



**University  
of Victoria**

Health Information  
Science

## Digital Health Lives Here

Issue #22 | May 15th 2023



### Director's Message



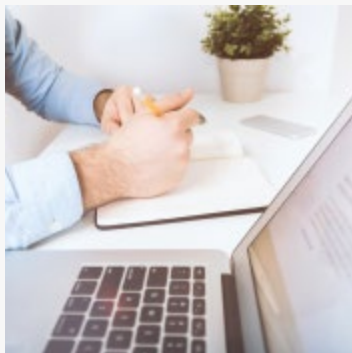
In this issue we highlight a number of our award winning undergraduate and graduate students in recognition of their amazing work in health informatics! We also highlight some of our alumni (in the Alumni Spotlight section) who are making a difference in many important health related areas. We are continuing to host our seminar series and have a few more scheduled for this term (see the HINF Youtube channel or website for recordings of previous seminars). I hope you are all enjoying the spring term as it comes to an end and are looking forward to a productive and fun summer!

- **Andre Kushniruk**, Director and Professor of the School of Health Information Science

# News & Events



In April we held our first-ever Health Information Science (HINF) basketball event organized by the HINF Course Union and supported by HINF Co-op. For several weeks, we pitched a challenge to HINF students to come out and play basketball against HINF faculty and alumni. The event took place at UVic in the CARSA gym in the evening. Students were excited and cheering on both sides and made connections with alumni, faculty, and other students from different years within our program. In the end, the students ended up winning 42 – 39.



## Workshop on Health Information Exchange (HIE) Standards

Please join us for the School of Health Information Science 3 day Virtual Workshop on Health Information Exchange (HIE) standards. The workshop will be held over 3 days from 4pm till 6:30pm Pacific Time on Monday May 15th to Wednesday May 17th.

Guest speakers from across Canada will be presenting on a variety of HIE-related topics, including the shared pan-Canadian interoperability roadmap, CIHI standards, Health Infoway standards, and HL7 FHIR. If you are interested please see the agenda and join us on zoom [HERE](#)

**Monday May 15th 2023, 4pm-6:30pm Pacific Time – CIHI Standards and SDOH**

• 4:00 pm - CIHI Standards 101: A path to interoperability (Anne Forsyth,

Manager, Data Standards, CIHI)

- 4:45pm - **Developing Primary Health Care Standards to Enable Interoperability** (Alyssa Bryan, Program Lead, CIHI, and Christine McKenzie, Program Consultant, Primary Health Information, CIHI)
- 5:15pm - **CIHI's Equity Stratifiers: Modernizing our sex and gender data standards** (Dana Riley, Program Lead, Population and Indigenous Health, CIHI, and Shannon O'Connor, Program Consultant, Data Standards, CIHI)
- 6:00pm - **Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and behavioural risk factors in primary care EMR systems** (Alex Singer, Director, Manitoba Primary Care Research Network, MaPCReN)

### **Tuesday May 16th 2023, 4pm-6:30pm Pacific Time – Canada Health Infoway standards**

- 4:00pm - **Infoway Standards 101: Who are we, what services do we offer, how to get involved? And what's on the horizon** (Janice Spence and Julie Boutin, SNOMED CT Subject Matter Experts, Infoway)
- 5:00pm - **Shared pan-Canadian Interoperability Roadmap** (Abhi Kalra, Vice President, Portfolio Management, Virtual Care, Infoway)
- 5:45pm - **Patient Summaries in the Interoperability Landscape** (Attila Farkas, Senior Director, Solution Management & Advisory Services, Infoway)

### **Wednesday May 17th 2023, 4pm-6:30pm Pacific Time – HL7 FHIR**

- 4:00pm - **Canadian FHIR baseline profiles** (Michael Savage, Senior Client Journey and Service Designer, Sun Life)
- 5:00pm - **FHIR structured data capture, questionnaires, responses, and structure and Simplifier** (Lloyd McKenzie, Chief Standards Officer, Dogwood Health Consulting)

## **Staffing Update**



Congratulations to **Jenna Dobson** on her new position as the Assistant to the Director!

"Hi, my name is Jenna and I'm the new Assistant to the Director! I am the first point of contact for Undergraduate students and can help with any questions you might have regarding our admission process, registration, tuition, scholarships, and awards. Feel free to stop by the HINF Office (HSD A202) or send an e-mail to [his@uvic.ca](mailto:his@uvic.ca) anytime."



We also welcome back **Erin Sebastian** as she returns to full-time in her role as Administrative Officer

"I've been the Administrative Officer in the School of Health Information Science for 8 years and I've just returned to the role in a full-time capacity. I'm grateful to have worked at UVic for 34 years now and to have lots of friends on our beautiful campus! I'm usually behind the scenes working on the budget, human

resources, curriculum, timetabling, acquisitions, reporting, statistics, recruitment, marketing, events, renovations and other varied projects, but I'm happy when I get the chance to meet students, co-workers and members of the public. Feel free to reach out to meet at [hinfprog@uvic.ca](mailto:hinfprog@uvic.ca) and please introduce yourself when you're at the office."



We are looking for an **Assistant Professor!**

If you are interested or know someone who might be a good fit for the position please check out the link [HERE](#) for more information.

## Awards and Recognitions

### Congratulations to our Undergraduate Award Winners!



#### **Michael Miller Scholarship**

**Sujean Gim** is a fourth-year undergraduate student in Health Information Science who has lived in Victoria all her life. She enrolled in the School of Health Information Science as she developed an interest in health informatics during her studies.



#### **Jamie Cassels Undergraduate Research Award**

**Dawson Langton** was honoured to receive this award, he was able to apply his learnings from the classroom to this project. Dawson found this to be a great experience that he will carry with him after he graduates.



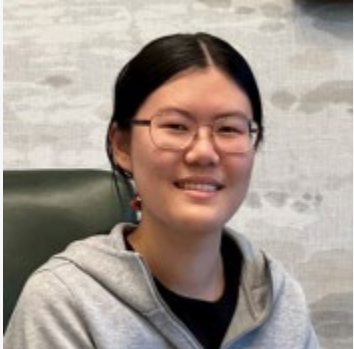
#### **Sheila Ryan and Eileen Ryan Award**

**Jennifer Ramirez** is a Health Information Science student at the University of Victoria. Receiving the Sheila Ryan and Eileen Ryan Award will allow her to focus more on the final semesters of her education. The award helped Jennifer feel recognized within the larger Health Information Science community at UVic and motivated her to strive for success.



### **Audrey May McCormick Scholarship**

**Eleonora Stoynova** is a second-year undergraduate Health Information Science student. She has an interest in human factors and usability, project management and working with remote patient monitoring technology. Eleonora also volunteers with the Royal Jubilee Hospital and works as a research assistant.



### **Sheila Ryan and Eileen Ryan Award**

**Amelie Wang** is currently a second year undergraduate student in the School of Health Information Science. Her areas of interest are patient safety and project management. Amelie is honoured to receive this prestigious award from the Estate of Sheila Ryan and Eileen Ryan.

## **Congratulations to our Award Winning Graduate Students!**



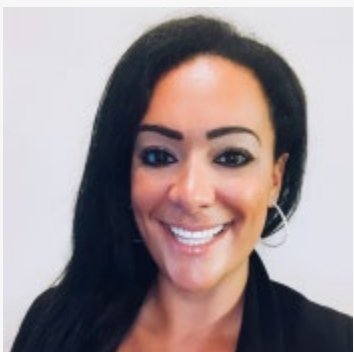
### **Denis and Pat Protti Scholarship**

**Fash Fashola** is grateful for the Denis and Pat Protti Scholarship. He would like to say a big thank you to the donors and the selection committee. Fash is a Strategic Projects Advisor at Vancouver Coastal Health. He is able to learn concepts from the HINF program and apply them within weeks to his work place.



### **Denis and Pat Protti Scholarship**

**Kareen Hall** feels blessed and honored to receive the Denis and Pat Protti Scholarship, which came at a time of great need, as she was exploring funding opportunities for her research project. Thank you, Denis and Pat, for this esteemed award!



### **Mental Health Research Canada - Mitacs Studentship**

Congratulations to **Amanda L. Joseph**, a Ph.D student for receiving the studentship. Amanda's project, Evaluating the Evidence-Base for Internet-Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (iCBT) for Substance Use Treatment in Canada, has a general objective to make iCBT safer and evidence-based for the Canadian population.



### **Denis and Pat Protti Scholarship and a Michael Miller Scholarship**

**Amy Kim** is in her second year of the Masters in Health Informatics program. Amy hopes to use informatics in the mental health and/or non-profit field to address service gaps and improve accessibility upon graduating from the University of Victoria. Her research interests include data visualization and machine learning.



### **Denis and Pat Protti Scholarship**

**Jen McKinnon** has been a registered nurse for 10 years working in the critical care areas. She recently started her new role as a clinical informatics lead, helping with EHR implementation in three big health authorities in BC. Receiving this award is an honor and has further empowered her to reach her academic and career goals.

---

## **Faculty and Student Presentations**

### **HSD Research Day Presentations**



#### **Chat Bot Development for Digital Assistant to Showcase Undergraduate Programs in HSD**

**Dillon Chrimes** presented on the structure of chat bots in terms of decision trees and the meaning intersections of conditional logic, as well showcasing the programs' domain knowledge, discipline, and careers. Check out the recording of his presentation [HERE](#)



#### **Disseminating Knowledge from the CIHR Planning Project to Modernize Information Practices for Gender and Sexual Identities in Canadian Electronic Health Records**

**Dr. Karen Courtney** presented findings from the UVic Digital Health Equity team's work. The goal of this research program is to modernize gender, sex and sexual orientation information in digital health systems, such as Electronic Health Records. More information may be found about this research and the team at: [GSSOHealth.uvic.ca](http://GSSOHealth.uvic.ca)

### **Canadian College of Health Leaders Forum Presentations**

**Elizabeth Borycki** presented to the Canadian College of Health Leaders

## #CCHLFORUM: WEBINAR



**Elizabeth Borycki, PhD**  
*Health technology, quality and safety in a  
learning health system.*



April 5 - 12:00pm - 1:00pm EDT

CANADIAN COLLEGE OF  
HEALTH LEADERS



COLLÈGE CANADIEN DES  
LEADERS EN SANTÉ

**Andre Kushniruk led an online discussion for the Canadian College of Health Leaders**

**Human factors in healthcare**

**information technology design**



ANDRE  
KUSHNIRUK, PHD



CANADIAN COLLEGE OF  
HEALTH LEADERS  
COLLÈGE CANADIEN DES  
LEADERS EN SANTÉ



#CCHLForum & #HCLDR

# Professional Development and Training



Check out the latest issue of [Healthcare Management Forum's Special Issue on Health Informatics in Canada](#) guest edited by **Elizabeth Borycki**

## Looking to upgrade your credentials?

Check out our  
**CERTIFICATE IN HEALTH TERMINOLOGY  
STANDARDS PROGRAMS**

Apply by **June 01, 2023** for **September 2023** admission.

Scan code this code or  
visit [uvic.ca/hsd/hinf/certificates](https://uvic.ca/hsd/hinf/certificates) for more info



University  
of Victoria

Health Information  
Science



Healthcare is being transformed today. At the centre of this change is the need for information to be shared. Health information standards are at the core of this important work. In this certificate you will learn about the exciting field of standards and interoperability, critical topics for making healthcare more modern and efficient. In this program you will learn about how data is represented, exchanged, standardized, and applied to improve our healthcare systems. You will learn also about the details, challenges, implementations, and acceptance of modern data-driven health information exchange. Begin your journey to becoming health-data expert by joining our accredited online Health Terminology Standards Certificate Program at the University of Victoria.”

For more information please see: <https://uvic.ca/hsd/hinf/certificates>

**Health Information Science**  
**Alumni Spotlight**





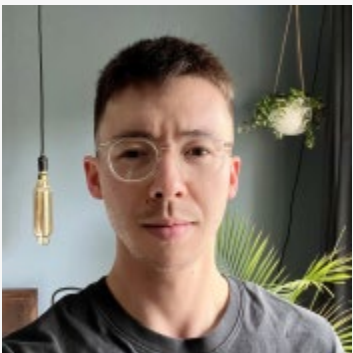
**Rhonelle Bruder** has worked tirelessly to improve health outcomes for marginalized and disenfranchised communities. The School of Health Information Science provided Rhonelle with a rewarding experience personally and professionally, under the exceptional guidance of mentors such as her supervisor, Dr. Andre Kushniruk. Rhonelle now works as a doctoral researcher at Womens' College Hospital in Toronto, and applies the education and experiential knowledge she acquired at UVic.



**Joe Walsh**, Health Information Science alumni, is a PhD candidate in the School of Health Information Science with a passion for leveraging technology to improve healthcare. In his current role as the Integrated Director of Digital Health Solutions and Information Technology at St. Joseph's Health Center, Joe provides strategic leadership and direction in shaping a renewed vision for digital health, security, and operations.

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & CO-OP EMPLOYMENT

## Featured Co-op Students



While on Co-op, **Parke Chang** worked on two projects: the Communicable Disease Interface Project and the ImmsBC Community Portal Project. Parke worked closely with project stakeholders including the health authorities and the BC Pharmacy Association. Parke's responsibilities included maintaining and developing formal documentation, validation using HL7 FHIR messages, creating and performing test cases.



**Desmond Hedderson** worked as a Health Business Analyst at Indigenous Services Canada in the First Nations Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) with Primary Care Policy and Practice (PCPP). Desmond lead a working group comprised of various governmental departments to develop health human resource metrics based on a CIHI minimum data set. He developed a interprofessional model of care emphasizing the value of paramedicine.



## Hiring a Health Information Science Student for Co-op

Ready to hire a Health Information Science co-op student? The hiring process is simple. Students are skilled, enthusiastic, and ready to work for organizations like yours!

Contact the Health Information Science Co-op office [hiscoop@uvic.ca](mailto:hiscoop@uvic.ca) if you are interested in learning more about hiring!

## Co-op Funding Opportunities



### BioTalent Canada

The Federal government's Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) provides up to 50% of the student's wages (to a maximum of \$5,000) or 70% (to a maximum of \$7,000) for students from underrepresented groups which includes female STEM students, first year students, indigenous students, student with a disability, visible minorities and newcomers to Canada.

SWPP has 12 funding partners who deliver the funding across Canada based on industry sector. Each funding partner has different application processes and there are some slight differences in criteria.

- Consider applying to [BioTalent Canada](#)

Employers, uncertain if your job qualifies? Contact Colleen at 1-866-243-2472, ext. 218 or [askme@biotalent.ca](mailto:askme@biotalent.ca)

- You have to apply for the funding before the student starts their job.
- Multiple grants are possible eg. Hire two students and receive two grants.
- Student eligibility: This Federal program is only available to students who are Canadian citizens, Permanent Residents or students who have refugee status. International students are not eligible for this funding.

Employers have told us that the application process takes 15-20 minutes to complete. Grants are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Should you not find a suitable student for your position, simply inform the funding partner that you do not need the grant.

---

## Educational Program Deadlines

## Health Terminology Standards Graduate Certificate

Apply by **June 1st 2023** for **September 2023** entry

[Read more](#) and [Apply Now](#)

## Undergraduate Degree Admission

- BSc in Health Information Science
- BSc in Health Information Science and Computer Science

Apply by **September 30th 2023** for **January 2024** entry

[Read more](#) and [Apply Now](#)

or contact [his@uvic.ca](mailto:his@uvic.ca) for application information

## Graduate Degree Admission

- MSc in Health Informatics
- Master of Nursing and MSc in Health Informatics
- PhD in Health Informatics

Apply by **December 1st 2023** for **September 2024** entry

[Read more](#) and [Apply Now](#)

or contact [hisgrad@uvic.ca](mailto:hisgrad@uvic.ca) for application information

---

## Donors



### Denis and Pat Protti Bursary

In 2004, a group of generous donors came together to honour Denis and Pat Protti's contributions to the Canadian healthcare system.

[Apply Here](#)

---

## Scholarships and Awards



## Apply Now for HINF Scholarships!

Interested in applying for awards and scholarships? Deadlines are approaching!

Click [HERE](#) for **eligibility** and **due dates** for HINF Undergraduate Awards and Scholarships

New this year, Doreen Sutherland Undergraduate Award for Permanent Residents, Protected Persons, and Refugee Women in Health Information Science.

**HINF Undergraduate Awards have a deadline as early as May 31st while others are due June 30th. Check each award carefully for details.**

- Health Information Science Accessibility Award
- James Coward Memorial Award
- Dr. Ken and Barbara Thornton Memorial Award
- MEDINFO Travel Award
- Michael Miller Scholarship
- Shelia Ryan and Eileen Ryan Award in Health Information Science
- Cindy Kung Memorial Award for Women in Health Information Science
- Doreen Sutherland Undergraduate Award for Permanent Residents, Protected Persons, and Refugee Women in Health Information Science

Also see [HINF Department Awards \(bursaries and in-course awards\)](#) details for eligibility and deadlines.

Here are some additional funding opportunities:

- [Denis and Pat Protti Bursary](#)
- [Emergency Bursaries](#)
- [Faculty of Human and Social Development Awards](#)
- [UVic Student Awards and Financial Aid](#)
- Deadlines notwithstanding, students in financial need should email Student Awards and Financial Aid at [finaid@uvic.ca](mailto:finaid@uvic.ca)

**If you have any questions, please let us know!**



## Stay Connected with HINF!

[School Website](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Youtube](#)

If you would like to be added to or removed from our mailing list for this newsletter, please email us at [his@uvic.ca](mailto:his@uvic.ca)

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria 3800 Finnerty Road  
Victoria British Columbia, Canada  
[uvic.ca/hinf](http://uvic.ca/hinf)

3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, British Columbia V8P 5C2