

Health Information Science Seminar Series



Dr. Francis Lau Presents:

Modernizing Gender, Sex and Sexual
Orientation Information Practices in
Canadian Electronic Health Record Systems

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Pacific Online via Zoom

Abstract: Sexual and gender minorities (SGM) are amongst the most marginalized people in Canada. One structural challenge is the inability of existing electronic health records (EHRs) to capture gender, sex and sexual orientation (GSSO) information beyond a single data field with male and female options. This has made SGM largely invisible in EHRs, and by extension within the health eco-system. The Infoway Sex and Gender Working Group spent most of last year working with organizations and communities across Canada to address this challenge. The result was the co-creation of a high level action plan on ways to modernize GSSO information practices in Canadian EHR systems. In this seminar we will review the content of this action plan, invite audience feedback, and discuss next steps ahead.

Dr. Francis Lau is a Professor in the School of Health Information Science at the University of Victoria. He has a PhD in Applied Sciences in Medicine from the University of Alberta with specialization in medical informatics. During 2008-2013 he was the recipient of the eHealth Chair funded by CIHR/Infoway to establish an eHealth Observatory to examine the impact of health information system deployment in Canada. Dr. Lau's current research covers eHealth equity, patient-centred measurements, patient portals, evidence-based health informatics, and health terminology standards.

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