



Biomedical and Health Informatics Series

Tuesday, November 20, 2007, Room RR-134, 12:00-12:50

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"Digging Deeper: Investigating Public Health Workflow for Informatics Research and System Design"

Communicable disease monitoring and control are core local health department functions. To improve the efficiency and accuracy of communicable disease activities, electronic reporting systems for communicable diseases are being developed for local public health agencies across the United States. The success of these automated systems requires a clear and accurate understanding of the tasks and work processes involved communicable disease activities. Dr. Turner will present a case study conducted with the Kitsap County Health District to investigate local public health communicable disease workflow and illustrate the utility of ethnographic techniques to model public health communicable disease work. A technique to identify and conceptualize public health communicable disease workflow that can serve as a foundation for the design of public health information systems will be introduced. Finally, she will discuss a framework for evaluating the effect of workflow changes and information systems on health department costs and performance.

Dr. Anne M. Turner is a faculty member and public health informatics researcher at the University of Washington's Center for Public Health Informatics with a joint appointment in the Department of Medical Education and Biomedical Informatics and the Department of Health Services. She is Associate Director of the Biomedical and Health Informatics Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program. Dr. Turner has a background in pediatrics, library and information sciences, and public health. Her research interests focus on the application of qualitative methods to better understand how public health professionals actually do their work in an effort to improve the design of information systems for public health practice.

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/>