

## Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009**  
**Room T-498, 12:00 - 12:50 p.m.**

### **Barry Aaronson, MD, FACP, FHM**

Post-doctoral Fellow, Biomedical and Health Informatics  
Medical Education and Biomedical Informatics, University of Washington  
Hospitalist, Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle

#### ***"Using the EHR to Improve Hospital Safety and Quality"***

An estimated 90,000 patients die each year in American hospitals from preventable causes. Roughly 2/3 of these deaths are from "failure to rescue" which means there was data available to clinicians suggesting a potentially reversible critical condition and that there was not an appropriate intervention attempting to prevent that deterioration. Part of this failure to rescue stems from the failure to detect these deteriorating patients. Since the data pertaining to patient deterioration is often in the form of critically abnormal vital signs documented in the EHR, Barry is performing a clinical trial at the UWMC and HMC to determine whether supplying the names of these deteriorating patients directly to the team responsible for rescuing these patients (the Rapid Response Team) improves the ability of the team to prevent these potentially avoidable deaths. He will also discuss how the programming that creates the patient list within the EHR can also be used to help improve other hospital quality measures.

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Dr. Aaronson received his MD degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Following residency he served as Chief of Medical Residents at Walter Reed. He has been elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a Fellow in Hospital Medicine. He founded the Hospitalist program for Tacoma Family Medicine before moving to Virginia Mason Medical Center to initiate the Hospitalist program there. He is now a NLM post-doctoral fellow within the Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics at the University of Washington where he is focusing on ways to improve the quality and safety of hospital care through the use of computers.