

informatics

Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Tuesday, November 22, 2011 12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room I-132

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"From Intervention Informatics to Prevention Informatics: Re-Imagining Health Information Systems from Local to Global"*

*Based, in part, on the First Annual American Society for Information Science and Technology Award Lecture presented at the School of Library and Information Science, University of Kentucky, April 11, 2011. Invited Publication: Fuller S. From Intervention Informatics to Prevention Informatics. Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology 2011: 38(1):36-41.

A key challenge related to sense-making in improving human health has to do with conquering the physical and intellectual divide between "clinical" data and information (related to a single patient – "intervention") and "public health" data and information (related to groups of patients, communities and populations) in support of "prevention." This area of intellectual endeavor, "prevention informatics," can potentially offer fresh approaches to bridging the data and disciplinary gaps which impede progress in prevention. Prevention informatics encompasses information systems concerned not only infectious and chronic diseases, but also adverse effects of drugs, medical technologies, injuries of all types etc. – in-patient, out-patient, and community settings. Prevention informatics offers a useful paradigm for re-imagining health information systems and for harnessing the vast array of data, tools, technologies and systems to respond pro-actively to health challenges across the globe.

Sherrilynne Fuller currently serves as Professor, Biomedical and Health Informatics, School of Medicine; Professor, Information School; Adjunct Professor, Health Services, School of Public Health; Co-Director, Center for Public Health Informatics; 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. Her research areas include: strategies for improving health information systems and technologies for low-resource environments across the world with a particular focus on capacity building in Universities in resourceconstrained countries; 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. Fuller's current work includes collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Tanzania to develop a national e-health strategy and enterprise architecture; work with the Hanoi School of Public Health, Hanoi, Vietnam on the design and development of a undergraduate curriculum in health informatics; and a Fogarty grant partnering with Cayetano-Heredia University to develop Quipu: an Andean Global Health Informatics Research and Training Program. Fuller served as the founding head of the Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics, School of Medicine and for twenty years as the Director, Health Sciences Libraries and Associate Dean of Libraries. Fuller was a member of the President's (White House) Information Technology Advisory Committee (PITAC) and co-chaired the PITAC SubCommittee on Transforming Healthcare; the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine and on the Boards of the American Medical Informatics Association and the Medical Library Association. She is an elected fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics and of the Medical Library Association.

Patrick O'Carroll, MD, MPH, FACPM, FACMI is a Rear Admiral and Assistant Surgeon General in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), serving since January 2003 as the Regional Health Administrator (RHA) for USPHS Region X (AK, ID, OR, and WA). As RHA, RADM O'Carroll serves as the region's principal federal public health physician and scientist representing the Assistant Secretary of Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). RADM O'Carroll received his medical degree and his Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in 1983. After training in family practice and preventive medicine, he joined CDC as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, and later led the epidemiology research unit for the prevention of suicide and violence at CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. In 1992, RADM O'Carroll began working in public health informatics. He co-led the development of CDC WONDER, was lead scientist on the CDC Prevention Guidelines Database project, and developed the nation's first training course and textbook in public health informatics. As Associate Director for Health Informatics at CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office, he developed and directed CDC's Health Alert Network program. In 2001, Dr. O'Carroll was assigned to the University of Washington's Northwest Center for Public Health Preparedness on public health informatics issues related to workforce development. RADM O'Carroll has received numerous awards and recognition for his 27 years in the USPHS, as an epidemiologist, informatician, program director and leader. He holds Affiliate Professor appointments in the Departments of Epidemiology and Health Services at the University of Washington (UW) School of Public Health, and in the Division of Biomedical and Health Informatics, UW School of Medicine.