



Biomedical and Health Informatics Series

Tuesday, October 23, 2007, Room RR-134, 12:00-12:50

James D. Ralston, MD MPH

University of Washington

"Testing a New Paradigm of Chronic Care through the Northwest Immersive Computing Health Environments Consortium (NICHE)"

Chronic medical conditions are a growing public health challenge. The focus on the clinic visit in current healthcare systems does not meet the needs of many patients with these conditions. The Institute of Medicine has suggested redesigning health care towards more continuous relationships between patients and providers. Chronic disease management programs that use web-based and mobile communications offer an opportunity to shift the focus in health care away from the office and towards patients' daily living environments.

Dr. Ralston leads a team at the University of Washington that is designing and testing a diabetes support program for patients based on Wagner's chronic care model. The program consists of patient access over the Web to the electronic medical record, secure electronic communications between patients and providers, and interactive disease management tools. Dr. Ralston's talk will focus on current projects that aim to integrate mobile and wireless communications into the program.

James D. Ralston, MD MPH, is an Assistant Investigator at the Center for Health Studies, Group Health Cooperative and an Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Services at the University of Washington. He is a Health Informatics researcher with a focus in Web-based and wireless support for patients with chronic medical conditions. Dr. Ralston practices Internal Medicine at Group Health Cooperative.

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/>