Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series
Course Website: **Link**

Tuesday, February 28, 2012
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room T-360

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Washington State Department of Health

"Health Information Exchange for Public Health"

The Washington State Department of Health (WA-DOH) is actively utilizing healthcare information technologies to support the practice of public health and improve the health of the people of Washington State. This includes "secondary uses" of patient healthcare encounter and other clinical data recorded in electronic medical records systems (EMRs). Health information exchange (HIE) provides the means by which EMR data are shared between and among healthcare delivery organizations and Public Health agencies, including WA-DOH. This lecture will present the vision for HIE nationally and in Washington State from the public health perspective, and also descriptions of current HIE organizations and initiatives underway throughout our state. The relationships between HIE initiatives and efforts to achieve EMR Meaningful Use objectives that pertain to public health will also be discussed as a prelude to Dr. Huong Nguyen's presentation scheduled for March 6th.

Bryant Karras, MD, is an Engineer, a Physician, and Public Health Informatician. He joined Washington's Department of Health in 2008. He has a background in Biomedical Engineering (University of California San Diego), Internal Medicine (University of Wisconsin) and Medical Informatics (Yale). Dr. Karras was a founding faculty member of the University of Washington's Biomedical & Health Informatics program, and also the UW's Center for Public Health Informatics. As Public Health Informatics Officer he supports the informatics needs of Epidemiology, Health Statistics and the Public Health Laboratories. He leads the DOH cross divisional efforts to prepare public health for meaningful use and changes to public health practice that Statewide Health Information Exchange will bring. Dr. Karras represents public health on the Washington Health Care Authority's eHealth Collaborative Enterprise committee, OneHealthPort's HIE Leadership Group, and the Community HIE Oversight Board. He specializes in informatics methods to improve public health via prevention, health promotion, and disease surveillance.

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