Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series
Course Website: Link

Tuesday, December 4, 2012
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room T-747

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"Use of technology to support caregivers in hospice"

The goal of hospice care is to improve the quality of dying patients' last days by offering comfort and dignity, focusing on palliation and the relief of suffering, individual control and autonomy. Hospice was first introduced in the United States in the 1970s. The number of hospices has grown rapidly in the last twenty years but this sector still faces challenges. This presentation will discuss two federally funded clinical trials that examine interventions designed for hospice caregivers delivered with the use of informatics tools in an effort to overcome the geographic burden and isolation created through caring for a dying loved one. These interventions aim to improve caregiver quality of life, lower caregiver anxiety, improve social support, pain management and problem solving skills.

George Demiris is the Alumni Endowed Professor in Nursing at the School of Nursing with a Joint appointment in Biomedical and Health Informatics, School of Medicine, where he serves as the Graduate Program Director. He is also the Director of the Clinical Informatics and Patient Centered Technologies program and the Program Director of the NLM Biomedical and Health Informatics Training Program at the University of Washington. His research interests include the design and evaluation of informatics tools to support aging and improve the quality of home and hospice care services.