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]
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

Stephanie Cabrera and Zikai Hao worked 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.


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!
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

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**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


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


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 into 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

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
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

- 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

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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

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