Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 4, 2008
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room RR-134

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Pediatrician in Chief, Chief Medical Information Officer
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"Alert Fatigue – Are You Tired Yet?"

The Institute of Medicine report "*To Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System*" was released in 1999 and spurred a debate in the public and health community on how to improve patient safety. Subsequently the Leapfrog group included Computerized Provider Order Entry (CPOE) to their scorecard as a measure of a health care organization's quality and safety ranking. Several studies have concluded that medication errors can be prevented by including clinical decision support with CPOE. Despite these studies showing improvement in safety during the ordering process, there is increasing concern over unintended consequences and "alert fatigue."

In this talk I will describe issues related to alert fatigue and how Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle undertook a series of interventions using Plan Do Check Act cycles to iteratively look at the alert burden and to design and implement interventions to reduce alerts.

Dr. Mark Del Beccaro is a professor of pediatrics who received his undergraduate education at Stanford University and his M.D. degree from the University of Washington. He completed his pediatric residency and was the chief resident in pediatrics at the University of Washington and Children's Hospital. Dr. Del Beccaro has had over 15 years experience in clinical systems selection, design, and implementation and has helped lead his organization to a successful implementation of an EMR that included a hospital wide CPOE rollout in 2003. He currently integrates his role as Chief Medical Information Officer with his duties as Pediatrician in Chief at Children's Hospital. His clinical practice is in the Emergency Division at Children's Hospital in Seattle.

NOTE: **Podcasts from MEBI 590 Lecture Series talks from earlier this quarter are available at http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/schedule.htm**
Podcasts from Fall Quarter 2007 are available at
http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/2007.Q4.Fall.htm