

Making the eHealth Connection: Overview

NATIONAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS Week 1: July 13–18, 2008

Public Health Informatics and National Health Information Systems

- ▶ University of Washington's Center for Public Health Informatics
- ▶ Health Metrics Network

Public health informatics is an area of great growth and promise in the developing world.

This conference examined the use of ICT in public health, enterprise architecture issues, user needs, functional requirements, and the development of a Partners in Global Public Health Informatics Initiative.

The Path to Interoperability

- ▶ Health Level Seven (HL7)
- ▶ World Health Organization

A key obstacle to sharing information is the lack of interoperable health systems and consensus on data standards. This conference covered current standards development and implementation related to the interoperability needs of developing countries. And, it identified technologies, policies, skills, and government and industry leadership necessary to achieve interoperability.

KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY FOR eHEALTH Week 2: July 20–25, 2008

Access to Health Information

- ▶ Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information (BIREME)

Increasing access to health information can greatly improve health care. Participants discussed state of the art information access tools. They explored the role of social and virtual communities, seeding global alliances, and networks on e-information access and policies.

Health Informatics and eHealth Capacity Building

- ▶ American Medical Informatics Association
- ▶ International Medical Informatics Association

One of the biggest challenges to eHealth capacity building in developing countries is the shortage of qualified health care professionals and training resources. This conference prioritized capacity-building opportunities in developing countries and identified how eHealth technologies and tools can support them.

CORE eHEALTH TECHNOLOGIES

Week 3: July 27–Aug 1, 2008

Electronic Health and Medical Records

- ▶ Partners in Health
- ▶ Regenstrief Institute

Since fledgling efforts just five years ago, several successful medical information systems and electronic medical records (EMRs) systems have now been deployed in developing countries, and information technology (IT) is much

more widely available in resource-poor areas. The core objective of this conference was to explore a plan for the creation of a comprehensive hospital and ambulatory medical information system for developing countries.

mHealth and Mobile Telemedicine

- ▶ United Nations Foundation
- ▶ Vodafone Group Foundation
- ▶ Telemedicine Society of India

Mobile electronic health tools are rapidly transforming health care delivery. Mobile phone use in particular is exploding across the developing world, offering the opportunity to leapfrog forward. Participants assessed mHealth and telemedicine priorities, discussed market scaling, and seeded a multi-sectoral partnership dedicated to designing, funding, and advancing mobile health projects in the developing world.

POLICY AND MARKETS FOR eHEALTH

Week 4: Aug 3–8, 2008

Unlocking the market for eHealth

- ▶ Public Health Institute

eHealth is increasingly employed to address health system challenges and improve services, especially for poor and vulnerable populations. Yet a myriad of questions linger on the money and

Making the eHealth Connection: Partners

incentive side of the equation. These issues are particularly acute for developing countries. This conference generated new thinking about the finance and business of eHealth for the underserved and explore how to effect social and health care changes through eHealth investments in developing countries.

National eHealth Policies

► The World Health Organization Common policy challenges are emerging for countries around the globe embarking on eHealth implementations. Coordination between actors at the local, regional, national, and trans-national level and rational alignment on eHealth donor policy is increasingly important. This conference defined a new process for development of national eHealth strategies, described distinct models for regulation of national and global eHealth infrastructures, and began the process of drafting a five-year global eHealth policy roadmap.

AMERICAN MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION (AMIA)

www.amia.org

AMIA is a professional organization of leaders shaping the future of biomedical and health informatics in the United States and over 50 other nations. AMIA is dedicated to the development and application of informatics in support of patient care, public health, teaching, research, administration, and related policy.

HEALTH LEVEL SEVEN (HL7)

www.hl7.org

HL7 is a not-for-profit standards development organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services.

HEALTH METRICS NETWORK (HMN)

www.who.int/healthmetrics/en

Health Metrics Network (HMN) is a global partnership that facilitates better health information at country, regional and global levels. Partners include developing countries, multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations, other global health partnerships and technical experts.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION (IMIA)

www.imia.org

IMIA provides leadership and expertise to the multidisciplinary health focused community and policy makers to enable the transformation of healthcare in accord with the world-wide vision to improve the health of the world population. It plays a major global role in the application of information science and technology in the fields of healthcare and research in medical, health and bio informatics.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CENTER ON HEALTH SCIENCES INFORMATION (BIREME)

www.bireme.br

BIREME's mission is to contribute to the development of the health in the countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean by the promotion of the use of the scientific and technical health information.

PARTNERS IN HEALTH (PIH)

www.pih.org

Partners In Health is a non-profit corporation based in Boston, Massachusetts, and active in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, Russia, and the United States. Through service, training, advocacy, and research, and by establishing long-term relationships

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with sister organizations, PIH strives to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTE www.phi.org

The Public Health Institute (PHI) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. As one of the largest and most comprehensive public health organizations in the nation, it is at the forefront of research and innovations to improve the efficacy of public health statewide, nationally and internationally.

REGENSTRIEF INSTITUTE www.regenstrief.org

The Regenstrief Institute is an internationally recognized informatics and healthcare research organization, dedicated to the improvement of health through research that enhances the quality and cost-effectiveness of healthcare.

TELEMEDICINE SOCIETY OF INDIA

www.tsi.org.in

The Telemedicine Society of India was created in 2006 with the objectives to promote and encourage development, advancement and research in the science of telemedicine and the application of telemedicine technology in clinical care, education and research in the health sector of India.

UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION (UN FOUNDATION)

www.unfoundation.org

The UN Foundation acts to meet the most pressing health, humanitarian, socioeconomic, and environmental challenges of the 21st century through the support of the United Nations, new and innovative public-private partnerships, advocacy and grantmaking.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON'S CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATICS (CPHI) www.cphi.washington.edu

The mission of CPHI is to link practitioners, faculty, staff, and students from a wide variety of disciplines to enhance public health informatics research, training and practice. It is an interdisciplinary environment that supports innovative research into information strategies and technologies to improve the health of the public.

VODAFONE GROUP FOUNDATION

www.vodafone.com/start/foundation.html

The Vodafone Group Foundation makes social investments that help the people of the world to lead fuller lives by: sharing the benefits of developments in mobile communications technology as widely as possible, supporting the local communities in which Vodafone operates, helping to alleviate suffering in disaster areas, supporting sport and music projects to benefit young people and their communities, promoting the health and well-being of young people; and protecting the natural environment.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) www.who.int/en

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

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