

## UCARE: Information Care For You

The UCARE Project is the information navigation and empowerment tools component of the IAIMS Program. UCARE builds on existing interface, database and management resources. The goal is to create a seamless environment of local and Internet accessible information for health sciences faculty, staff and students, regardless of their geographic location, to promote quality decision making. These enhanced tools will be developed for how people in the health sciences domain really work—switching from one task to another (throughout the day and night!) in their educational, clinical and research and administrative roles.

**UCARE** addresses two major aims of the IAIMS program: 1) to promote access to all types of relevant and quality information resources; and 2) to create effective information retrieval and management tools.

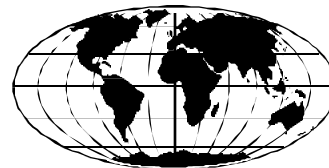
We will build on existing campus resources such as the Willow search interface, Pine-mail, and the University of Washington Information Navigator (UWIN) menu systems.

**Willow/Wilco Interfaces.** Enhancements to the Willow/Wilco search interfaces continue. In the near future, we will be extending Willow to offer full-text clinical information, image, patient data, and common terminology assistant browsing. Research and development over the last year concentrating on Z39.50-compliant databases and full image display will bring a number of new and exciting additions to the Willow system. More and more, database providers are moving to make their information available over the Internet using this search retrieval standard. Currently we use it as the base for a beta project to display the full-image of journal articles for a selected set of engineering journals from Elsevier Press. You can expect to see this kind of

advance in the future of Willow.

**Terminology Assistant.** Work is underway to prototype a UMLS (Unified Medical Language System) browser to simplify the selection of terminology to define a topic when using MEDLINE®, and other indexed databases which use *Medical Subject Headings*. Our UMLS browser will be expanded to serve as a stand-alone terminology assistant for ICD-9, SNOMED, CPT, and other terminology sets used in clinical medicine. Enhancements and integration to the clinical information systems are a focus of our long-term IAIMS plans.

**Health Information Highway.** HealthTracks, which debuted June 8 on UWIN, is our Health Sciences Center Gopher server. Provided collaboratively by the UCARE Project team and the Health Sciences Libraries and Information Center (HSLIC) staff, HealthTracks brings together both local UW information and information published electronically, all over the world, in the health sciences domain under a single menu. HealthTracks is UCARE's first step in providing the "on-ramp" to the



## Panko at UW

The University of Washington IAIMS program and the Department of Medical Education, School of Medicine, are very pleased to welcome Visiting Scholar, Walter B. Panko, Ph.D. As a leader in the field of healthcare informatics, and a well-respected expert in IAIMS issues, his presence will prove invaluable to our program.

Until June 30, 1994, Dr. Pankowas Director of Health Sciences Information Technology & Networking for the University of Michigan Medical Center and Assistant Dean for Information Technology in the Medical School. He currently holds the academic rank of Professor of Information and Library Studies at the University. He also directed the Informatics Core of the Human Genome Center at Michigan.

Prior to joining the University of Michigan, Dr. Pankowas Senior Scientist and Manager in the Life Sciences and Intelligent Systems Department for BEN Laboratories—among the founders of the Internet. Until he left academics in 1987 to join BEN, his career at Baylor College of Medicine combined biomedical research (NIH funded research), clinical care (clinical chemistry), and information technology (Director of IAIMS Development). In Houston, he was also Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at Rice University.

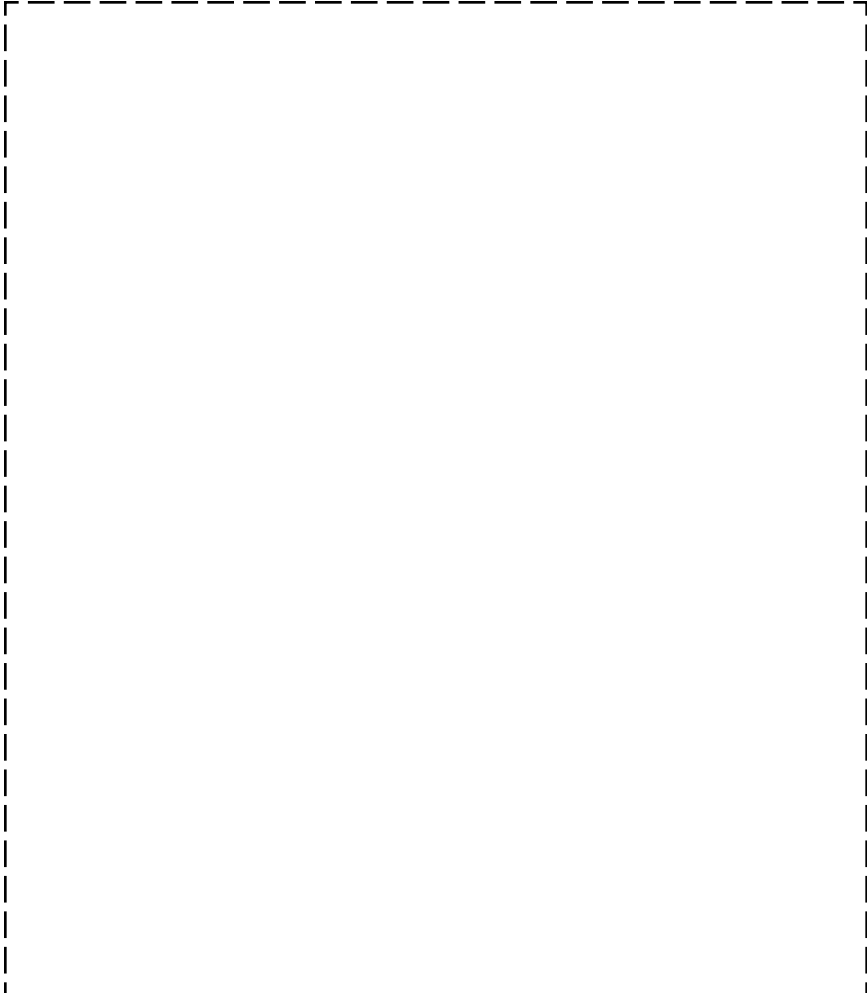


## A Very Healthy Gopher

HealthTracks is a new service on campus that brings together information in the health care field which is available over the Internet under a single menu. HealthTracks is a "gopher" system that provides a means of publishing and linking information together. Many government agencies (e.g., the National Institutes of Health) and their organizations are using gophers to publish information electronically. And here in the Health Sciences Center, we are using a gopher to make what was once available only in print (e.g., the *Drug Therapy Topics* newsletter) accessible to you electronically in clinical areas, as well as in your office or your home.

To access HealthTracks, connect to UWIN on a terminal in the medical center or from your personal computer. Select the last option "Health Sciences track" and then "HealthTracks" in the second column. (For experienced UWIN users, jump to "ht." For experienced Internet users, the gopher address is: gopher.hslib.washington.edu.)

Under the Clinical Care menu, you will find information resources organized by medical specialty. Check out the National Cancer Institute's PDQ; selected CANCERLIT® databases under the Cancer menu; and a wealth of AIDS information under the AIDS menu. The Clinical Guidelines menu brings together the Guide to Clinical Preventive



*(Health Sciences Center for Educational Resources Home Page)*

## Web Explored: HSCER Home Page

Continued on page 4

*Published by the IAIMS Program Office.  
Supported, in part, by a grant from the  
National Library of Medicine  
(Grant #G08 LM 05050).*

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With the "IDEAL" educational model of IAIMS in mind, the Health Sciences Center for Educational Resources has designed a world-wide web home-page interface to a number of educational resources available on the Internet.

The Center's homepage offers net users an entry point to a variety of educational resources. It can be accessed from any World Wide Web browser, including NCSA Mosaic. With the browser running, enter the address for the Center's main menu [<http://newman.hs.washington.edu/cer-main.html>]. Options exist for selecting information about the Health Sciences Center for Educational Resources, as well as for each of the following main resource

categories: UW Health Sciences Resources, Health Sciences Resources, University of Washington Resources, Educational Resources, Seattle Resources, or General Internet Resources.

For more information regarding IDEAL, please contact Dr. Jim Barrett at (206) 685-1161 ([barrett@u.washington.edu](mailto:barrett@u.washington.edu)). For information regarding the use of the world wide web for health sciences education, contact Bob McGough at (206) 685-1161 ([bobmcg@u.washington.edu](mailto:bobmcg@u.washington.edu)).

Please refer to Vital Links, May 1994: *IDEAL: Integrated Databases for Enhancing Academic Learning*, for further information on IDEAL.

## Solomon Joins IAIMS Program

The University of Washington IAIMS program has added another key member to the implementation team, Clifford Solomon, MA, MS (Ph.D. candidate), Educational Systems Designer. In this new position, Mr. Solomon is charged with the responsibility of working with faculty, administrators, staff and students to support design and develop teaching and learning materials.

Mr. Solomon comes to IAIMS from the UW Health Sciences Center for Educational Resources, where he was a Scientific Instructional Designer. His previous biomedical communications positions include: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, House Ear Institute (also in Los Angeles), University of Southern California and the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Dallas.

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## UCARE: Information Care for You (cont.)

health information highway. The next step in this construction project is called HealthLinks, a World Wide Web server, that incorporates formatted text, and multimedia (e.g., audio, movies, images). HealthLinks will make its debut later this year.

**Databases and Resources.** HSLIC has purchased a nursing database called *Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature* which should be available under Willow/Wilco by October 1994. Medical Centers Information Systems, in collaboration with the IAIMS Program, HSLIC and the School of Pharmacy, will be purchasing MICROMEDEX®, a resource for providing clinical decision making information for diagnosis, therapy and outcome. A wealth of information is available throughout the University's Health Science's schools and medical centers. Typical resources include: Clinical Nutrition Guidelines; the Hospital Formulary, a drug interactions database; a genetic testing center database; a variety of newsletters; and HealthBeat consumer health information articles.

Using low-cost indexes such as WAIS (Wide Area Information Server) integrated into the Gopher and World Wide Web servers, simple, highly effective, searching of local full-text information is readily available.

Bringing together diverse resources using this Gopher, along with purchased clinical resources, are both keys to providing the fundamental access tools for our health sciences domain. In addition, management tools for raising and reorganizing retrieved information for individual productivity include reference management software, site licensing management software with broad utility across the schools and centers, and a system of full document delivery.

Due to the rapidly changing Internet and computer environments, some of the work we proposed over a year ago will no doubt be superseded by new technology—but the aim remains the same: To provide the best possible access to information throughout all areas of the health sciences to faculty, staff and students.

Substantial input, testing and feedback are essential for developing the information navigation and empowerment tools of the UCARE Project. Faculty and staff interested in these tools should contact the UCARE Project ([iaims@u.washington.edu](mailto:iaims@u.washington.edu)) to become an active participant in task groups addressing information resource selection and search and navigation interfaces.

## Panko comes to UW (cont.)

At Michigan, Dr. Panko was responsible for the networking and integration efforts of the Medical Center. The Health Sciences Network (HSN), developed since his arrival at Michigan in 1990, has become the integrative focus for the Medical Center. At Michigan, he was PI of several peer-reviewed grants including a Phase II Integrated Academic Information Management System (IAIMS) grant from the National Library of Medicine; an award for Genome Informatics from the National Center for Human Genome Research; and a High Performance Computing and Communications (HPCC) grant focused on networked-based image repositories.

Dr. Panko plans to finish several manuscripts and a book. This will allow him "to explain to my wife why I require uninterrupted time on the deck gazing, contemplatively, at the Sound and Cascades." He will split the rest of his time between three groups—the IAIMS Program, the Department of Medical Education (his host department), and the Department of Molecular Biotechnology. In his own words, "This division of my time is a deliberate strategy that will allow me to do sagely while ducking the tough questions by claiming my real expertise is in the other two areas." He invites anyone with shared interests to drop by his office in the HSLIC, T-211, to chat. He can also be reached through the IAIMS office, 685-2166, or by sending e-mail to [wpanko@u.washington.edu](mailto:wpanko@u.washington.edu).

## Suggested Reading

The University of Washington Department of Computing and Communications newsletter, *Windows on Computing*, is an excellent source for keeping up with changes in the UW computing environment. From tips and tricks on how to best utilize WIN and PINE, to showcasing the new and improved, there is no other single source that can offer as much. To subscribe, e-mail: [info@cac.u.washington.edu](mailto:info@cac.u.washington.edu).

Upcoming Events

**September 8-10, 1994**

**Remote Health Care and Disaster Response***Second National Aeronautics and Space Administration/Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences - International Conference on Telemedicine*

Bethesda, MS - Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Sponsored by USHS in conjunction with the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine

The target audience includes medical and nonmedical professionals who have an interest in the emerging field of telemedicine and its application into the delivery of medical care. This conference will provide an international forum for review of recent developments in telemedicine, its application to remote health care and disaster response, and an opportunity to discuss future applications. This forum should lead to increased cooperation and coordination of efforts in telemedicine development. Pre-registration deadline is August 19, 1994. For more information, contact:

USHS - CHE Rockville Office  
Attn: Missy Harris  
11426 Rockville Pike, Suite 400  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 295-3106 or (800) 772-1728  
FAX: (301) 295-3110

**October 2-4, 1994**

**Health Care Informatics: Changing Realities, Changing Care***Third Annual Conference for Nurses*

Charlottesville, VA - Omni Hotel  
Presented by the University of Virginia and cosponsored by: TASC and AMIA

The conference is intended for health care providers, nursing informatics specialists and analysts, clinical informatics systems personnel, and health care managers. Focus is on the interaction of health care information technology and health care delivery in today's dynamic environment. Participants will examine changing realities in health care and information technology in light of their integral relationship. Registration deadline is September 7, 1994.

For more information, contact:

Health Care Informatics information line,  
(804) 982-4432  
UVA Continuing Health Care Education  
Health Sciences Center  
Box 147  
Charlottesville, VA 22908

For additional information on these events, and others, please refer to the IAIMS site on *HealthTracks* (see page 2). You will find IAIMS listed under *UW Health Sciences Center/ IAIMS/ Informatics Conferences*.

**Gopher (cont.)**

Services and the AHCPR Clinical Guidelines. Medical ethics provides access to bioethics database.

Check out these selections under Health Care Reform for the full text of national health documents, including the Oregon, California, Hawaii, and Washington State health plans. The Washington plan is formatted to make it accessible by section or full-text searchable. The Library Resources menu brings together a variety of databases, journal table of contents services, newsletters, government information and the Health Sciences Libraries information. Other information on grants, technology, education, biomedicine and public health is also available.

Be aware that MEDLINE® and other campus databases must still be selected from the UWIN menu or by choosing Willow on a terminal in the medical center.

HealthTracks is a collaborative project of the IAIMS Program and the Health Sciences Libraries. If you need help using HealthTracks or would like to schedule a demonstration for your department, send an e-mail message to the Health Sciences Libraries ([hs1@u.washington.edu](mailto:hs1@u.washington.edu)) or phone the Information Desk (543-3394). We will put you in touch with your library liaison for a test drive on the health information highway.

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**CONTENTS**

UCARE: Information Care for You . . . . . 1  
Panko at UW . . . . . 1  
Web Explored: HSCER Home Page . . . . . 2  
Suggested Reading . . . . . 3  
Educational Systems Designer Hired . . . . . 3  
Upcoming Events . . . . . 4