



# Spokane County MEDICAL SOCIETY

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## MEDICAL INFORMATICS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 3, 2009

The SCMS Medical Informatics Committee met at 6:45 am on December 3, 2009, in Classroom A on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at Deaconess Medical Center. Those present include Torney Smith, Jac Davies, Craig Nielsen, Keith Baldwin, Sam Palpant, Glen Stream, Kevin Kavanaugh and Mike McDaniels. Stefan Humphries served as Committee Chair. George McAlister was staff.

### CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2009 MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 a.m. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of November 5, 2009.

#### **1. 2010 Informatics Chair Nominations**

Kevin Kavanaugh, MD, FACC, graciously agreed to serve as Committee Chair for 2010. His nomination was moved, seconded and approved.

#### **2. HCA Updates, 3. HIE Updates and 4. F/U NIH Funding for Collaborative Health Science Research Infrastructure**

HITECH, part of the economic stimulus program, will provide \$2 billion to “facilitate and expand the electronic movement and use of health information.” HITECH is administered by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) will receive HITECH funding for state programs in 2010. Before HITECH monies are released, the ONC requires a strategic and operational plan for the State. HCA has designated OneHealthPort (OHP) to serve as the lead health information exchange (HIE) organization. The OneHealthPort website is located at <http://www.onehealthport.com/index.php>

OneHealthPort is arranging a series of face to face meetings to determine what individuals and organizations would like to see in HIE and what they are willing to pay for in the long term. It has been said that “governance should be in the hands of those paying for it” and for any HIE program to be successful, there has to be financial support from all participants. One Health Port is planning to have a strategic plan completed by mid-March 2010. They are then hoping to turn the project over to a new governing organization. It is important for the Spokane County Medical Society to become actively involved, with knowledgeable representation at the table. There is currently a Washington State Medical Association representative on the OHP Board, Dr. Peter Dunbar.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has established a new program entitled “Building Sustainable Community-Linked Infrastructure to Enable Health Science Research”, called the “Community Infrastructure” grants program. The program emphasizes community collaboration between academic health centers and community-based organizations for health science research. Unfortunately, NIH is limiting funding to academic health centers (universities with medical schools) and WSU is not eligible to receive funding.

A more promising source of funding is through the Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program. Beacon will provide funding to communities to build and strengthen existing health information technology (HIT) infrastructures and exchange capabilities. Fifteen awards of \$15 million each will be offered to qualified non-profit organizations or government agencies that are already well advanced in HIE. Selected communities must already be national leaders in the advancement of HIT and applicants must be prepared to start and complete activities quickly. This opportunity is very relevant to what we’re doing in Spokane. A letter of intent to apply is due January 8, 2010, with applications due on February 1, 2010. Letters of support from community players are also required as part of the application process. INHS is convening a community dinner meeting (Wednesday, December 9) to identify and develop a “community consensus” proposal that will serve as our “model of success.”

#### **5. Gonzaga Looking for Guest Lecturers for its MBA Healthcare Management Program**

A reminder to the group that Gonzaga would like to line up speakers for their MBA program in Healthcare Management. Specifically, they are looking for possible speakers for the Healthcare Information Systems course, to be held in the Spring Semester on Monday evenings beginning January 11 from 5:30-8:30pm. Remaining dates available are Feb 8 and Mar 15. This is an opportunity to share our IT successes/challenges with members of our community getting their MBA degrees. A \$200 stipend is available for guest lecturers. Please contact Sarah Travis at [stravis@inlandimaging.com](mailto:stravis@inlandimaging.com) or Jinny Piskel, the Director of the Graduate School of Business, at 509.313.3414.

**6. Thank you to Dr. Stefan Humphries**

Committee members offered a special thank you to Dr. Humphries for his service as Committee Chair in 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by the individual whose name appears below:

Stefan Humphries, MD, Chair