“Informatics and the New Northwest Institute of Translational Health Sciences”

One of the three themes that emerged from the 2002 NIH Roadmap process led by Dr. Elias Zerhouni, NIH Director, was “Re-engineering the Clinical Research Enterprise”. A key component of this initiative was a nationwide effort led by NIH National Center for Research Resources to establish a network of centers of excellence focused on supporting and improving the clinical translational research process. A Northwest consortium of research institutions was in September awarded a $63M grant to establish such a center – the Northwest Institute of Translational Health Sciences (NW ITHS). This presentation will discuss the goals of the biomedical informatics core of NW ITHS: a) providing access to electronic health data, b) providing study specific data management tools, c) providing access to data from high throughput instrumentation, and d) integration of data across multiple sources. The presentation will include background on ongoing data integration research in Dr. Tarczy-Hornoch’s research group.

Dr. Tarczy-Hornoch has 27 years software development expertise (biomedical instrumentation, bioinformatics, clinical informatics), 17 years of clinical practice (pediatrics, neonatology). At UW he serves as Head, Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics (www.bhi.washington.edu), Director of the UW NIH NLM funded Biomedical and Health Informatics Research Training Program, Deputy Director of the UW Biomedical and Health Informatics Graduate Program, Director of Clinical Informatics Research within the UW Medicine Information Technology Services Group, and Director of the Biomedical Informatics Core of the recently funded Northwest Institute for Translational Health Sciences. External to the UW he serves as co-chair of the IMIA Informatics in Genomic Medicine Working Group, member of the Editorial Board for Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association (www.jamia.org), member of the Scientific Advisory Board for the Harvard NCBC i2b2 (www.i2b2.org), member of the SAB for the Gene Ontology Consortium (www.geneontology.org). He is an elected Fellow of the both American College of Medical Informatics and the Society for Pediatric Research. His current research interests are: a) data integration systems, b) uncertainty in information integration, c) Biomedical informatics support for translational and clinical research, d) past research on a directory and knowledge base of available genetic testing (GeneTests – www.genetests.org, co-PI 1995-2004, consultant 2004-)

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/