Biomedical and Health Informatics Series
Tuesday, April 24th, Room T-739, 12:00-12:50

Patrick O'Carroll, MD, MPH

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"Current federal efforts at the intersection of public health and biomedical informatics"

Abstract: Several events in recent years—notably, the 9/11/2001 terrorist attacks, the anthrax bioterrorist events of October 2001, and most recently the possibility of an H5N1-based influenza pandemic—have made the need for robust public health information and communication systems abundantly clear. Large scale threats to the public's health will require unprecedented levels of health event surveillance, health alert reporting, and secure and effective communication, coordination, and information sharing among government and other health officials throughout the globe. In response, several informatics initiatives are under way or are now being launched in the United States to address these needs. In this presentation, RADM O'Carroll will discuss the promises and challenges of some of these U.S. initiatives, with a particular emphasis on the public health informatics implications of the recently passed *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA)*

Patrick O'Carroll is the Regional Health Administrator for Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS). As Regional Health Administrator (RHA) and Assistant Surgeon General of the USPHS, RADM O'Carroll serves as the region's principal public health physician and scientist representing the Assistant Secretary of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He began this assignment in January 2003. RADM O'Carroll received his medical degree and his Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in 1983. After training in family practice and preventive medicine, he joined CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, later leading the epidemiology research unit for the prevention of suicide and violence at CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. In 1992, RADM O'Carroll began working in the field of public health informatics. He developed the nation's first training course and first (and only) textbook in public health informatics. As Associate Director for Health Informatics at CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office, he defined, developed and directed CDC's national Health Alert Network program, which now represents a $50 million annual investment in national public health information and communications infrastructure. RADM O'Carroll holds Affiliate Professor appointments in the Departments of Epidemiology and Health Services at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and is also Affiliate Professor in the Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics, University of Washington School of Medicine.

The Biomedical and Health Informatics lecture series covers current topics and developments in Biomedical and Health Informatics. Presenters include faculty, students, researchers and developers from the University of Washington, other academic institutions, government, and industry (locally and nationally). The intended audience is the broader University of Washington and Seattle area community with an interest in BHI as well as BHI faculty and students.

Series Website: **http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/**