Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series
Course Website: Link

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room T-474

Wanda Pratt, PhD, FACMI
Associate Professor
Information School and Division of Biomedical & Health Informatics
University of Washington

"Patients as Health Experts"

Many online tools—such as PatientsLikeMe, CureTogether, as well as thousands of online health communities, blogs, and vlogs—help patients to develop and share their own health expertise. This patient expertise focuses on strategies for coping with day-to-day personal health issues gained through trial and error of the lived experience. In this talk, I will describe how patient expertise contrasts with clinician expertise and serves a unique role in helping patients in our increasingly overburdened health-care system. I will include details of our latest research on how technology can further support such patient expertise sharing and peer mentoring to enhance patients' health and wellbeing.

Wanda Pratt is an Associate Professor in both the Information School and the Division of Biomedical & Health Informatics in the Medical School at the University of Washington. She received her Ph.D. in Medical Informatics from Stanford University, her M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Texas, and her B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Kansas. Her published papers span a wide range of topics whose central theme is to understand information management problems in a variety of health contexts as well as to design and develop new types technology to address those problems. She received an NSF CAREER Award for her work on literature-based discovery systems. She directs the iMed research group, and her work now focuses on consumer health informatics.

* *

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