

# HINFormation

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

October 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome back to the start of a new school year.

My first nine months here have been busy trying to meet as many people as possible while adapting to my new country and my new university. My family has finally joined me from England and are starting to settle in to their new lives here in Victoria. We all feel very lucky to be living in such a beautiful part of the world and are looking forward to much exploring on Vancouver Island.

It would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to say that I have had a wonderful welcome to the School by both staff and students. This has made my transition so much easier and I start this year with much excitement and optimism for what we can all achieve.

There have been a number of changes in the past nine months. Leslie Wood, Assistant to the Director, took early retirement in April after 17 years with the School. Denis Protti, the founder of the School, retired in June. I would like to thank them both for their dedicated and faithful service. Diane Johnston has joined the School as my assistant. Diane spent several years working in this building both in the School of Nursing and the School of Public Administration before joining HINF. We are currently in the process of searching for a new professor as well as a senior instructor.

Our student intake at both the undergraduate and graduate level has again shown a substantial increase. This is down to our world renowned Health Information Science and Health Informatics programs that we run but is also due to the hard work of Diane, Dave, Shawna, Cathy and Debbie in attracting students to the School.

The School is once again hosting the biannual Information Technology and Communications in Health (ITCH 2011) conference in Victoria, February 24 – 27, 2011. I hope you will all be able to attend this popular international conference. The deadline to submit both student poster entries and abstracts for the poster session (new this year) is November 1, 2010. I look forward to seeing you all there. There are further details about the conference later in the newsletter, or if you have any specific questions, please direct them to [itch@uvic.ca](mailto:itch@uvic.ca)

With best wishes for a success year.

Abdul Roudsari

## END OF AN ERA

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Denis surrounded by alumni, June 25<sup>th</sup>

The founding Director of the School of Health Information Science, Denis Protti, retired June 30, 2010. Denis guided the School from its inception through its first ten years, and as Director, he had an immeasurable impact on hundreds of alumni. Faculty, former staff and colleagues, and alumni from across Canada gathered at the University Club to pay tribute and wish him well as he moves to the next stage of life. Highlights of the evening included a tribute from Professor Emeritus, Jochen Moehr (with slides of a young Denis complete with dark beard) and an excellent slide show prepared by Ken Chung. Denis was particularly touched to have members of the original graduating class in attendance along with former co-op coordinators Larry Scott and Ted Sheaff.



May 17 reception for retirees, with President Turpin and Chancellor Farmer.

While spending more time with his family and working on his golf game are in his plans, Denis is not slowing down. He has been appointed Professor Emeritus for the School and plans to devote more time to writing. He has also agreed to be a keynote speaker at ITCH 2011. His address will be "Reflections on 45 Years in Health Informatics" There will also be a one hour round-session "Audience with Professor Denis Protti" on the Sunday morning of the conference.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

Congratulations to HINF graduate student, Paulette Reid, on winning the inaugural COACH Student Innovation Competition with her essay, *What's Your Vision of A Patient-centric Healthcare System? The 3 Fundamental Es: Embrace, Educate, Engage.*

Paulette's essay was published in the May edition of [Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada](#), the official journal of COACH.

She presented her essay at e-Health 2010 and received a conference registration, \$500 towards travel expenses to the conference and \$500 cash.

## CIHR Award

Congratulations to Sherman Quan for winning a CIHR MSc student award.

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Tyrone Austen has been busy at work on his thesis. The work has already been getting quite a bit of press in the paper. Although Tyrone is not mentioned by name, the report the articles are referring to is the report card that was generated from his thesis. For those interested, here are some of the articles:

- <http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/Homelessness+still+growing+report/3219733/story.html>
- <http://www.cfax1070.com/newstory.php?newsId=14197>
- <http://www.timescolonist.com/news/City+homeless+more+help/3226587/story.html>

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Congrats to Sherman Quan and Mike Miller, both published in a recent edition of electronic healthcare from Longwoods. Please see <http://www.longwoods.com/publications/electronichealthcare/21716>.

## STUDENTS

### Student Poster Contest

The deadline for the ITCH student poster contest is November 1, 2010. Full details are at <http://itch.uvic.ca/documents/poster.pdf> Poster content can be based on course work, co-op experience, literature reviews or research.

The list of accepted papers is on our website now at <http://itch.uvic.ca/AcceptedPapers.pdf> and registration is open. You can access the registration form at <http://itch.uvic.ca/documents/register.pdf> Student registration is only \$250 which includes two workshops on the

Thursday, the opening reception on Thursday, and the three days of the conference itself including all breaks. Tickets for the Saturday gala dinner can be purchased for an additional \$80. The normal cost for early registration and two workshops would be \$950!

The three winners of the student poster competition will each receive a cash prize and a complimentary FULL registration for the conference (registration fees will be refunded).

This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about the new trends in health information technology and communications. The conference will give you an unparalleled opportunity to network with similarly interested people coming from different countries in your area of expertise and research as well as potential future employers.

## Coach award

Congratulations to Gurprit Randhawa on receiving the COACH 2010 Founding President's award!

## Scholarships make a difference



Abdul Roudsari with Haley Moore

Haley Moore was recently awarded the Michael Miller Scholarship, established in memory of a brilliant graduate of the School of Health Information Science by his family and friends. Haley says, "I feel grateful and honored to have been named a recipient of the Michael Miller Scholarship. I am passionate about the healthcare field and truly believe in the ability of health informatics to improve patient care. Thank you for

supporting my education so that I can build the skills and experiences I need to pursue a rewarding career.”

To support other students who want to improve patient care please contact:

Lynne Milnes, Development and External Relations Officer  
Faculty of Human and Social Development  
[lmilnes@uvic.ca](mailto:lmilnes@uvic.ca) or 250-472-5031

*Editor's Note:* The Scholarship is available to graduate students of the School of Health Information Science or undergraduate students entering their 3rd or 4th year in the program. The general intent of this Scholarship is to support students with high academic achievement and to increase awareness about manic depression (bipolar disorder). Students must submit applications in writing and electronically to the attention of Director of the School of Health Information Science at [his@uvic.ca](mailto:his@uvic.ca). The deadline to apply is June 30<sup>th</sup>

## FACULTY AND STAFF



Denis and Pat Protti proudly welcomed their latest granddaughter, Mio McDonald (above with Denis), to the family in August.

## ALUMNI



HINF BSc and MSc graduate Neelam Sandhu (above), has finished her MD with the Island Medical Program and will be going to the University of Alberta for a 5 year residency program in pathology. Before starting on July 1, she went to Africa through Egypt and then from Nairobi all the way to Capetown. Congratulations and good luck, Neelam.

### ***Infoway welcomes new Vice-President***

“I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jennifer Zelmer will be joining the Infoway team in August as Senior Vice President, Clinical Adoption and Innovation. Working out of the Toronto office, Jennifer will report to me.

“Jennifer has extensive experience in health policy both in the public and private sectors in Canada and abroad. She served most recently as Chief Executive Officer of the International Health Terminology Standards Organization (IHTSDO) in Copenhagen. Prior to IHTSDO appointment Jennifer was the Vice President, Research & Analysis at the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Her expertise as a senior strategist in health system improvement will be instrumental in leading Infoway’s current and new initiatives in innovation and clinical adoption.

“Jennifer received both her PhD and her M.A. in Economics from McMaster University and her BSc in Health Information Science from University of Victoria. She is the Editor-in-Chief, Healthcare Policy for Longwoods Publishing and is an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Victoria, School of Health Information Science. Jennifer has also been involved in the production of a wide range of analytical and evaluation research on Canada’s health care system.

“This is an exciting time for *Infoway* and we are pleased to have someone with Jennifer’s vast knowledge and significant experience as a member of our team.

“Please join me in welcoming Jennifer to Canada Health Infoway.”

Richard Alvarez (press release from Infoway)

*Editor's note:* Jennifer Zelmer has been a strong supporter of the School since graduating in 1993. Currently an Adjunct Assistant Professor for HINF, she has delivered numerous guest lectures and research seminars and was a keynote speaker at ITCH 2009.

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Mikael Gebre-Mariam is currently working as a strategic information advisor in Ethiopia with Futures Group; an international development firm involved in designing, implementing and evaluating programs in HIV/AIDS. The SI advisor role involves the harmonization of medical records and building capacity to use strategic information for clinical and program management. The post also involves active involvement in the implementation of electronic patient monitoring and management (PMM) systems to meet country, donor and clinic requirements.



Effective December 1st, 2009, Saba Ateyah (above) has been promoted to Director, Information and Performance, for Providence Healthcare in Toronto. In her new role she looks after Decision Support and Clinical Informatics.

## MISCELLANEOUS

The BC Health Informatics Professionals Society welcomes student members – for free!

The BC Health Information Management Professionals Society (BCHIMPS) is a registered non profit society in BC. BCHIMPS' members represent health information professionals from all disciplines of health care IM/IT, from a wide variety of health organizations including health authorities, government and provincial agencies, and the private sector. Members contribute to the development, delivery, and promotion of IM/IT solutions that enhance health services delivery, administration and outcomes.

A key focus of BCHIMPS is member education and professional networking. BCHIMPS sponsors regular symposia and other educational events featuring nationally recognized speakers while highlighting local and provincial initiatives. Our vision is to be the premier health information management group in BC contributing significantly to the healthcare information management agenda in the province and in the country.

We promote understanding, knowledge transfer and effective and efficient utilization of information and information technologies within BC's healthcare environment. BCHIMPS fosters learning through sharing of local, national and international healthcare information management experiences and best practices in an environment of open enquiry and mutual respect.

BCHIMPS wishes to encourage Health Informatics students at both the graduate and undergraduate level to participate in BCHIMPS events and contribute to the Health Informatics community. That's why we're offering UVic HINF students their first year of the BCHIMPS membership for free! Contact [info@BCHIMPS.com](mailto:info@BCHIMPS.com) for more information.

On Friday October 29<sup>th</sup>, BCHIMPS will host an all-day Education Session at the beautiful UBC Golf Club. The theme of the session is "The Evolving Climate of Health Care – the Relationship between Technology, Patient Empowerment and Patient Outcomes". Register now at: [www.bchimps.bc.ca](http://www.bchimps.bc.ca) (click on Events). Registration is \$50 for members and \$100 for non-members. As a student, the first year of your membership is free, so remember to log in first to ensure you get the members price!

Come join your colleagues – learn something, network, and visit with friends old and new.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.bchimps.bc.ca](http://www.bchimps.bc.ca)

## Denis and Pat Protti Bursary



Pat and Denis in Tuscany

The new Denis and Pat Protti Bursary with a \$200,000 endowment has been newly established in 2010 for graduate and undergraduate students. Students with financial need are encouraged to apply starting next year 2011. This is in addition to the already existing Denis and Pat Protti Endowment Awards.

## Research Seminars

The School is once again offering weekly research seminars as part of the HINF 580 class. These seminars are free and open to the public.

The seminars are held each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Engineering/Computer Science (ESC) building, Room 128. You can also join the sessions "live" at a distance if you have an Internet connection; go to <http://web.his.uvic.ca/seminars/> for details.



**HEALTH INFORMATICS: INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES**  
**February 24 – 27, 2011 Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria, BC, Canada**

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

Health informatics is now a global phenomenon, supporting the organization and delivery of healthcare around the world. **Health Informatics: International Perspectives** will provide a unique opportunity to focus on national and international developments in health informatics and allow for comparisons across regions and countries. There are major lessons to be learned by both developed and developing communities as health informatics becomes ever more central to the organization and delivery of healthcare around the world.

### **Why attend**

- 8 exciting pre-conference workshops given by international experts
- Over 70 papers to be presented in three days
- Keynote speakers:  
*Dr. Sally Stansfield*, World Health Organization  
*Professor Jeremy Wyatt*, Institute for Digital Healthcare, Warwick University, UK  
*Professor Denis Protti*, School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria

### **Registration**

Early registration ends November 1, 2010. Register at <http://itch.uvic.ca/documents/register.pdf>

### **Who should attend**

- Health informatics professionals
  - IT professionals in healthcare
  - Academics and students
  - Healthcare providers
  - Physicians
  - Nurses
  - Allied health professionals
  - Healthcare administrators and managers
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- New – professional poster session
  - Student poster session
  - Panels on Sunday afternoon
  - A round-table “Audience with Professor Denis Protti”
  - Learn more about the trends in health information technology and communications
  - Network with your national and international colleagues

### **Contact Information**

Email: [itch@uvic.ca](mailto:itch@uvic.ca)

<http://itch.uvic.ca>

