

# HINFormation

A Newsletter of the School of Health Information Science  
University of Victoria

January 2006

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is hard to believe the first month of the spring term is already over. This will be a busy term for faculty and students alike. We are busy recruiting new, well qualified, enthusiastic students to strengthen both the undergrad and graduate programs. To this end we have advertised extensively across Canada; I attended the Education Career Fair at the Victoria Conference Centre last month and in February I will be attending Education Fairs in Comox, Vancouver and Kelowna as well as attending Career Day at Belmont Senior High School; Francis Lau will be staffing a recruitment booth at Mayfair Mall in February; and, I have made 5 minute presentations to students in an assortment of first year courses. In addition, the School will have a booth at the upcoming HIMSS (Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society) conference.

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If you know of potential students who might be interested in a career in health informatics please pass on the word about our degree programs and direct them to our website to download the needed application form.

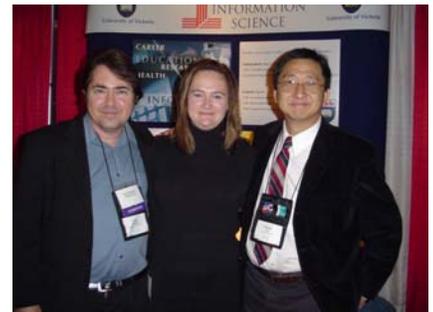
Planning for the international conference ITCH 2007, to be held here in Victoria in February 2007 is now well underway. I am very happy to announce that Edward (Ted) Shortliffe from Columbia University, one of the leading pioneers in health informatics, has agreed to be our keynote speaker. If you haven't already done so I hope you will take the time to look at the conference web site <http://itch.uvic.ca>.

Detailed information about the student poster contest will be circulated shortly, but in the meantime I strongly encourage students to start thinking about preparing a submission (the deadline for submissions is May 31, 2006; please see the ITCH web site for further details).

This is your chance to be part of an international conference, meet experts from around the world, and add to your resume. Any questions about the conference should be directed to [itch@uvic.ca](mailto:itch@uvic.ca).

Andre Kushniruk

## MISCELLANEOUS



In November, faculty and students participated in the Annual American Informatics Association Conference in Washington, D.C. This year's theme focused on "Biomedical to Health Informatics: From Foundations to Application to Policy". Faculty attendees included Elizabeth Borycki, Francis Lau and Andre Kushniruk pictured above at the HINF booth. Student attendees included Nicole Grimm and Liz Pallazzo.

## HINF 460

This is a reaction from Cathy Parker, VIHA Breast Health Center, to Jochen Moehr on the impact the fall 2004 HINF 460 project had on her work.

"Yes, we have made some progress with our marketing in no small part to the work we did with your students last fall. We have made a promotional DVD, including interviews with Dr. Hayashi, myself and three former patients. We launched it at the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's

Annual Awareness Day in April and it was very well received. This also gave us some exposure on the news. I was interviewed for the October 2005 edition of Focus magazine and that helped too.

“We are going to use the mission statement that was developed with the students on our website. I had all the content ready to go and then VIHA did a big website change, so production will be delayed a bit longer.

“If you have any of the students’ email addresses, I would appreciate if you could forward them this note and a copy of the newsletter.

“They really made a difference to my work and the services received by those with breast cancer in Victoria. I couldn’t have done all of this without them!”

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

The distributed MSc stream at the School continues to be a groundbreaking endeavour in many respects. The fall 2005 term saw the successful completion of the first ever HINF 571 “Health Systems Data Analysis” course offered by Dr. Malcolm Maclure in a completely online format through real-time virtual group discussions and telebriefing using Elluminate. This term we have two new online courses being offered through our partner institutions, and another four new students joining the cohort. The two online courses are HINF552 “Evaluation in e-Health” being taught by Dr. Marilynne Hebert from the University of Calgary, and HINF516 “Telemedicine in Action” by Dr. Sandra Jarvis-Selinger of the University of British Columbia.

Of the four new students who started this January, one is from Ontario, one from Halifax, one from Victoria, and one from Vancouver. This brings the total enrolment to 23 students in the distributed program. Many of the students in the original cohort have

also started working on their HINF598 Research Project that is a requirement for graduation, where they need to work on an academically rigorous health informatics project that is directly relevant to their workplace.

At this time, we are already planning ahead for the second annual 2-week on-campus intensive workshop to be held during May 4-18, 2006, where we will offer HINF551 “Electronic Health Record” to be taught by Professor Denis Protti, and HINF560 “Health-care Quality Improvement” by Professor Elizabeth Borycki.

This year is also unique in that we have purposely scheduled our 2-week workshop to follow right after the e-health 2006 conference, which is being held during April 30 and May 3 in Victoria. This arrangement is to encourage our distributed MSc students to take part in the e-health 2006 conference prior to attending the workshop.

Lastly, we are particularly pleased that there has been a steady stream of inquiries and applications into the distributed program, which is an indication of the demand for this type of advanced training in health informatics for those already working in the health, IT or related fields.

If you have suggestions on ways to further improve this program or want to find out more about it, please do not hesitate to contact me or Daphne at any time via [fylau@uvic.ca](mailto:fylau@uvic.ca) or [drintoul@uvic.ca](mailto:drintoul@uvic.ca).

Francis Lau

## FACULTY AND STAFF

Adjunct Robert Tornack and John O’Brien are starting a consultancy business entitled IRM Strategies, (Information, Resources, Management) in Hong Kong.

John will be teaching some classes in the Bachelor of Science, Information Management program at the University of Hong Kong, and has been invited to be a paid guest lecturer in various undergrad and graduate courses on similar topics at Hong Kong Polytechnic. He has also been asked, by the President of Royal Roads University, to speak at a two day event for RRU graduates, 1300 MBA’ers, in mainland China.

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Congratulations to Adjunct Michael Guerriere and his wife Miyo on the birth of their first child, John Yamashita Guerriere (above). Weighing in at 7lb. 14oz., John was born January 16, 2006 at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

## ALUMNI

Xu Zhang ('04) has moved to Kelowna where he is working as a Systems Analyst at the Interior Health Authority.

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James Ayles ('02) is now the Co-ordinator, Health Workforce Information & Analysis, for the New Brunswick Department of Health and Wellness.

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Roland Bennett ('00) is living in San Diego and working at Kaiser Permanente, having gone there from being with IDX in England.

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Janet Wilson ('01) has been working as a Standards Analyst with the Continuing Care E-Health Office in Toronto since June 2005, developing data, process, messaging and nomenclature standards for the CC sector.

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Wendy Tegart ('97) is now the Director, IM/IT Client Relationship Management for the Calgary Health Region.

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I finished my Pediatrics Residency & Fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases in June 2005. I've continued my international health goals (sparked by my work term in New Caledonia & encouraged by Gerhard Brauer!) and did a medical school clinical electives in Wallis & Futuna (in the South Pacific), a residency elective in Mbarara, Uganda and then a great tropical disease course earlier this year in Lima, Peru. Then, this July I moved to Baltimore to do an MPH at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, focusing on global pediatric infectious diseases.

The transition to Baltimore was a tumultuous one, but it's been very inspiring to be studying with some of the world leaders in the field of international child health. And, I'm pulling out some of my old HINF skills, talking about choosing indicators for measuring health programs, quality assurance and the like.

In July 2006, I will be starting a job with Baylor University's AIDS Corps - a group of mostly pediatricians who will be providing clinical care to children with HIV/AIDS in Africa (I'm not sure which country I'm off to yet). It's clear to me in the long run, I will be combining my skills from HINF, clinical pediatrics and Public Health.

Laura Sauve, MD ('96)

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Sulma Gandhi (MSc '01) is still enjoying life in Hawaii. In addition to her contract work with the federal government (grant reviews), she is also a high school health and wellness academy teacher at a private school for Hawaiian kids.

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Doug Talbot ('95) is working at the BC Gaming Branch as the Senior Systems Analyst. He recently completed his Graduate Certificate in Project Management at Royal Roads and just passed his Project Management Professional exam.



## TODAY'S INFORMATION for TOMORROW'S IMPROVEMENTS

February 16 – 18, 2007 Laurel Point Inn, Victoria, BC, Canada

An international conference addressing Information Technology and Communications in Health (ITCH)

# CALL FOR PAPERS

**TODAY'S INFORMATION FOR TOMORROW'S IMPROVEMENTS** is the working theme for the 2007 international conference being held in Victoria, Canada. Information technology has affected nearly every aspect of health care today. The need for better information and systems to provide improved services and improve patient quality of life has been recognized as being a critical issue both nationally and internationally. However, problems related to the use, usability and usefulness of many healthcare systems continue to hinder and limit the potential of information technology in health care. Other unresolved issues include the need for standardization and integration of systems into effective and safe healthcare practices, both within healthcare organizations and in the community. This conference will focus on understanding how health informatics can be applied towards quality improvement of health and healthcare organizational outcomes. To this end, ITCH 2007 will promote an international and interdisciplinary gathering of leading practitioners and researchers from Canada and internationally to support today's information systems and ensure tomorrow's improvements.

Prospective contributors to the ITCH 2007 Conference are encouraged to address topics related, but not limited, to the following areas:

- ✚ Organizational Aspects of Informatics
- ✚ Implementing the Electronic Patient Record
- ✚ Theories and Methods in Health Informatics Research
- ✚ Human-Computer Interaction
- ✚ Privacy and Security
- ✚ Standardization
- ✚ Initiatives in International Health Informatics
- ✚ E-Learning and Education
- ✚ Societal and Organizational Impacts of IT
- ✚ Disease Management and Palliative Care
- ✚ Consumer Health Informatics
- ✚ IT to Support Quality Improvement and Patient Safety
- ✚ Nursing Informatics

The ITCH 2007 Steering Committee invites interested persons to submit extended abstracts (of up to 500 words) of papers for presentation, and/or for the student poster contest, no later than **May 31, 2006**. Abstracts will undergo a peer-review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **August 1, 2006** and completed papers will be due by **November 15, 2006**. All abstracts and requests for more information are to be sent to [itch@uvic.ca](mailto:itch@uvic.ca). The language of the conference is English. Individual papers will be arranged within sessions according to their themes as much as possible.

## STUDENT POSTER CONTEST

Students registered full-time in related undergraduate or graduate programs are invited to take part in a student poster contest. Submissions should address topics related, but not limited, to those listed above. Student authors whose abstracts are accepted for poster presentation must also submit a full paper for inclusion in the proceedings. An independent panel will judge the posters. The winner of the contest will receive a cash prize and a complimentary FULL registration to the conference. Additional prizes may be given. Deadline: **May 31, 2006**.

