medical West

Webmaster/Student Liaison – Meg Bruck, UAB MSHI Student

We have an excellent seminar planned in Birmingham at the Marriott Grandview for October 23, 2003. The primary topic will be "Emerging Issues in Healthcare Information Systems." Please plan on joining us for some great educational sessions and networking opportunities. More details and registration information appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks again for your interest in Alabama HIMSS and I hope to hear from you soon. I may be reached at randy.hester@lawson.com.

Sincerely,

Randy Hester, President Alabama HIMSS

This Issue Features...

AL HIMSS Survey Results
Job Opportunities
AL HIMSS Goals
National HIMSS Info
President's Award
Health Informatics Program Info
Upcoming Events

Employment Opportunities

These positions are available through Info Partners in Nashville TN. They have IS management partnerships with approximately 15 hospitals across the country. They are a good group to work for. These are their two newest clients.

If someone is interested contact Larry Cramer at Info Partners. (615)297-4215.

Union Hospital - Dover, Ohio

Providing healthcare services to the Dover and New Philadelphia communities (South of Akron / Canton) since 1906, Union Hospital is a full-service, 165-bed acute care hospital that recently completed a major facilities expansion. We will begin a recruiting effort for a Director of Information Systems as part of this new IS Management Partnership relationship.

Oconee Regional Medical Center - Milledgeville, GA

(100 miles SE of Atlanta)

ORMC is a 150-bed hospital that also operates a critical access facility (Jasper Memorial Hospital) and nursing home in a neighboring county. With a staff of 7.5 fte's, the CFO and IS department gave us a warm welcome, and are looking forward to our help and support as they begin several key initiatives. We have begun helping the facility with a hospital-wide systems selection effort.

Upcoming Events...

Alabama HIMSS Fall Seminar
October 23, 2003
8:30am - 2:30pm
Birmingham, Alabama
Marriott on Hwy 280
register on-line at www.alabamahimss.org



National HIMSS Conference
February 22 - 26, 2004
Orlando, Florida
visit their website at www.himss.org



McKesson is graciously sponsoring lunch at our upcoming Alabama HIMSS Fall Seminar
Don't forget to register!

President's Award

Alabama HIMSS is currently seeking qualified students for our Annual Presidents Award. **The deadline is October 15, 2003** and the information should be received no later than that date. It can be mailed to:
Randy Hester, President
1305 Big Cove Road,
Huntsville, AL 35801

or emailed to:
Randy.Hester@lawson.com

Awarded annually to graduate and/or undergraduate students for upholding the ideals and values of the HIMSS organization through sustained superior performance in an academic Healthcare Information Management or related program. The selected student(s) must be an active participant within their community and HIMSS activities/events. The nature of the award (monetary, plaque, certificate, etc.) and number of awards will be determined each year by the AL HIMSS Chapter Board Members.

The student must:

1. Be a member of HIMSS
2. Be in good academic standing as defined by the school program (usually 3.0+ for undergrad, or 3.5+ for graduate)
3. Volunteer time for community support activities (blood drives, adopt-a-highway, meals on wheels, etc.)
4. Participate and/or volunteer time toward HIMSS activities (attend chapter meeting, attend national meeting, etc.)
5. Provide a letter of recommendation from the program director of their educational program. The letter of recommendation should address the candidate's character as well as how well the candidate meets/exceeds the award criteria.

National Health Information Infrastructure

Fact Sheet

Introduction

On November 15, 2001, the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics issued the following challenge:

We as a Nation have a timely opportunity and an urgent need to build a 21st-century health support system – a comprehensive, knowledge-based system capable of providing information to all who need it to make sound decisions about health. Such a system can help realize the public interest related to disease prevention, health promotion, and population health.

Conscious that a properly maintained and funded information infrastructure is key to meeting the healthcare industry's current and future needs, HIMSS announced the launch of the NHII Task Force - the first of its kind – on October 16, 2002.

Overview

The creation of the NHII Task Force, which came on the heels of the National Preparedness & Response Task Force (September 30, 2002), chose to focus on activities to help the healthcare industry create and adopt a national health information infrastructure (NHII). The task force envisions this infrastructure as a comprehensive system capable of providing trustworthy information to all healthcare decision makers. Recognizing that the NHII will not be achieved through the efforts of any one entity, the task force initiative works collaboratively with other organizations to harness the depth and breadth of its collective memberships. There is a strong commitment to providing extensive education opportunities for members and the industry at-large, as well as conducting proactive outreach to both the legislative and executive branches of our government.

Membership

The HIMSS NHII Task Force, chaired by Dr. C. Martin Harris, includes representatives from provider organizations, supplier and consulting firms, the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, the Centers for Disease Control, the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs.

Activities To Date

Initial projects for the HIMSS NHII Task Force include creating an inventory of existing technologies and practices; writing a gap analysis on developmental needs; encouraging multiple sources of increased funding that could help the industry create an NHII; actively supporting state initiatives that may serve as test beds for a national initiative; and writing a position statement. The HIMSS NHII task force has made great strides in a very short time and will be working in partnership with HIMSS Advocacy program to effectively promote an NHII on Capitol Hill.

In addition, a 90-minute audio education program was produced for the Task Force, Board of Directors, Advocacy Committee, and members of HIMSS. The audio education program, presented by Jeff Blair, provides a comprehensive tutorial of the creation of the NHII concept, the vision of NCVHS, and recommendations for realizing the vision. To take advantage of this tutorial, please visit the HIMSS Website at www.himss.org.

One initiative called Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) seeks to achieve interoperability across all the key health departments. For example, radiology is complete – a technical framework, well tested and demonstrated – exists and is in operation. Next to follow will be cardiology, laboratory, pharmacy/medication management, as well as the IT infrastructure. Through the IHE initiative, the task force believes that the NHII can actually be accomplished – and even, provide the foundation on which it is built.

Through educational sessions around the country, HIMSS convenes experts who present real-world examples of the adoption of standards, interoperability, and key technologies that improve the quality and efficiency of patient care. In addition, HIMSS took an early lead in bar coding; publishing a position statement, a meta-analysis of bar-coding technology, and will publish a readiness assessment/implementation guide.

Conclusion

Future plans are expansive – yet focused. The HIMSS NHII task force is committed to supporting the Department of Health & Human Services NHII work by leading the effort to convene an annual NHII Summit in Washington D.C. The HIMSS Board of Directors encourages and supports the pursuit of federal grants from the government and foundations. Proposed projects revolve around harnessing members' knowledge and expertise in information technology and management systems to improve the quality and efficiency of patient care delivery.

Through the expansion and assertive engagement in key public policy activities, the task force is reaching out to congressional staffers to provide education on the NHII. Plans include opening doors for elected officials and their health staffers into various facilities in their home districts so that they can learn, first hand, the needs and opportunities awaiting health delivery.

Finally, and most importantly, the HIMSS NHII initiative is committed to working collaboratively with other organizations involved in this national initiative. Redundant or duplicate efforts are a terrible waste of scarce and precious resources. The efforts of NHII Senior Executive Dr. Bill Yasnoff, should be applauded as he uncovers many complementary efforts that will work to enhance everyone's chance for success.

For more information regarding the HIMSS NHII task force, please contact Dave Roberts, director of public policy, at droberts@himss.org.

The image shows a large, semi-transparent HIMSS logo in the background. The logo consists of the letters 'HIMSS' in a bold, sans-serif font. Behind the letters, there are stylized, glowing human figures in white and yellow, appearing to be in motion or interacting. The background is a vibrant yellow with light streaks and a circular glow behind the 'H'.

Annual Conference & Exhibition | 2004

The Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition shines as a bright spot for the entire healthcare IT industry, offering more than 200 education sessions, interactive workshops, roundtable discussions and over 700 exhibitors. It attracts more than 20,000 professionals, 84% of whom are decision-makers or decision-influencers.

As part of the 2004 Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition, HIMSS has created special Product Pavilions that are designed to give maximum exposure to companies with solutions and demonstrations on some of the hottest topics in healthcare today. Topics represented will include:

- Ambulatory Care
- Clinical Systems
- Electronic Health Record
- Patient Safety
- Security

In conjunction with the Product Pavilions, there will be Pavilion Product Sessions. These sessions will be hosted in a theatre that is surrounding these product specific booths. Not only will attendees gain maximum learning throughout the day, they will have topic specific booths at their fingertips. Do not miss this excellent opportunity to be steps away from thousands of topic specific decision-making attendees.

Witness the first combined IHE and HL7 demonstration project that is designed to both retain and extend the strengths of both models while raising awareness of current efforts towards the interoperability of systems and technology. Since 1999, HL7 and IHE have conducted technical demonstrations at the Annual HIMSS Conference & Exhibition. Each model has achieved success independently while displaying different strengths and areas of emphasis. The dual demonstration of IHE/HL7 is intended to create a profound impact on the industry that believes "Standards Drive Healthcare Solutions."

In Orlando, demonstrations will feature an integrated EHR including orders, results, images, medications and decision support; integration of healthcare documents with image generation, retrieval and document to image hypertext; access control with user authentication, single sign-on and audit trail; cross enterprise master patient index; and query display and synchronized patient view.

For more information and conference registration visit the HIMSS website at www.himss.org

Health Informatics Program News

2003 Graduating Students Highlights

Among our 2003 graduates, Gladys Amerson and Tonya La Lande were awarded the Alabama HIMSS President's Award, which included a \$500 scholarship. Rick Moore was awarded the HIMSS Foundation Scholarship Award (2002), was certified CPHIMS, and advanced to FACHE! Barbara Adams received the prestigious UAB Samuel B. Barker Award for Excellence in Graduate Studies.

HI Alumni Highlights

Mike Fravell ('99) is now CIO at Landstuhl (Germany) Regional Medical Center, the only Department of Defense medical center in Europe. Allen Bowen ('01) now works as a 3M Senior Consultant in Atlanta, GA. Allen also is certified CPHIMS. Jim Hughes ('00) was awarded the HIMSS Air Force Medical Service CIO of the Year at the February 2002 HIMSS meeting. Drexel DeFord ('97) received the HIMSS Leadership Award in 2002, and advanced to HIMSS Senior Member in 2003. Randy Hester ('94) advanced to HIMSS Fellow in 2002, also announced at the HIMSS 2003 conference.

New HI Courses

This summer, Craig Pearson ('98) taught a new elective in project management. We also have a new Health Informatics Seminar course, HI 696. This fall the seminar will be entitled "Health Services Administration Seminar Series," featuring faculty from the H.S.A. department, as well as others. A health informatics faculty candidate, Dr. Detlev (Herb) Smaltz, will be speaking on Tuesday, September 16th. The public is invited to attend (1675 Univ. Blvd. - Webb Building, Room 535.) Eta S. Berner, Ed.D., Professor of Health Informatics developed a new on-line ethics course, HI 644Q "Health Informatics Ethical and Legal Issues." Dr. J. Michael Hardin, is now teaching full-time at his *alma mater*, the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa (Dept. of Information Systems, Statistics and Management Science), but he graciously has continued to teach for the HI program as we search for a new faculty member. He taught HI 610 in Spring 2003, as well as HI 615 in Summer 2003. Terrell Herzig ('96) has been teaching for the HI program for many years, and has added to his course schedule a new "Introduction to Visual Basic" course, HI 585.

New Fall 2003 HI Students

Among our 17 new students, we have an Air Force Captain, a HealthSouth nurse, several international students, former employees of Bell South, as well as several other health care professionals, not to forget UAB employees. We just completed the orientation program for new students, which included a session with local Chief Information Officers and Vice Presidents. Randy Carpenter ('97), VP and CIO at HealthSouth; Sheila Saunders, interim VP for Information Technology at UAB; Tim Stettheimer, CIO at St. Vincent's Hospital, as well as Ron Noreen, Siemens Site Executive at Baptist Health System and Phyllis Grant, UAB MSHA graduate, the VP for Clinical Informatics at Baptist Health System.

Other HI Student News

Dr. Feliciano (Pele) Yu, 2nd year HI student, recently was certified, CPHIMS. Ron Reed will be graduating this December and has started his internship at the University of Texas-Galveston Medical Center in Telemedicine. His preceptor is Dr. Glenn Hammack ('99), former UAB Ophthalmology professor and HI graduate. Ron was invited by Health & Human Services Secretary, Tommy Thompson, to serve a 3-year term on the HHS Advisory Committee for Interdisciplinary Community Based Linkages. Ron has his first meeting this September!

Alabama HIMSS Goals



The leadership of Alabama HIMSS has set some ambitious goals for the coming year. In order to achieve these goals we need your continued and/or increased support. Below are our goals for the 2003-2004.

1) Conduct Two Seminars Per Year.

One of HIMSS' primary objectives is education. We achieve this goal through our two seminars each year. These are typically held in Birmingham and consist of well-known speakers from throughout the United States. We choose topics which are timely and have wide appeal to our member constituency. Our speakers have included various health care professionals including CIO's, hospital department directors, students, vendors, attorneys, and others. We also strongly encourage our HIMSS members to make presentations at our seminars. These can count toward advancement in national HIMSS to Senior or Fellow status.

2) Alabama HIMSS Newsletter.

Publish Newsletter Twice a Year – Our goal is to increase the communication among the Alabama HIMSS community via the newsletter. Content for the newsletter may include articles or papers from HIMSS members, students, and others who have information to share. Other aspects of the newsletter include member news, job opportunities, and information on past or future seminars. Gladys Amerson from Children's Hospital and Lynn Graves from UAB are serving as co-chair of publications are doing a great job. They did the vast majority of work for this newsletter and we greatly appreciate their efforts.

3) Continue Utilizing the Alabama HIMSS Web Site to communicate with our members and potential members.

We will be trying to increase the awareness of the web site through our seminars and newsletters. Furthermore, we are placing a link to the national HIMSS Job Mine in order to help our membership who are either seeking a new position or seeking employees to fill positions in their organizations.

4) Form a Clinical Systems Special Interest Group(SIG).

Nancy Campbell of Siemens is leading this effort. The first meeting will be held in conjunction with our fall seminar on October 23, 2003. Please contact Nancy at nancy.campbell@bhsala.com if you would like to participate in the new SIG.

5) Continue to recognize and involve university level students and faculty.

Alabama HIMSS will be awarding three President's Awards of \$500, \$300, and \$200 to deserving undergraduate and graduate students. We will also be working with the UAB MSHI program faculty and students via our student liaison Meg Bruck.

SIEMENS

Another gracious sponsor of our upcoming
Alabama HIMSS Fall Seminar
Don't forget to register!
www.alabamahimss.org

Alabama HIMSS Members Survey Results

Of the total received:

67% have an Information Systems background
36% are Clinicians

55% work in a hospital setting

15% work for vendors

The top 10 topics chosen to be most interesting are:

1. Emerging IT Technology & Future Views	73%
2. Clinical Systems	69%
3. IT Infrastructure/Systems Implementation	56%
4. Re-engineering/Process Improvement	52%
5. Legal Aspects of Healthcare & IT	46%
6. E-commerce/E-health	46%
7. Wireless Technology	44%
8. Security and Confidentiality	40%
9. Human Factors	36%
10. Leadership/Management/Resource Mgmt	36%

On the type of conference/program preferred:

Multiple Speakers on Multiple Topics	58%
Multiple Speakers on One Topic	46%
Panel Discussions	41%
Product Demonstrations	38%

In terms of most convenient/popular place and time for a conference:

59% prefer a Thursday meeting
54% prefer an all day meeting
65% say Birmingham is the most convenient place
53% prefer a meeting in the Fall of the year
32% would be willing to pay up to \$50 to attend

Lastly, the top 3 most important benefits of belonging to Alabama HIMSS:

1. Networking	83%
2. Educational Opportunities	59%
3. Participation in Meetings/Conferences	56%

Fall Seminar 2003 *Agenda*

Thursday, October 23, 2003
Birmingham Marriott
3590 Grandview Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35243

"Moving Toward an Electronic Medical Record? Human Factors vs. Technical Issues"

8:30am – 8:50am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:50am – 9:00am	Welcome and Introductions Randy Hester, President AL HIMSS
9:00am – 10:30am	"To Hype is Human: The CPOE Horse/Cart Problem." Dave Garets, Executive Vice President, Healthlink Incorporated
10:30am – 10:45am	Break
10:45am – noon	"CPOE – The Human Factor" Dr. William A. Leitner, MD, Vice President Medical Affairs St. Vincent's Hospital, Birmingham, AL
Noon – 1:00 pm	Lunch and Networking (lunch provided by McKesson)
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	"National Electronic Health Record Update – Developing a Functional Model and Standard." Charlene Underwood, Global Marketing Manager, Clinical Systems Siemens Medical Solutions

You can register by going to the Alabama HIMSS website at www.alabamahimss.org

Sponsors:

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