

Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

12:00-12:50 p.m., Health Sciences Room T-739

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“Anticipating BioRisks: Considerations for Building Effective Detection, Prevention and Response Systems”

The history of attempts to prevent global epidemics is complex and fraught with failures – from bubonic plague in the middle ages to cholera in the 19th century and influenza, SARS and other pandemics in the 20th and 21st century. Today the rapid movement of humans and trade goods, including animals, plants and biologically hazardous substances introduces ever greater threats to human life and well-being. Response to those threats requires not only clever information capture and management systems within countries but also new approaches to proactively build effective data collaboratives and networks among nations. What are the crucial building blocks for effective detection, prevention and response information systems? What new tools and technologies are being applied to these global challenges? We will review the challenges and opportunities for building more effective systems to detect, prevent and respond to biological threats. This talk is based on recently delivered invited keynote presented at Biosecure2009: Biosurveillance and Biosecurity, Taipei, Taiwan September 24-25, 2009.

Sherrilynne Fuller currently serves as Co-Director, Center for Public Health Informatics, School of Public Health and Community Medicine; Professor, Biomedical and Health Informatics, School of Medicine; Professor, Information School; Adjunct Professor, Health Services, School of Public Health; and Senior Advisor to the Dean, University Libraries all at the University of Washington, Seattle Washington. She has a BA degree in Biology, a Master's in Library Science from Indiana University and a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern California. Fuller's research areas include: strategies for improving health information systems and technologies in low-resource environments across the world with a particular focus on capacity building in Universities in resource-constrained countries; developing new approaches to represent and map the results of scientific research in support of knowledge discovery; design and evaluation of health information systems to support decision making at the place and time of need; and integrated health sciences information systems design with a primary focus on human factors. She has led the development of the Global Partner in Public Health Informatics (GPPHI.org) a group of individuals and organizations working together to improve health in low resource settings through appropriate application of information and communications technologies and capacity building.