

Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room T-663

Jac Davies, MS, MPH

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Inland Northwest Health Services

“Health Record Banks: New Approaches to Consumer Controlled Health Information”

From the early days of medicine, patients have relied on doctors to manage their health care, including their health information. The patient’s role has traditionally been very passive, waiting to be told by the doctor what to do. As health care costs increase in the US, along with the rates of obesity and chronic disease, policy makers and health care providers alike are seeking ways to bend the cost curve and improve health outcomes. One method that is being promoted is encouraging and enabling patients to become more engaged in and to exert more control over their own health and health care. Personal health record products such as GoogleHealth and Microsoft HealthVault been developed to simplify the process of receiving, tracking and sharing a person’s health information. While these tools hold the promise of supporting consumer-controlled health care, how well will they really work? Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS) in Spokane, WA, has been piloting a health record bank for extracting data from physician office electronic medical record systems and exporting it to a patient’s Google Health account. This seminar will describe the rationale for and the development of the health record bank and review some of the project’s early findings.

Jac Davies is the Director of Northwest TeleHealth, Regional Outreach and health@work for Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS). Ms. Davies is responsible for managing a large regional telemedicine network, providing continuing education and support for rural health care providers and promoting employee wellness. She also works to identify new fund sources and partnerships for INHS, prepares grant proposals, and manages projects associated with those new activities. Ms. Davies’ is particularly interested in health information technology. She is currently the executive sponsor for INHS projects to develop a health record bank, and to report data from a regional health information exchange to state and federal public health agencies. She also facilitates planning efforts for regional health information exchange activities. Prior to joining INHS, Ms. Davies worked at the Washington State Department of Health, where she served as Assistant Secretary for the Division of Epidemiology, Health Statistics and Public Health Laboratories. In that role she oversaw key emergency preparedness activities within the agency, including laboratory, epidemiology, and emergency communications and surveillance capabilities, which included Washington’s response to the 2001 anthrax attacks and the smallpox vaccination program. She was also responsible for information system development projects related to state’s notifiable condition system, including all Washington components of the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) and the Health Alert Network (HAN). Ms. Davies has an MS and an MPH from the University of Washington, and a BS from the Mississippi University for Women.