



HIIT NEWSLETTER



HEALTH INFORMATICS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HIIT) SPECIAL PRIMARY INTEREST GROUP (SPIG) OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
THE e-NEWSLETTER COMMITTED TO IMPROVING GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

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an active participant in this exciting period of our growth!!!

HIIT is Now a SPIG of APHA !!!

On May 9, 2007, the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association (APHA) approved the Health Informatics Information Technology (HIIT) group as an official Special Primary Interest Group (SPIG). Prior to its establishment as a SPIG, the Intersectional Council of APHA unanimously approved HIIT to go before the Executive Board of APHA for approval. The APHA is 135 years old and HIIT represents the first technology component of the organization. The concept of creating a technology component within APHA began in 1993 with a small group of devoted individuals. The creation of the SPIG has taken several years, and serves as a testament to the dedication of the aforementioned individuals as well as all who've served to make this dream a reality. Special congratulations and a great deal of gratitude are extended to Dr. Diane L. Adams, Founder/Chair of Health Informatics Information Technology, for her visionary and stellar leadership in this effort.

Chair/Founder's Message



I am elated to have the opportunity to come to you via this e-newsletter to convey my heartfelt and deepest appreciation to all who've given of their time, expertise and support in making HIIT's transition to a Special Primary Interest Group (SPIG) of the American Public Health Association (APHA) possible. Truly, without your ongoing support, this milestone accomplishment would not have come to fruition. While this point in our history is indeed notable, there is still much work to be done as we transition to our newly-designated role. I invite you to continue to be

Welcome/Thank You

Welcome to Dr. Edward Mensah, Associate Professor and Program Director of the Public Health Informatics Program, Division of Health Policy and Administration, School of Public Health University of Illinois-Chicago to our Advisory Board. Dr. Mensah has replaced Dr. Blake from Georgetown who resigned due to his hectic schedule. We want to thank Dr. Blake for his contributions on the Advisory Board.

Welcome/Thank You Continued

Welcome Mr. Alex Charleston. Mr. Charleston is a public health analyst at CDC's National Center for Environmental Health/ Coordinating Center for Environmental Health and Injury Prevention. He has been at CDC for 14 years and has worked on several projects including CDC WONDER, Epi Info, and the Assessment Initiative. He is currently working on the Informatics team developing the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. Mr. Charleston has agreed to serve as the Award's Chairman for HIIT. Thank you for agreeing to serve in this capacity.

Congratulations

Diane L. Adams, MD, MPH, CHS-III

Diane L. Adams, M.D., MPH, CHS-III, Founder/Chair of HIIT has been selected to serve on the Executive Planning Committee of the Fifth Annual Public Health Information Network (PHIN) Conference to be convened in Atlanta, GA August 27-29, 2007.

Dr. Adams has long been an advocate for Health Information Technology (HIT) and its implications for public health. Her passion is reflected in the theme of the upcoming PHIN conference, *Harmonizing Public Health Voices in National HIT*. The conference will feature workshops, training on informatics, and more opportunities to provide input to CDC on how to implement the PHIN initiative.

Dr. Adams has been selected as an Associate Editor to the upcoming On-line Journal of Equity in Health (JEH) from Columbia University.

David Potenziani, PhD, MA

HIIT's Advisory Board Member, David Potenziani, PhD, MA, has been named Senior Associate Dean for the University of North Carolina's School of Public Health. The announcement was made on July 2, 2007 by Dean Barbara K. Rimer.

Congratulations continued

Dr. Potenziani was formerly the Instructional and Information Systems (IIS) Director, and had served as interim Senior Associate Dean since March. In his new position, he plays a key role in strategic planning, developing and maintaining partnerships, overseeing the administrative functions within the School and raising funds for the School. In addition, he is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Administration (HPAA).

Ramesh S. Krishnamurthy, PhD, MPH

HIIT's Advisory Board Member, Ramesh S. Krishnamurthy, PhD, MPH has been named Health Scientist (Informatics) in the Coordinating Office for Global Health (COGH) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Krishnamurthy will assist COGH in coordination of information systems approaches across diverse global health program areas, and will help support international partnerships with key global organizations such as the Health Metrics Network. Before joining COGH, Dr. Krishnamurthy was a CDC Public Health Informatics Fellow and was assigned to the Division of Emerging Infections and Surveillance Services at the Coordinating Center for Infectious Diseases/National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases (CCID/NCPDCID). In that capacity, he worked on many field informatics assignments in Thailand, Mozambique, Liberia, India, Guatemala, and here in the United States. Dr. Krishnamurthy is currently Chair of HIIT's Policy Committee.

Brenda Leath, MHSA

HIIT's Advisory Board Member Brenda A. Leath, MHSA has been selected to serve as a Consulting Editor to the On-line Journal of Equity in Health (JEH) published by Columbia University.

Upcoming Events

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Annual Conference

July 11, 2007- July 13, 2007

Columbus Hyatt

Columbus, Ohio

<http://www.naccho.org/conferences/NACCHOannual07/>

Upcoming Events Continued

National Center for Public Health Informatics

Annual Conference on Assessment Initiative

August 22, 2007 - August 24, 2007

Sheraton Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, GA

<HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/NCPHI/EVENTS.HTML>

National Association of Public Health Information Technology (NAPHIT)

Annual Meeting

August 26, 2007

CNN Omni Hotel

Atlanta, GA

<http://www.naphit.org/>

Public Health Information Network (PHIN)

Annual Conference

August 27, 2007- August 29, 2007

CNN Omni Hotel

Atlanta, GA

http://www.cdc.gov/phin/phin_conference/

Upcoming Events Continued

Association of State and Territorial Health Organizations (ASTHO)

Annual Meeting

October 2, 2007 - October 5, 2007

Hyatt Regency Hotel

St. Louis, Missouri

<http://www.astho.org/>

National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO)

Annual Meeting

October 18, 2007 – October 19, 2007

Westin San Diego at Emerald Plaza

San Diego, CA

<http://www.nahdo.org>

American Public Health Association (APHA)

135th Annual Meeting

November 3, 2007- November 7, 2007

Washington Convention Center

Washington, DC

<http://www.apha.org/meetings/highlights/>

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)

2007 Annual Symposium
Chicago, IL

November 10, 2007 - November 14, 2007

<http://www.amia.org/meetings/f07/>

HIIT's Annual Program

HIIT will convene a cadre of Public Health Information Technology stakeholders and thought leaders at the 135th Annual APHA Convention. The five day HIIT track will be comprised of special invited town hall meeting, informative poster sessions, panel discussions and business meetings. HIIT's first Awards Ceremony will be held on Monday, November 5, from 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM. Please plan to attend the HIIT sessions and other scientific feature programs of the APHA. Additional information and a list of the HIIT scientific sessions may be found at

[HTTP://APHA.CONFEX.COM/APHA/135AM/TECHPROGRAM/PROGRAM_794.HTM#168_0](http://apha.confex.com/apha/135am/techprogram/program_794.htm#168_0)

The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Improve the Health and Wellness of Persons with Disabilities: A Role for Health Informatics- Personal and Electronic Health Records

More than 54 million people with disabilities live in the US. Most people with disabilities face challenges relating to access to health information, quality health care, and personal wellness. As a consequence, this segment of the population is more likely to experience disparate health outcomes than their counterparts without disabilities. Creating a responsive public health system that advances the health and wellness of persons with disabilities must become a national priority.

The Health Informatics Information Technology (HIIT) Special Primary Interest Group (SPIG) is pleased to announce its first **Town Hall Meeting from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2007** (Session # 3299.0 in the APHA Convention Agenda). Our focus will be on The Surgeon General's *Call to Action to Improve the Health and Wellness of Persons with Disabilities*. Learn about how this jointly authored publication by The US Department of Health and Human Services Office on Disability (OD) and Office of the Surgeon General is guiding the development of a national implementation plan.

HIIT's Annual Program Continued

Join us in a dynamic dialogue about personal and electronic health records in relation to care quality and access for persons with disabilities. Provide input about new possibilities and partnerships for advancing the health of persons with disabilities through health informatics. Share interdisciplinary viewpoints from the perspective of public health clinicians, administrators, thought leaders, strategists, policymakers, health informatics and information technology professionals, consumer advocates, and other interested participants.

Get Well Wishes

Get well wishes are extended to Advisory Board Member, Dr. Polly Turner. Dr. Turner is recovering well after surgery. She sends her heartfelt appreciation for your well-wishes, kind words and expressions. On behalf of HIIT's leadership, the Membership Committee sent Dr. Turner a bouquet of flowers.

Condolences

The Leadership of HIIT wishes to express its deepest sympathy regarding the passing of the mother-in-law of HIIT Advisory Board Member, Brenda Leath. Our thoughts and hearts are with Ms. Leath and her family at this time of bereavement.

HIIT'S Leadership

Officers

Dr. Diane L. Adams – Founder/Chair
Ms. Sandra A. Worrell – Chair-Elect
Dr. Jayfus Doswell – Vice Chair
Ms. Tracy Hilliard – Secretary (PhD Candidate)
Mr. Christopher D. Williams – Student Liaison

Committee Chairs

Ms. Sandra Worrell – Strategic Planning
Dr. Laurie Fitts – Membership
Ms. Brenda Leath – Community Outreach
Dr. Edward Mensah – Education and Research
Dr. Ramesh Krishnamurthy – Policy
Mr. Alex Charleston- Awards

HIIT's Leadership continued

Advisory Board

Dr. Dave Potenziani
Dr. Lillian Tom-Orme
Dr. Mike Roco
Dr. Dave Ross
Dr. Edward Mensah
Mr. David Rookard
Ms. Brenda A. Leath
Dr. Polly S. Turner
Dr. Jay Bernhardt

Editorial Staff

Dr. Diane L. Adams, Editor
Dr. Dave Potenziani, Associate Editor
Dr. Lillian Tom-Orme, Associate Editor
Ms. Sandy Worrell, Assistant Editor
Dr. Laurie Fitts, Assistant Editor
Ms. Brenda A. Leath, Assistant Editor
Christopher Williams, Assistant Editor

Congratulations to HIIT!

