

HINFormation

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

May 2015



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It has now been a term since I began

my role as Director of the School in January 2015. It has been a busy but rewarding term for me. First of all I would like to thank Dr. Abdul Roudsari for his directorship of the School over the past five years. Enrollments at both the undergraduate and graduate levels are up and there have been many interesting developments. In February the School hosted the biannual ITCH (Information Technology and Communications in Health) conference with over 150 attendees from around the world. This conference, chaired by Dr. Roudsari, has led to the edited IOS Press publication "Driving Quality in Informatics: Fulfilling the Promise" edited by Drs. Karen Courtney, Alex Kuo and Omid Shabestari (copies are available through the School for a reduced cost).

In other developments, in the fall of last year Dr. Francis Lau was inducted into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS), and Dr. Elizabeth Borycki completed her terms as Canada's Academic Representative for COACH and as a VP at the International Medical Informatics Association. Finally, Dr. Scott MacDonald published important work showing the new legislation on drinking and driving has been saving lives in our province.

In the HINF office we have Sandy Polomark (his@uvic.ca) as office manager and assistant to the director and Sandra Boudewyn as graduate program assistant (hisgrad@uvic.ca). Silvia Dulc is also working with us as our administrative officer. For co-op, Dave Hutchinson (hiscoop@uvic.ca) and Debbie Robertson are still onboard and always looking for co-op leads and potential opportunities for student co-ops.

The School is happy to be producing this newsletter. We plan to follow up with newsletters on a regular basis. We would like you to send us your stories about your job, life, and announcements, which we can post in coming issues. This will be a great way to connect all of us with the latest developments in everyone's life and to keep everyone connected with the School. In addition, we restarted our HINF seminar research series in the spring of 2015. In the fall we will be doing this series for both face-to-face and distance audiences – stay tuned for more information on when and where they will be held and how to attend remotely (and let us know if you might be interested in being a speaker). I look forward to the coming years and continuing to work with all the faculty, staff, students and alumni into the future!

Andre Kushniruk, PhD, FCAHS, FACMI
Professor and Director
School of Health Information Science

In Memoriam

Sadly we have lost some of our HINF family over the last few years including former faculty members Gerhard Brauer and Ken Thornton, former staff member Jennifer Vincent and alumnus Steven Wannamaker ('88.)

Upcoming Fall 2015 HINF seminar series

Stay tuned! - the HINF seminar series will continue this fall 2015 starting in September, tentatively scheduled for noon on the last Wednesday of each month. The seminar will be face-to-face (at the University of Victoria) and also available for distance audiences. This past term we had two exciting presentations from world-class experts in health informatics: Dr. Jos Aarts on socio-technical issues with e-prescribing and by Dr. Joanna Kaipio on advances in measuring usability and user satisfaction nationally in Finland.

STUDENTS



PhD student Helen Monkman (above at the Canadian Health Informatics Awards Gala) received the 2014 Steven Huesing Scholarship. It is awarded to a HI student who has made a recognized contribution to advancing the thinking in HI through his/her educational work.

Helen Monkman is conducting research to integrate and leverage health literacy and HI research to improve the presentation of health information for lay people and patients. Her many other accomplishments include writing about mobile health, big data, procurement and health literacy, and working with healthcare organizations such as the Canadian Patient Safety Institute. Helen was one of 14 finalists at Medinfo 2014, World Congress on Medical Informatics, for best student paper around the world

Congratulations to HINF PhD students Liz Loewen and Gurprit Randhawa! The University of Victoria was invited to nominate a small number of top students doing health related research at the PhD level to participate at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Forum. Gurprit and Liz have been selected to participate at the forum June 2 to 4, 2015 in Winnipeg, MB.

HINF Pub Nights

Regular HINF pub nights are held every second Thursday of the month at Christies Pub, 1739 Fort Street, any time after 5pm. All HINFers are welcome. The next pub nights are June 11, July 9, August 13 and September 10. Come out and meet some of the new students and reconnect with old friends!

ALUMNI



Mowafa Househ (PhD '09) has received one of the most prestigious awards in the Middle East for social entrepreneurship for his work on Crowd Funding Weight Loss On-line Platform

This project is one that aims to develop a unique and innovative crowdsourcing platform for weight loss in Saudi Arabia and the Arab World. Crowdsourcing is “the practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people and especially from the online community rather than from traditional employees or suppliers”. The project is trying to harness the “wisdom of crowds” to help develop a tailored weight-loss solution for people to achieve their weight loss goals by bringing a team of nutritionists, behaviorists, and fitness experts, or ordinary people with weight loss experience to work with them. Specifically, the target is overweight or obese individuals with unsuccessful experience to lose weight, and this platform is built around the concepts of patient empowerment which allows the client to choose from a list of experienced weight loss experts.



Mahmood Tara

Mahmood Tara (PhD '08) is the director and faculty member of the Department of Medical Informatics at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences, Mashhad, Iran.

In October 2014 he was elected as the chair for the National Board of Health Information Management and Informatics (NBHIMI) at the Iranian Ministry of Health.

Every two years, all medical universities are asked by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to introduce their scholars in every branch of medical and paramedical sciences. Such lists of scholars are then reviewed by a superior committee and eleven people are selected as Board members based on their final rank. In the first official meeting, the board members vote for the candidate members nominated for the chair position. The result of voting is directly reported to the Minister. Finally, the chair is officially appointed by the Minister of Health for a two year term.

NBHIMI is responsible for the supervision, planning, and evaluation of all Health Information related academic programs in Iranian medical universities. There are currently more than twenty MSc and PhD programs in the field of Health Information Management and Medical Informatics in Iran, whose students are selected through a very competitive annual national exam.

Fundraising

Just a bit of a background of myself – I moved to Victoria in 2006 and came into HINF right away. I completed the program back in 2010, and since then have been working as a clinical application analyst in Vancouver where I work with a lot of HINF alumni. I grew up in Nepal, where my dad did development work and my mom was a neurosurgical nurse (my mom is Nepali and my dad is Hungarian). We moved to Canada during the Maoist revolution several years ago. All of my family on my mom's side still lives there – cousins, aunts, uncles, etc. While thankfully everyone has been accounted for in our family so far, many are not living in great condition now or have limited access to water and food still, and some of our family friends have either not been accounted for or have not survived the earthquake. It has been very traumatizing on our whole family, and the rest of Nepal.

Please let me know if you need any other information or have any questions. This is the personal fundraiser I started for UEMS:

<https://www.youcaring.com/emergency-fundraiser/help-those-affected-by-the-recent-earthquake-in-nepal/344834#.VT6bZA80e4Q.email>

Matina Somlai-Maharjan



Recent bride, Nicole Li ('14) is shown above surrounded by her bridesmaids including former classmates: 2nd from the left Nancy Nguyen ('14); 8th from the left Jessica Kuo ('15); and lastly Crystal Yan ('14).

FACULTY AND STAFF



Jeff Barnett retired from the BC Cancer Agency in December 2013 after working there since 1982 (31 years.) This was a small “r” retirement as he continues to be an Adjunct Assistant Professor in HINF and is enjoying being a sessional at the School.

The picture on the left is of his office decorations on his last day at BCCA.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

These are our graduate students who have defended most recently:

Name	Program	Topic
Nicole Michaud-Hamilton	MSc/MN	Developing a Standardized Electronic Reporting System for Visiting Nurses
John Allen McLean	MSc/MN	Nursing's Voice in Healthcare IT Acquisition Decisions
Khaled Alsulame	MSc	E-Health in Saudi Arabia
Karen Martinez	MSc	Bring Your Own Device and Nurse Executives Decision Making: A Qualitative Description
Brigitte Mettler	MSc	Evaluation of Peer Support Utilized to Support Electronic Medical Record Adoption and Optimization in British Columbia
Xinran (Ryan) Zhang	MSc	Small and Intermediate- Scale Application in Healthcare: A Prototype with the Java Vaadin Framework
Heba Elrefaey	MSc	Developing Security Metrics Scorecard for Health Care Organizations
Hannelore Gidora	MSc	The Effects of Telenursing Triage and Advice on Healthcare Costs and Resource Use
Joseph Lindsay	MSc	Design and Implementation of a Collaborative Health Research Informatics System for Specialized Ambulatory Geriatric Care
Paulette Reid	MSc	Information-Seeking Behaviours of Healthcare Consumers Regarding Healthcare-Associated Infections
Marianne Leenaerts	PhD	Evaluation of Health Data Warehousing: Development of a Framework and Assessment of Current Practices

Please remember to send in news about yourself and colleagues to lwood@uvic.ca for the next newsletter!