



## Director's Message:



The theme of this issue of the newsletter is health information standards – this is an area where the School has developed considerable research and teaching expertise. We have a number of new and exciting initiatives underway in this important area of health informatics, spearheaded by our faculty and students.

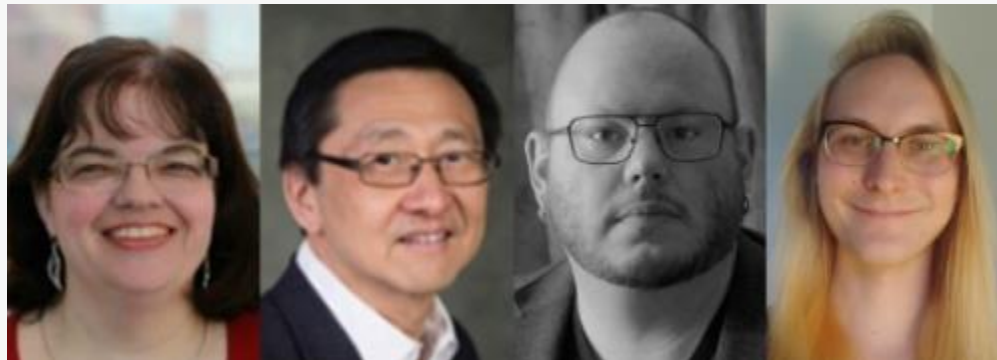
I would also like to wish you and your family a Happy Holiday and look forward to a Happy and Healthy New Year!

- Andre

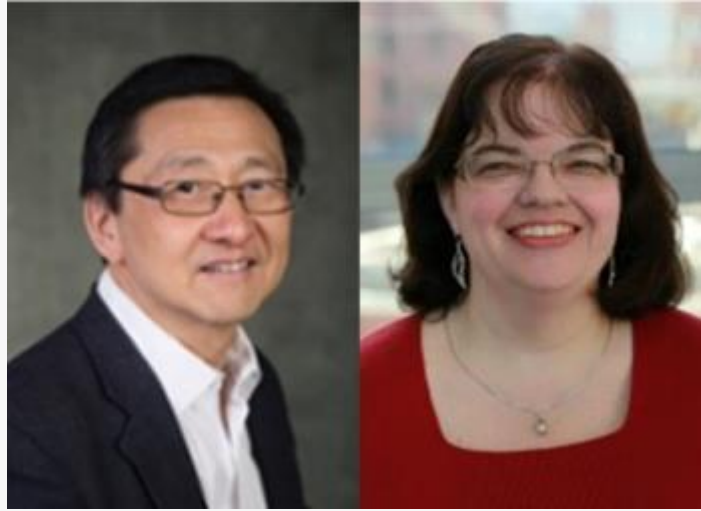


## Standards Research News, Awards and Recognitions

### Research in the News!



**Dr. Karen Courtney** is leading a research team with **Dr. Francis Lau**, **Kelly Davison**, and **Roz Queen**. She has received the MSFHR C2 Grant Funding this year for **Co-developing a digital health systems research program to support cultural safety and health equity for Two-Spirit, transgender and nonbinary patients in British Columbia.**



**Dr. Francis Lau** and **Dr. Karen Courtney** led research to advance equity for sexual and gender minorities by modernizing how identities are documented within Electronic Health Records. [Learn more about their research.](#)



**Roz Queen** and **Dr. Karen Courtney** are investigating stakeholders wants and needs concerning **modernizing gender, sex, and sexual orientation** in Canadian **digital health systems**. These stakeholders include but are not limited to: 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, healthcare professionals, vendors, health standard organizations, community-based organizations, patients and their families. Such knowledge will support **implementation guides**.



## **New Partnerships!**

The **School of Health Information Science** has a partnership agreement with **Canadian Health Information Management Association (CHIMA)** and the **Canadian Institute for Health Information** to allow all UVic faculty, staff and students to access CIHI's online resources.

[Learn more](#)



## Health Information Standards: Leadership in Electronic Health Record Problem Lists

Dr. Francis Lau is working with Rajesh Nair on an updated rapid review of **electronic problem list** that involves standardization in EHRs. Plans are to present/publish the initial findings in 2022. The research is based on the Hodge review published in 2018 -

<https://academic.oup.com/jamia/article/25/5/603/4935219>

## Health Information Standards: Electronic Health Records and Fracture Prevention



**Stephanie Cabrera** and **Zikai Hao** worked with John Chelsom in Oxford, UK, developing a model-driven Electronic Health Record application for a Fracture Prevention Pathway using open-source software created by my supervisor, John Chelsom. With John's mentorship and guidance, Stephanie was able to create an English Fracture Prevention EHR with the help of Zikai Hao, another UVic student. One of the key features of this EHR is that it linked comorbidities, diagnoses, and labs to SNOMED-CT, ICD-10, and LOINC codes to enable future interoperability among electronic systems. Zikai and Stephanie were then able to create a Spanish and Mandarin language "variant" of this same EHR, which was another core objective of this project.



## Health Information Standards Initiatives and Leadership in the News!

**Health Information Standards: Leadership in Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation (GSSO)**

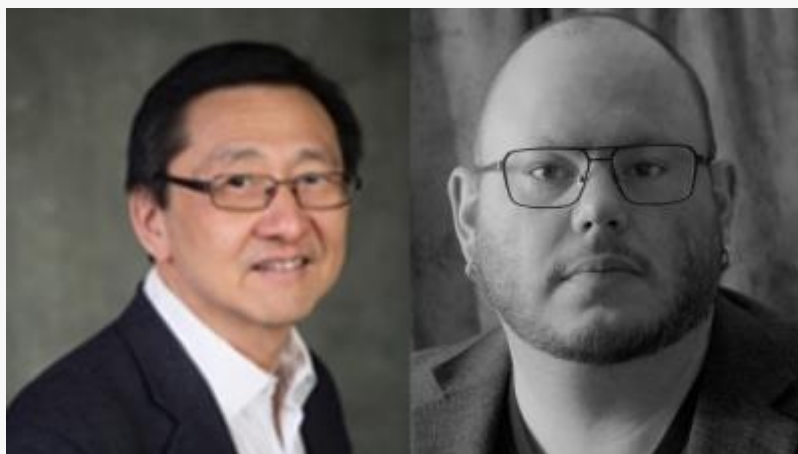


UVic's **Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation (GSSO)** digital health team (i.e., **Dr. Francis Lau, Dr. Karen Courtney, Dr. Aaron Devor, Kelly Davison, Dr. Marcy Antonio, Kareen Hall**) continues to work on modernizing GSSO information practices in digital health systems.

**GSSO digital health team** provided input to the BC MOH Conformance and Integration Services team to develop **the BC GSSO Standard** that is close to being released as the new BC Health Information Standard on the definition, collection, and use of GSSO info in digital health systems – so stay tuned for the guide ...

**GSSO digital health team** is working with Nova Scotia Health on **updating SNOMED CT GSSO concepts**.

**The GSSO digital health team** submitted the request for a change to **Infoway National Release Centre** for review on new and revised gender identity related concepts that will become part of the **Canadian SNOMED CT March 2022 Edition** - <https://infocentral.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/forum/296-sex-and-gender/4165-gender-identity-concepts-rfc-proposal-ready-for-review#7317>



**Kelly Davidson and Francis Lau** are **co-leading the Infoway Sex and Gender Working Group** that meets monthly to share GSSO digital health efforts and experiences - <https://infocentral.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/collaboration/wg/sex-gender> Anyone interested in GSSO and digital health systems is invited to join our Infoway Sex and Gender Working Group (SGWG) that meets monthly on 4th Tuesday each month at 9am PT / 12pm ET - <https://infocentral.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/collaboration/wg/sex-gender> See you there!

## Health Information Standards: Social Determinants of Health



The **UVic SDOH team** co-led by Marcy Antonio and Annalijn Conklin (UBC) meets monthly to discuss SDOH standards.

The **SDOH team** is currently focused on **intersectionality and perceived discrimination scale** - <https://infocentral.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/resources/docs/sdoh/sdoh-working-documents/3815-infoway-sdoh-intersectional-working-document-v0-1-01dec2021>

The **UVic SDOH Working Group** along with the **Infoway SDOH Working Group** meets monthly on 1st Wednesday each month at 9am PT / 12pm ET. Interested individuals are invited to join - <https://infocentral.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/collaboration/wg/sdoh>



## Innovations in Health Information Standards Education

### Health Information Standards Workshop: Electronic Health Records and Fracture Prevention



Dr. John Chelsom, **Dr. Abdul Roudsari** and **Stephanie Cabrera** were involved in a one-week workshop in Oxford with participants from Benin, Djibouti, and Germany. In this workshop, we presented our **Fracture Prevention EHR in English, Spanish, and Mandarin**, and then supported participants in creating their own language variants and taught them how to build their own customized EHRs using John's open-source software to meet the needs of their local communities.

## Health Information Standards: Educational Startup Guides



Health information standards are a critical aspect of health research and analytics. For a given clinical health research question, the answer is likely to be found by leveraging the secondary use of electronic medical record data. The key to retrieving the specific information often requires the processing of health messaging, terminologies and classifications formatted according to a wide range of health standards. HINF 335 students, taught by **Simon Minshall**, began developing a working knowledge of Health Information Standards. Two students, **Gu Cangshi** and **Dawson Langton** from HINF 335 **developed a methodology and produced two getting-started guides to aid students** with the perennial problem of accessing Windows-only software on macOS devices. The guides will be made available to future undergraduate and graduate students experiencing cross-platform challenges. Thanks for making a difference!



## Faculty and Student Publications



### Health Information Standards

Clair A Kronk, Avery R Everhart, Florence Ashley, Hale M Thompson, Theodore E Schall, Teddy G Goetz, Laurel Hiatt, Zackary Derrick, **Roz Queen**, A Ram, E Mae

Guthman, Olivia M Danforth, Elle Lett, Emery Potter, Simón(e) D Sun, Zack Marshall, Ryan Karnoski, Transgender data collection in the electronic health record: Current concepts and issues, Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association, 2021;, ocab136, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jamia/ocab136>

**Courtney KL** (2021). Modernizing Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation Terminology in Digital Health Systems- What Do Nurse Informaticists Need to Know? Canadian Journal of Nursing Informatics, 16(2).  
<https://cjni.net/journal/?p=9066>

**Davison K, Queen R, Lau F**, Antonio M. Culturally Competent Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation Information Practices and Electronic Health Records: Rapid Review. JMIR Med Inform. 2021 Feb 11;9(2):e25467.  
<https://doi.org/10.2196/25467>

**Lau F**. A Call for Action to Modernize Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation Information Practices in Canadian Electronic Health Records. Accepted for publication by Canadian Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing 2021.  
<http://www.ccn.ca/media.php?mid=50365>

**Lau, F.** (2021). A Commentary on the Action Plan to Modernize Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation Information Practices in Canadian Digital Health Systems. Canadian Journal of Emergency Nursing, 44(1), 24–27.  
<https://doi.org/10.29173/cjen121>

**Lau F**, Antonio M, **Davison K, Queen R**, Bryski K. An Environmental Scan of Sex and Gender in Electronic Health Records: Analysis of Public Information Sources. J Med Internet Res. 2020 Nov 11;22(11):e20050. <https://doi.org/10.2196/20050>

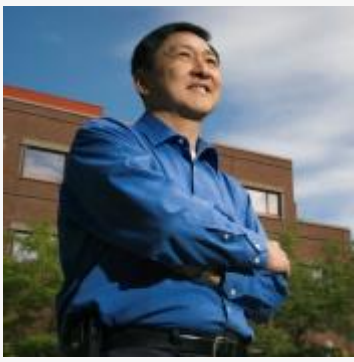
**Lau F**, Antonio M, **Davison K, Queen R**, Devor A. A Rapid Review of Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation Documentation in Electronic Health Records. J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2020 Nov 1;27(11):1774-1783.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jamia/ocaa158>



## Faculty and Student Presentations



**Dr. Karen Courtney** presented on the topic of **Exploring Age-Standardized MAiD Rates** in Island Health Authority, CAMAP, Virtual Conference in April 2021 along with R. Beuthin, **Gerry Bliss, J. Fukui Innes, and A. Klepsch.**



An interview with **Dr. Francis Lau** and his former PhD student Marcy Antonio about **Health Informatics and Health Information Standards** [https://youtu.be/IuVpRrt\\_U3E](https://youtu.be/IuVpRrt_U3E)



**Roz Queen** presented at the 2021 Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC) Summit: Discussion on **how to implement new gender, sex, and sexual orientation information practices in healthcare to promote health equity for 2SLGBTQAI+ people.**  
[https://www.cbrc.net/summit\\_2021](https://www.cbrc.net/summit_2021)



## Books, Toolkits and Tools



**Lau F**, Devor A, Antonio M, **Queen R**, Ogilvie A, Lachowsky N, Pinto A, Jollimore J, Keig Z, Flores F, MacLean A, **Davison K**, Nesbitt J, Islic N, Jamieson K, Metcalfe D, Armstrong T. Modernizing Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation Information Practices in Electronic Health Record Systems – Action Plan Infographic, Jan 7, 2021. Available at <https://infocentral.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/resources/docs/sex-gender/sex-gender-action-plan>



**Lau F**, Devor A, Antonio M, **Queen R**, Ogilvie A, Lachowsky N, Pinto A, Jollimore J, Keig Z, Flores F, MacLean A, **Davison K**, Nesbitt J, Islic N, Jamieson K, Metcalfe D, Armstrong T. On behalf of the Canada Health Infoway Sex and Gender Working Group members and individuals who participated in the consultation sessions. Modernizing Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation Information Practices in Electronic Health Record Systems – Action Plan Infographic, Summary and Full Reports - Version 6.0, Jan 7, 2021. Available at <https://infocentral.infoway-inforoute.ca/en/resources/docs/sex-gender/sex-gender-action-plan>





## Professional Development



**Practical Applications of Ontologies within EMR Systems** by **Dr. Sina Madani, PhD**,  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center,

[Watch Here](#)



**Standards - Gender, Sex, & Health Information Practices in EHRs** in Canadian Electronic Health Record Systems by **Dr. Francis Lau**

[Watch Here](#)



A talk by **Julie Stratton** on **Social Determinants of Health and Equity Standards** at the **Canadian Institute of Health Information**

[Watch Here](#)



A talk by **Dr. Sarah DeSilvey** about the Gravity Project: **Incorporating Social Determinants of Health in to Digital Health**

[Watch Here](#)



## Experiential Learning and Co-op

## Featured Co-op Student!



**Allen Zhu** is a 4th year HINF undergraduate student who is currently working at **FHA eHealth Services as a Co-op Business Analyst**. Allen works towards the support of Health Information Exchange and standardizing existing systems.

## Co-op Hiring



Considering a Co-op student? Typical Health Information Science Co-op jobs include:

- + Business applications analyst
- + Clinical applications student
- + Go-live support
- + Health business consultant
- + Health data analyst
- + Health systems analyst

The hiring process is simple. If you are interested in learning more about hiring please contact the Health Information Science Co-op office [hiscoop@uvic.ca](mailto:hiscoop@uvic.ca)



## Co-op Funding Opportunities

### Co-op Funding Update: BioTalent

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

### Undergraduate Degree Admission

Learn more about:

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

Apply by January 31st 2022 for September 2022 entry

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

### Graduate Degree Admission

Learn more about:

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

Apply by December 1st 2022 for September 2023 entry

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

### Health Terminology Standards Graduate Certificate

Apply by June 1st 2022 for September 2022 entry  
[Read more](#) and [Apply Now](#)



## Donors



### Denis and Pat Protti Endowment Award

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

[Apply Here](#)



### Stay Connected with HINF!

[School Website](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Youtube](#)



### Are you enjoying this newsletter?

Please let us know if you have any feedback @ [hinfworkstudy@uvic.ca](mailto:hinfworkstudy@uvic.ca)

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

[Unsubscribe from this mailing list.](#)

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