



Editor's Notes...

Given the historical March events in healthcare, our first article in the April newsletter offers resource links about the recently enacted healthcare reform laws as well as the \$22 billion in released stimulus funds. The second article contains a brief overview and link to a SIGHealth-related journal article in the May issue of the *Communications of the ACM*. Congratulations to SIGHealth colleagues Vance Wilson and Bengisu Tulu on their article entitled "The Rise of a Health-IT Academic Focus," which examines health-IT trends in academia and recognizes the resources available on our SIGHealth Website (www.aissighealth.com).

Bob Folden, our SIGHealth Resource Chair, continues his call to the SIGHealth membership for help in identifying SIGHealth resources. Growing and enhancing our SIGHealth knowledge-base benefits our SIG, our members, and our students.

Our officers would like to remind the membership of the annual SIGHealth meeting to be held during AMCIS this August, in Lima. When plans are finalized, specific meeting details will be posted on our Website and reposted in the newsletter. In the meantime, AMCIS registration begins in May and an author of each accepted paper must register by June 1 to have the paper included. Also, please remember to re-designate your membership in SIGHealth when you renew your AIS membership.

This month's newsletter also highlights upcoming opportunities for regional and international workshops and conferences. In May, a workshop on "Healthcare Service Management and Modeling" will be held during the MWAIS Conference. Also in late May, the 27th Annual Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL) Symposium will host a Consumer Health Informatics Workshop at the University of Maryland, College Park.

In closing, I hope you will share your practitioner and research experiences with other SIGHealth members through contributions to your newsletter. Content received by the 20th of each month will appear in that month's issue and content received after the 20th will typically appear in the next month's issue. Suggested content categories are:

- News about SIGHealth members (up to 300 words)
- We welcome SIGHealth related essays (about 900 words) from industry professionals .
- News and approaches to teaching e-health (up to 1800 words)
- "How to's" on research methods, getting papers published, reviewing papers, etc.
- Short essays/opinions/research studies (up to 2,500 words)
- Book reviews (about 900 words).
- Any other announcements (up to 300 words for each item).

Warmest regards,

Jim Ryan, Ph.D.
jeryan@troy.edu



Healthcare Reform Resources on the Web...**Jim Ryan**

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act along with the Healthcare and Education Reconciliation Act, the landmark United States healthcare reform bill and its reconciliation bill, became laws in March to join the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, which was part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (i.e. the stimulus bill). The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has a series of authorities and responsibilities in these laws. The following resources, concerning these laws and possible research and/or funding opportunities, are available and I would like to share them with you in this month's newsletter.

Launching HITECH—A perspective article on the HITECH Act by Dr. David Blumenthal, who is the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology within the Department of Health and Human Services. The article was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, volume 363, issue 5, pages 382-385.

Health Information Technology: for the future of health and care—This Website is for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). The site offers links that include: HITECH & Funding Opportunities; HITECH Programs; Federal Advisory Committees,; Regulations & Guidance; ONC Initiatives; and Outreach, Events, and Resources.

Recovery.gov—This Website is the United States government's official website that provides access to data related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act .

HealthReform.gov—This Website is maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services and details the titles, subtitles, sections, and parts of both the Affordable Care Act and the Reconciliation Act. PDF downloads to all the titles and amendments are available, as well as reports, timelines and events, news, and contact information.

Kaiser Health News—Kaiser Health News (KHN) is a nonprofit news organization providing coverage of health policy issues and developments at the federal and state levels. KHN is a major program of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, a non-profit private operating foundation, dedicated to producing and communicating analysis and information on health issues and trends in healthcare .

The Health Care Blog—The Health Care Blog (THCB) considers its BLOG as one of the most respected independent voices in the healthcare industry. The Wall Street Journal calls THCB "among the most widely read insider publications in the field." Web MD calls THCB "a free-wheeling discussion of the latest healthcare developments."

iHealthBeat.org—iHealthBeat is a free, daily news digest reporting on technology's impact on healthcare. iHealthBeat is part of the California HealthCare Foundation's commitment to important issues affecting healthcare policy, delivery and financing. This site maintains a stimulus (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) watch page.

HITSphere: Healthcare IT Supersite—This aggregated site provides BLOGs, news, tools, and other interest items to the healthcare IT professionals—technical-in-the-trench audiences as well as the HIT (Healthcare Information Technology) community-at-large. The site offers an aggregated BLOG on healthcare law. ■

“The Rise of a Health-IT Academic Focus”...**Vance Wilson & Bengisu Tulu**

Overview: Information technology (IT) investments are rising in health care, prompting information systems, computer science, and related academic units to develop specialized programs to produce business IT professionals with health domain knowledge. We profile two new health-IT programs to identify factors that have contributed to their initial success. A further analysis is conducted to benchmark the trajectory of health-IT publications in mainstream IT journals over the past 25 years. We conclude with several challenges to program success, including acceptance of health-IT programs, the impact of discipline-focused promotion and tenure practices on health-IT faculty, and the need for national health-IT program standards.

Reference: Wilson, Vance and Tulu, Bengisu (May 2010). The Rise of a Health-IT Academic Focus. *Communications of the ACM*, 53(5), pages 147—150.

URL: <http://portal.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1735223.1735259&coll=portal&dl=ACM&idx=J79&part=magazine&WantType=Magazines&title=Communications%20of%20the%20ACM> ■

We need the membership's help. Our SIGHealth website offers its membership opportunities to list resources from healthcare-related dissertations, journals, and academic programs. Once posted, these resources grow the "IT in health-care" knowledge base and offer our members, colleagues, and especially our students a common SIGHealth reference point. Please take the time to review the initial listings located on our website and then add to the existing knowledge base by making your contribution. Currently, our SIGHealth website has categories for:

Dissertations: If you or your graduate students have a SIGHealth-related dissertation, then please consider having a PDF version of the abstract posted.

Journals: Our intent is to have a complete listing of all SIGHealth-related journals, so please let us know of any omissions.

Academic Programs: This listing focuses on health-related academic programs that are based in or substantially comprised of Information Systems, Information, and/or Computer Science academic units.

Other resource categories being considered are healthcare related books with reviews, abstracts of seminal SIGHealth journal articles, and an index of members' journal articles. Additional category suggestions are welcomed. Please direct your contributions and suggestions to Bob Folden, SIGHealth Resources Chair (bob_folden@tamu-commerce.edu). ■

Networking Opportunities...

Spread the word: SIGHealth is a group on 

May 2010...Renewal of AIS Membership and Re-designating SIGHealth Interest

AIS membership renewal fees are often accessed during an AIS conference registration process, and AMCIS registration will open in May. Please be aware that when you renew your AIS membership, you must also re-designate your interest in SIGHealth. Currently, membership in SIGHealth is \$10 USD per year.

[More Details](#)

May 2010...Workshop on "Healthcare Service Management and Modeling" MWAIS 2010 Conference

When: Friday, May 21, 2010

Where: School of Business, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Workshop Chairs: Ashish Gupta, Minnesota State University Moorhead, USA, gupta@mnstate.edu

John B. Osborn, Mayo Clinic, USA, osborn.john@mayo.edu

Ramesh Sharda, Oklahoma State University, USA, ramesh.sharda@okstate.edu

Cost: Registration for MWAIS is required to attend this workshop.

Workshop Description: This workshop will have several invited speakers, panels, and research presentations from academics and various sectors representing healthcare industry such as hospitals, nursing, pharmaceutical. There will be a roundtable session at the workshop for providing feedback to authors for the journal special issue.

Workshop Scope: This workshop invites original manuscripts (and work in progress) of high quality research that utilize various modeling, analytical, empirical, qualitative approaches and make significant contribution towards a) improving the management or performance of any aspect of healthcare network or any of its constituents, b) using innovative approaches towards resolving problems of significant interest within the health-care domain, c) proposing and testing decision models that suggest improvement in state-of-art healthcare practice or delivery.

[More Details](#)

May 2010...Consumer Health Informatics Workshop | University of Maryland

When: Friday, May 28, 2010

Where: University of Maryland, College Park, which is less than 10 miles from Washington DC.

Cost: \$75 (covers breakfast, lunch, and snack). A limited number of scholarships are available.

Call for Participation: The HCIL Consumer Health Informatics Workshop, as part of the 27th Annual Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL) Symposium, will examine the use of novel information and communication technologies (ICTs) in healthcare from the perspective of health consumers. Potential topics are varied and abstracts of no more than 300 words are due by April 30, 2010.

About HCIL: The Human-Computer Interaction Lab (HCIL) at the University of Maryland designs, implements, and evaluates new interface technologies that are universally usable, useful, efficient and appealing to a broad cross-section of people. We believe it is critical to understand how the needs and dreams of people can be reflected in our future technologies. To this end, the HCIL develops advanced user interfaces and design methodology. Our primary activities include collaborative research, publication and the sponsorship of open houses, workshops and symposiums.

[More Details](#)

August 2010...AMCIS 2010 and Annual SIGHealth Meeting

When: August 12 - 15, 2010

Where: Lima, Peru

Registration: Begins May 1

Accepted papers: One author must complete the new AIS author registration policy by June 1.

[More Details](#)



September 2010...Mediterranean Conference on Information Systems (MCIS)

When: September 12 - 14, 2010

Where: Tel-Aviv-Yafo, Israel

Health Informatics Track

Track Chairs: Moshe Leshno, Tel-Aviv University, Israel

Elena Karahanna, University of Georgia, USA

Submission Deadline: May 1, 2010

Healthcare is an important challenge facing all nations in the Mediterranean as well as across the world. Developed and developing nations alike are facing the challenge of controlling rising costs while at the same time increasing quality of care, patient safety, and access. Given the promise of Information Systems to address these challenges, the healthcare industry has embarked towards a wide spectrum of automation (e.g., electronic medical/health records, computerized provider order entry, clinical decision support systems, telehealth applications, and more). The objective of the Healthcare track is to promote exchange of knowledge on the use of Information Systems for healthcare in the region and beyond. We welcome papers that examine the role of IS in addressing technical, economic, behavioral, strategic, organizational, and policy issues pertaining to healthcare. Submissions can focus on various diverse perspectives including providers (hospitals, physicians), policy makers (e.g., government), insurance companies, and patients. Theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented contributions are welcome.

[More Details](#)



Networking Opportunities...

November 2010...1st ACM International Health Informatics Symposium (IHI)

When: November 11-12, 2010

Where: Washington, D.C.

IHI 2010 is ACM's premier community forum concerned with the application of computer and information science principles as well as information and communication technology to problems in healthcare, public health, the delivery of healthcare services and consumer health informatics aspects, and finally, the related social and ethical issues on the use of computing technology in the health informatics domain.

IHI 2010 is primarily interested in serving as a venue for the discussion of technical contributions highlighting end-to-end applications, systems, and technologies, even if available only in prototype form. Therefore, we strongly encourage authors to submit their original contributions describing their algorithmic and methodological contributions providing an application-oriented context.

The IHI demo track is an exciting and highly interactive way to demonstrate your health informatics system or application. The demo program will be featured prominently in the conference program and should be seen as a vehicle to showcase innovative new technologies or applications in health informatics. [More Details](#)

November 2010...Doctoral Consortium on Sociotechnical Issues in Medical Informatics

When: November 13, 2010

Where: Washington, D.C. (in conjunction with the 2010 AMIA Conference, November 13-17)

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2010

The American Medical Informatics Association's (AMIA) People and Organizational Working Group along with the International Medical Informatics Association's (IMIA) Organizational and Social Issues Working Group with support from the National Science Foundation is proud to sponsor the 2010 Doctoral Consortium on Sociotechnical Issues in Medical Informatics (<http://faculty.ist.psu.edu/reddy/amia/>). The Doctoral Consortium is a forum in which doctoral students can meet and discuss their work with each other and with a panel of experienced researchers. Applicants should be past the candidacy stage and near their thesis proposal defense. If you would like to apply but do not meet this criteria, please contact the Consortium Chair, Dr. Madhu Reddy (mreddy@ist.psu.edu). The Consortium committee will select approximately 10-12 participants who will be expected to give short, informal presentations of their work during the Consortium. [More Details](#)

Publication Opportunities...

CFP: Second International Workshop on Organizational Design and Engineering (IWODE10)

Papers are due May 1, 2010.

[More Details](#)

CFP: Mediterranean Conference on Information Systems (MCIS)

Papers are due May 1, 2010.

[More Details](#)

CFP: 1st ACM International Health Informatics Symposium (IHI)

Abstracts are due June 2, 2010; Papers are due June 4, 2010.

[More Details](#)

CFP: 44th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)

Papers are due June 15, 2010.

[More Details](#)