



Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series
Tuesday, February 3, 2009
Room T-531, 12:00 - 12:50 p.m.

Rodney A. Schmidt, MD, PhD
Professor of Pathology, Director of Medical Informatics
University of Washington, Seattle

“Using informatics to drive quality and efficiency in Pathology”

It is important to improve the quality and efficiency of healthcare delivery at all levels. Dr. Schmidt will describe recent efforts to transform the workflow in anatomic pathology in ways that cut down error rates and permit more work to be done with the same people. By coupling Lean process analysis and barcoding technology, Pathology has been able to eliminate all manual labeling steps and thereby reduce labeling errors to near-zero while also increasing throughput. The resulting system has been licensed commercially. Dr. Schmidt will discuss some of the design characteristics that led to success in this project and will also discuss issues related to quantifying workflow benefits.

Dr. Schmidt has been leading efforts to improve the quality and efficiency of pathology practice for more than 20 years. He earned a BS in Chemistry and Mathematics from Bethel College (KS) in 1977, then matriculated to the University of Washington where he earned MD and Ph.D. (Biochemistry) degrees in 1984. Following Residency training in Anatomic Pathology, he joined the faculty in the Pathology Department at UW. His interests include not only surgical pathology, with a special interest in lung pathology, but informatics tools that increase the quality or efficiency of pathology practice. Previous projects have included optimizing an automated SNOMED coder of pathology diagnoses, development and implementation of an automated report archiving system, discovery of high-speed methods to retrieve pathology diagnoses without using SNOMED codes, development of an automated system to apply CPT modifiers to billing codes, development of a PDF-based interface to the Cerner EMR (ORCA), and design of a case-based image archiving system for all pathology-related images. He is currently Professor and Director of Medical Informatics for the Pathology Department and is also outgoing Vice President of the Association for Pathology Informatics.

NOTE: Podcasts from MEBI 590 Lecture Series talks for this quarter are available at <http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/schedule.htm>

Podcasts from previous quarters are available at <http://courses.washington.edu/mebi590/past.lecture.schedules.html>