



# VITAL LINKS

Integrated Advanced Information Management System

The UW IAIMS Newsletter

University of Washington, Warren G. Magnuson Health Sciences Center

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## University of Washington Health Sciences Center Receives IAIMS Implementation Grant

Sherrilynne Fuller, Ph.D.  
Coordinator, Health Sciences Information Systems Integration

As you have undoubtedly heard, the University of Washington Health Sciences Center in Seattle has been awarded a five-year \$2.75 million grant from the National Library of Medicine to implement UW's long-range Integrated Advanced Information Management System (IAIMS) plan for the health sciences.

The Health Sciences Center, including the schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Community Medicine, and Social Work, as well as the University of Washington and Harborview Medical Centers, has been engaged in a comprehensive integrated information systems planning and development effort for the past five years. The result has been a strategic plan for linkages of key clinical, educational and research databases and systems, and a robust state-of-the-art high-speed network connecting all areas of the Health Sciences Center, as well as the creation of a number of sophisticated tools in support of easy desktop access for users.

Our IAIMS implementation process will focus on the development of clinical information systems linkages,

the application of educational technology in support of local and regional teaching responsibilities, and research in relevant core areas, including thesaurus construction, interface design, and image management. Support for state and regional health care information resources linkages will be a key component of integrated systems development efforts.

In this issue is a description of IDEAL, the UW IAIMS educational model. *Vital Links* will feature other program areas in future issues. In addition, we will update you regarding relevant informatics developments in the health sciences, both regional and national. IAIMS implementation is being led by Principal Investigator Sherrilynne Fuller, Ph.D., Coordinator, Health Sciences Information Systems Integration. James LoGerfo, M.D., Medical Director, Harborview Medical Center, serves as Co-Principal

Investigator. For additional information about IAIMS implementation at UW, send an e-mail message to [iaims@u.washington.edu](mailto:iaims@u.washington.edu), or call (206) 685-2166.

### Fellowship Opportunities

Wishing to increase the national pool of health professionals in medical informatics, the National Library of Medicine (NLM) is providing fellowship opportunities in applied informatics and research programs. The UW IAIMS program encourages health sciences professionals interested in training in informatics to apply for NLM informatics fellowships and research opportunities. For more information, please contact the IAIMS office at 685-2166, or e-mail [iaims@u.washington.edu](mailto:iaims@u.washington.edu).

# IDEAL: Integrated Databases for Enhancing Academic Learning

Jim Barrett, Ph.D.  
Director, HSCER

The IAIMS educational model is called IDEAL. Like the other IAIMS programs, IDEAL involves all of the Health Sciences schools, the University of Washington Medical Center, and Harborview Medical Center. It addresses two major aims of the grant: 1) promote faculty development in the application of effective information technology and, 2) create educational programs and training opportunities.

In order to accomplish these two aims, new staff and new hardware are being brought together to help faculty teach more effectively utilizing technology. A full-time Educational Systems Designer is being recruited to work with faculty in the development of learning materials. This specialist in educational technology will be located in the Health Sciences Center for Educational Resources and will be available to assist faculty and students in using instructional media.

Computer hardware has not been overlooked in the IDEAL project. Faculty will be supported in their continued development of software using Macintosh, Windows, or

UNIX platforms. ***The goal of integration is not to limit or force a standard, but to find a common way of delivering effective learning to students regardless of what platform is used or the student or faculty member's location.*** Interactive multimedia supporting high resolution images, sound and motion as well as feedback to the instructor, and branching inquiry to other references are all a part of the IDEAL model.

Considerable work is still to be done before an effective multimedia instructional delivery system is routinely operating throughout the Health Sciences. One of the first steps is to develop and provide access to image databases that are needed to support instruction. Work is already under way in this regard, but many issues including ownership, copyright, patient's rights, security, and quality standards still need further attention. Contact Dr. Jim Barrett at 685-1156 ([barrett@u.washington.edu](mailto:barrett@u.washington.edu)), if you are interested in discussing the IDEAL program initiative.

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## UW/Cablearn

If your cable TV system carries UW/Cablearn, you may be interested in the various offerings pertaining to informatics. Look for teleconferences, seminars and other programs sponsored by the Health Informatics Telecom Network, the Sunergy Series and others. For a monthly program schedule, consult UWIN under "UWINFO/ TV/ special features" or contact: [cablearn@u.washington.edu](mailto:cablearn@u.washington.edu).

# Internet Health Sciences Resources Update

An update of the *BITNET/Internet Health Science Resource List* (3/94) by Lee Hancock is now available via Gopher. This is a comprehensive list of health science resources available on the networks, including Listserv groups, Usenet groups, Freenets, Data Archives, Electronic Publications, and Health Science oriented databases. This update also includes anonymous ftp sites for software applications and several new gopher sites, databases, and libraries.

Here are two good ways to find this excellent resource.

From the UWIN main gopher menu, choose the following categories: **Net\Gopher\ Preferred Gopher Servers\ LC Marvel\ Global Electronic Library (by Subject)\ Medicine and Psychology\ Medical Resource Directory from UC Irvine\ HANCOCK Medical Resources on the Internet 9/93**

or FTP to: **FTP2.CC.UKANS.EDU Directory: pub/hmatrix FILE: medlst03.txt or medlst03.zip**

**Sample FTP session:**  
**\$ ftp ftp2.cc.ukans.edu**  
**\$ Login: anonymous [lower case]**  
**\$ password: [your e-mail address]**  
**[example: le07144@ukanvm]**  
**\$ cd pub/hmatrix**  
**\$ get medlst03.txt**  
**\$ transfer complete**  
**\$ quit**

(Remember! All typing is case sensitive.)

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# Upcoming Events

For additional information on any of these events, contact the sources listed.

## June 7-8, 1994

### The Electronic Lifeline: Link to Quality Healthcare

National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Midcontinental Region.

This conference will feature national and local leaders in health informatics and family medicine.

*For more information, contact:*

Deborah Ward, Associate Director  
NNLM-Midcontinental Region  
McGoogan Library of Medicine  
Univ. of Nebraska Medical Center  
600 S. 42nd Street  
Omaha, NE 68198-6706  
(402) 559-4326  
[dward@unmcvm.unmc.edu](mailto:dward@unmcvm.unmc.edu)

## June 8-10, 1994

### National Forum: Image and Information Systems for Multi-Institutional Healthcare

San Antonio, TX

The Forum is intended for those involved in imaging, information, and/or communication technologies: radiology and hospital administration. All interested parties are welcome.

*For more information, contact:*

Edward Nilges  
Phone: (202) 687-7955  
FAX: (202) 784-3479

## June 17,19-22, 1994

### Fifth International Conference on Nursing Use of Computers and Information Science

#### *Nursing in a Technological Era*

San Antonio Convention Center  
This conference will span many dimensions of nursing informatics, including vendor demonstrations of state of the art technology.

*For more information, contact:*

Nursing Informatics '94  
Conf. Secretariat: Registration

U. of Texas, School of Nursing  
1700 Red River  
Austin, TX 78701-1499  
Phone: (512) 471-7311, ext. 211  
FAX: (512) 471-4910

## June 23, 1994

### The Clinical Information Station: Concept and Reality

Sponsored by: University of Cincinnati Medical Center, the Greater Midwest Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, the Friends of the National Library of Medicine, Merck, Inc., and other corporate sponsors.

*For more information contact:*

Diana Smith  
Voice: (513) 558-5656  
Fax: (513) 558-2682  
[Diana.Smith@uc.edu](mailto:Diana.Smith@uc.edu)

## June 24-25, 1994

### IEEE Workshop on Biomedical Image Analysis

Seattle, WA

The purpose of this workshop is to foster dialogue on important unsolved problems associated with multidimensional biomedical image analysis. The workshop will be held in conjunction with CVPR '94.

*For more information contact:*

James Lee  
NeoPath Inc.,  
1750 112th Ave NE, Suite B-101  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
[james@neopath.wa.com](mailto:james@neopath.wa.com)

## July 29-31, 1994

### Tenth Annual Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence

Seattle, WA

Topics will cover a full range of approaches to automated and interactive reasoning and decision

making under uncertainty, including qualitative and numeric methods.

*For more information, contact:*

David Heckerman, General Chair  
One Microsoft Way, Bldg 9S/1024  
Redmond, WA 98052-6399  
Voice: (206) 936-2662  
Fax: (206) 644-1899  
[heckerma@microsoft.com](mailto:heckerma@microsoft.com)

## July 23-27, 1995

### MEDINFO '95: The International Medical Informatics Association's (IMIA) 8th World Congress on Medical Informatics.

Vancouver, BC

Call for papers: The goal of this congress is to provide unique educational and sharing opportunities in health informatics from a scientific, research and application perspective.

*For more information, contact:*

MedInfo'95  
Suite 216, 10458-Mayfield Road  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Canada, T5P 4P4  
Phone: (403) 489-8100  
Fax: (403) 489-1122

## Suggested Reading

National Center for Nursing Research. *Nursing informatics; enhancing patient care: a report of the NCNR Priority Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics*. Bethesda, MD: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health; 1993. 90 p. (NIH publication; no. 93-2419. NNRA report; v. 4).

## SELECTED TOPICS IN HEALTH INFORMATICS

### SPRING QUARTER LECTURE SERIES

Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00 P.M.

Room T-625, Warren G. Magnuson Health Sciences Center

This is an exciting time for anyone interested in the application of computers and information technology in health care! Much research and development is currently under way on our own campus, regionally, and nationally. The departments of Health Services and Medical Information are pleased to present an outstanding group of UW faculty and researchers to provide insights into their own research and development efforts, as well as their view of national activities. All interested parties are welcome. Please contact the IAIMS office at (206) 685-2166, or by e-mail to [iaims@u.washington.edu](mailto:iaims@u.washington.edu), if you have questions, comments, or concerns. We expect to offer this lecture series again during Autumn Quarter.

#### **Schedule of Events:**

##### **May 18 - IMPLEMENTING A NEXT GENERATION CLINICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

**Presenter:** Scott Bradley, M.S. Director, Clinical Information Systems, Department of Surgery, Harborview Medical Center

##### **May 25 - RECENT ADVANCES IN PICTURE ARCHIVING AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS FOR RADIOLOGY**

**Presenter:** Brent Stewart, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Department of Radiology, University of Washington Medical Center

##### **June 1 - USING INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN AMBULATORY CARE FOR PATIENT CARE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

**Presenter:** Stephan Fihn, M.D., M.P.H. Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Seattle VA Medical Center; Director, NW Health Services Resource & Development Program

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