Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series
Tuesday, May 12, 2009
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room T-498

Anne M. Turner, MD, MLIS, MPH
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Assistant Professor, Biomedical and Health Informatics, School of Medicine
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"If you build it, will they come? Improving Public Health Grey Literature Access for the Public Health Workforce"

Dr. Turner's presentation will cover the importance of grey literature to public health practice and current research efforts to improve the organization and accessibility of public health information. She will discuss research activities concerning improving access to public health information for public health practitioners. In collaboration with the Center for Natural Language Processing at Syracuse University, Dr. Turner has analyzed and evaluated the information seeking behavior and preferences of local public health professionals. The results of these studies have been incorporated into the design of natural language processing system for retrieving quality public health information on the Internet.

Dr. Turner is an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health and the School of Medicine at the University of Washington (UW). Dr. Turner has clinical expertise is in pediatrics, pediatric hematology-oncology, and public health. Her informatics training includes a Master's Degree in Library and Information Sciences (2001) and completion of a National Library of Medicine Fellowship in Medical Informatics (2004).

Dr. Turner's background in medicine, information sciences and public health brings a unique perspective to health informatics research. Over the last seven years her research has focused on improving the transfer of health information between clinical and public health practice using qualitative and quantitative techniques. With an interest in user-centered design, she has researched the information needs and workflow of public health practitioners with the goal of improving the design of health information systems. She is Principle Investigator for two collaborative projects between the UW, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local health departments in Washington State: 1) the Local Public Health Department Information Workflow study and 2) the Common Ground Your Business is Our Business study. Based on this research, Dr. Turner is currently developing a model for tracking the costs and performance of local health department chronic disease surveillance activities. In addition, Dr. Turner is a co-investigator in a collaborative project on use of natural language processing techniques to improve access to chronic disease reports for public health professionals, a National Library of Medicine funded collaboration between the UW, the Center for Natural Language Processing at Syracuse University, Columbia University, and the Duchess County Public Health Department.

In addition to her research activities for the University of Washington's Center for Public Health Informatics (CPHI), Dr. Turner is Associate Director of the NLM/RWJ Public Health Informatics Fellowship in the UW's Department of Medical Education and Biomedical Informatics. She teaches Public Health and Informatics in the Biomedical and Health Informatics graduate program and advises biomedical informatics doctoral students. She serves as the University of Washington representative to the Washington State Public Health Information Technology Committee and the Electronic Death Registry Advisory Committee.