

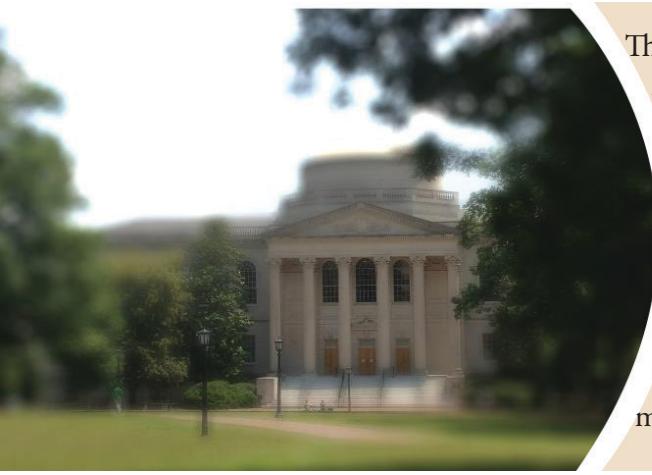


The

# Health IT Fair

The University of North Carolina *at* Chapel Hill

E-Newsletter



The Carolina Health Informatics Program (CHIP) is excited to invite you to read the Health IT Fair's first e-newsletter, which we hope you will find useful as we plan for the upcoming fair in October. This e-newsletter will serve as a guide to answer questions about our program, as well as provide information about students, alumni, and HIT practicums.

Our venue for the next Health IT Fair will take place in the Pleasant Family Assembly Room, in the Wilson Library, located at the University of North Carolina's historic campus. We are anticipating and looking forward to growing the Health IT Fair and are glad to have so many great organizations and students help in making that happen.

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***Note from the Director******Dr. Javed Mostafa******Ph.D., Professor***

It is my honor and pleasure to take this opportunity to introduce to you the current happenings at CHIP and by extension our School of Information and Library Science (SILS) and UNC at Chapel Hill community. Started about two years ago, the CHIP program now has about 30 students enrolled in three graduate informatics certificate programs, concentrating on several critical aspects of biomedicine and health. We currently have students conducting hands-on, practicum work in a wide variety of health information technology institutions, including many private sector organizations in NC and also government organizations. We plan to showcase current activities of some of the partners in health information technology during our upcoming Health IT fair on October 5th (see: <http://chip.unc.edu/health-it-slide.aspx>). Prior to the Health IT Fair, we will host a special presentation concentrating exclusively on public health informatics. Please mark your calendars for September 26th when we will welcome national authority, Dr. David Ross, CDC and Emory State University and Dr. Steve Kline, assistant secretary for health information technology for the State of North Carolina. We hope you will join us for these events and others as they are scheduled. Please stay in touch!



## What is CHIP?

From an Executive Order to a small town's big university, Health Information Technology finds growth.

The School of Information and Library Science (SILS) in partnership with the Duke Center for Health Informatics (DCHI), were awarded a grant by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. The grant was used to build a health informatics curriculum consisting of three certificates to recruit and fund students of varied backgrounds in the emerging health informatics program at UNC. Certificates are housed in SILS, the School of Nursing, and Gillings School of Global Public Health. Carolina Health Informatics fellows complete an interdisciplinary, one year of study, taking courses across all three UNC schools. "Electronic Health Records" and "Introduction to Public Health Informatics" are just two of the new courses added to the curriculum, as well as rooted SILS courses like "Systems Analysis."

The fall semester will be CHIP's two year anniversary at UNC at Chapel Hill. During this time, CHIP has more than doubled its student population and graduated its first incoming class. These students have moved on to either further pursue their informatics training with MSIS and Ph.D. degrees, or have been placed in positions such as the Carolina Data Warehouse and the Duke University Health Care System.

## CHIP Student Highlight **Oakkar Oakkar**

### Clinical Information Science Certificate Student

How surf riding in the home of some of the largest waves world-wide led to a start-up company in **HIT**.



Oakkar already had a knack for establishing start-ups. For seven years he owned a software development company which built web and mobile applications. But while waiting on waves in Hawaii, Oakkar had a conversation with a friend, who was in the HIT industry, about the need for IT to assist physicians and patients and the challenges of implementing such systems. Oakkar then decided to shift his start-up focus to HIT- but to understand these challenges, he needed a clinical background.

Realizing the Research Triangle Park area was a great place for HIT, Oakkar found a new home for himself and his new business, Keona Health. His courses as a CHIP student have met his need for a clinical background; providing training in machine learning, natural language processing, and expert systems- all in clinical settings.

## Practicum Projects

Practicum by Clinical Information Science Certificate Student

**Adam Dodd**



## Sustainability Planning for the North Carolina Regional Extension Center

The North Carolina AHEC Quality Source Practice-Based Primary Care Services program works with North Carolina primary care providers to improve practice-based quality outcomes and to achieve EHR 'meaningful use' standards as outlined by the US Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. The AHEC Quality Source program was established through the North Carolina AHEC Program, which received designation from the ONC as the Regional Extension Center for the state of North Carolina. Since its inception, the program has worked with over 2600 providers in over 710 practices across the state. The primary services provided by the North Carolina REC program are practice workflow assessment and planning, EHR selection and implementation, health information exchange (HIE) education and assistance, and system interoperability, privacy and security training.

At the time of inception, funding for the Regional Extension Center program was established with a phased, contingent end date. Initial grant funds end July 2012, and RECs evaluated as successful may qualify for a 2-year extension, which comprises an addition 10 percent of funding. With consideration to both primary and extension deadlines, RECs programs must make independent determinations on how, if possible, to continue sustainment of services beyond federal funding. For North Carolina, work towards sustainability has begun in earnest, with the following processes comprising a portion of evaluative and planning initiatives associated with continuation of services.



**Phase 1 – Comparative Assessment**

**Phase 2 – Work With Secondary Care Practices**

**Phase 3 – Service Satisfaction Measures**

See Adam's poster in its entirety:  
<http://chip.unc.edu>

## CHIP Alumni Highlight

# Rich Medlin, MD

Clinical Information Science (CIS) Certificate graduate

Starting out in Computer Engineering, this ER Physician has come *full circle*.



Having used various Electronic Health Records, Rich has generally found user interfaces frustrating; so much so, that he went as far as to write a few programs on his own. Being interested in addressing these frustrations, he pursued several software vendors to see if they would hire a physician knowledgeable in interfaces and the answer was always a resounding, "No."

In 2009, Rich found out about AMIA's 10x10 course, which was being taught by a physician with research experience in medical informatics. Not knowing there was an academic medical research field in informatics, Rich finally found what he had been looking for. He was one of the first students to enroll in the CIS certificate at UNC, which he completed in July 2011, followed by a decision to pursue a second master's degree, this time a MSIS.

Rich's current project is the CDC Biosense 2.0, which involves mining clinical data for public health. He also works at UNC's ER Department and is expecting to complete his MSIS in May 2013.



## CHIP Faculty Highlight

# Debbie Travers, Ph.D., RN, Assistant Professor

After 10 years of working in the Emergency Department (ED) and as a flight nurse, Debbie found a new interest in UNC's newly established department- **Nursing Informatics**.

Luckily for UNC, Debbie found herself seeking a new challenge at the same time its Nursing Informatics Department was established. This was the 1990's and clinical computers at this time were only being used by administrative staff. As one of the first nurses hired by the informatics department, Debbie helped introduce clinical computers to clinicians, while helping the Emergency Department at UNC develop the ED clinical information system.

After receiving her master's degree in Health Care Systems at UNC's School of Nursing (SON), Debbie helped start the NC DETECT (ncdetect.org) system that uses electronic ED data for public health surveillance. She then received her Ph.D. from the School of Information and Library Science (SILS). She has taught Health Informatics in both SON and Gillings School of Public Health (SPH).

Debbie's current research supports the use of ED Electronic Health Record data for secondary purposes such as public health surveillance, quality improvement and clinical research. Partnering with Emergency Medicine and SILS, Debbie is working on a grant from the NIH to improve information extraction from ED triage nurses' notes. While researching ED triage, she also helped develop the Emergency Severity Index triage algorithm (<http://esitriage.org/index.asp>).

## 2nd Bi-Annual ***Health IT Fair*** at UNC Chapel Hill

Bringing together faculty, information professionals, and students with *shared interests* in information science, technology, and health care.

### Agenda

12pm: booth set-up

and vendor lunch

1-3pm: meet and

greet at booths

3:30-4:30pm: panel

discussion



**Helping the Carolina Health Informatics Program promote  
and network the growth of the field:**

#### \*Vendors:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield

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Coastal Connect HIE

Community Care of NC

EHR2.0

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#### \*Sponsors:



#### \*Panel Participants:

bioMerieux

Coastal Connect HIE

Community Care of NC

Epic

\*as of July 27, 2012

We applaud our sponsors who contribute to the success of the Health IT Fair.  
Read about each sponsored organization in every e-newsletter.



photo courtesy of Epic

As a worldwide leader in the development of software for healthcare organizations, Epic is driving change for an entire industry – and not just any industry – one that impacts the quality of life for everyone. We work with some of the nation's most respected healthcare organizations and leading research institutions to develop, implement and support software to reduce medical errors, improve screening for diseases and increase the quality of patient care. Our software supports all the functions that orbit around the patient, and the systems we create work in unison to dissolve the informational boundaries that create inefficient, dangerous healthcare.

Epic has established itself as the vendor of choice for large and complex healthcare organizations. Our client base consists of privately held organizations and public facilities, including universities and local government healthcare organizations. We have set records for size, speed and amount of data integration per organization. We are at the forefront of real-time, patient record interoperability and are leading the revolution in giving patients access to their own electronic medical record.

Currently, organizations using our software care for about 140 million people across the United States. That means more than 1 in 3 people in the U.S. are directly affected by the work we do.

We're searching for smart, passionate people who want to achieve great things. We've grown to a company of over 5,800 intelligent, driven and principled people who are dedicated to making a positive impact on the healthcare industry. You will work hard, collaborate with the brightest minds, and do things that make a difference, all while enjoying great benefits and a casual work environment (jeans, shorts, sandals). Located in Madison, Wisconsin, Epic is proud to be a privately-held software company with over 30 years of success.

## **Sponsor Highlight: Gold Level**

## **Sponsor Highlight: Bronze Level**



At Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC), we are changing the health care experience by transforming how health care is delivered. We strongly believe that the best system is rooted in the communities it serves. We know that efforts directed by doctors and focused on local patients make quality care more efficient and cost-effective.

CCNC's public-private partnership brings together 14 regional networks of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, hospitals, health departments, social service agencies and other community organizations. These professionals work together to provide cooperative, coordinated care through the Medical Home mode and evidence-based population health. This approach matches each patient with a primary care physician who leads a health care team accountable for meeting the patient's health needs. CCNC is working to equip this care team with unparalleled clinical information and decision support at the right time and in the right setting.

**Patient-focused ~ Doctor driven ~ Community based ~ Cost effective**