

Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series
Tuesday, February 23, 2010
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room T-663

Rodney A. Schmidt, MD, PhD

Professor of Pathology; Director of Medical Informatics
Department of Pathology, University of Washington, Seattle

“Barcoding in and beyond Pathology – a key to diagnosis and research”

Barcoding is revolutionizing the handling of diagnostic tissue samples in Pathology. Not only are there tremendous benefits in terms of accuracy of sample identification but there are major efficiency gains where barcodes are used to drive processes. Dr. Schmidt will describe how the software and processes designed at UW (licensed commercially as OmniTrax) have resulted in these benefits. After reviewing some of the innovative design characteristics, he will discuss how OmniTrax will be extended to solve other problems related to tissue handling and research. In particular, he will discuss workflow and functionality needs related to tissue banking and tracking of specimens from the operating rooms to Pathology.

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, and 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.

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>