

Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Tuesday, April 22, 2008
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room RR-134

Dick E. Hoskins, PhD, MPH, Clinical Associate Professor, Epidemiology
Clinical Associate Professor, BHI, University of Washington and
Trauma Epidemiologist, Office of The EMS & Trauma System, WA State Dept of Health

Don Fernandes, WEMSIS Manager
Office of The EMS & Trauma System, WA State Dept of Health

"The New Washington Emergency Medical Services Information Management System (WEMSIS), the missing link in Trauma Surveillance"

Thousands of our citizens are injured every year leading to untold suffering, lost years of productivity and life, and a huge financial cost which runs up our collective medical bill and is often left unpaid until tax payers write the check. The trauma registry that started in 1994 is used for quality improvement in systems and clinical practice by hospitals throughout the state. The new WEMSIS will allow us to follow the injury event from occurrence to the emergency department door. It will collect hundreds of data elements which can be used to assess the efficiency and quality of the pre-hospital service. Linking the data collected by WEMSIS to the trauma registry will allow us to carry our surveillance investigations which can lead to the development of targeted public health interventions.

Richard Hoskins, PhD, MPH, is educated as a chemist and eventually educated as an epidemiologist. Dick is the epidemiologist for the Trauma Registry. His specialty is the application of spatial statistics and GIS to public health practice. His particular interest is in understanding the geographical context of untoward health events in children with a current focus on injury. He teaches a GIS course at the NW Center for Public Health Practice's Summer Institute and has taught GIS courses throughout the US, the EU, Latin America and Asia. He is the co-founder of the online journal, The International Journal of Health Geographics. As a long time mountain climber, he has a couple times just missed having his own entry in the trauma registry.

Don Fernandes is educated as a teacher and experienced as a business manager. Don came to the Washington State Department of Health from a position as a hospital MIS Director. He led the development of the Washington State Trauma Registry from conception to completion (ten years) which is recognized as being one of the best in the nation. He spent a couple of years with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission redesigning their communication and networking system and has been an active member of the Washington Traffic Records Committee for over twelve years. Now Don is the manager, system designer and implementer of the New Washington Emergency Medical Services Information Management System (WEMSIS). Don and his wife are experts in raising ferns which find their way into homes everywhere and are longtime business owners in the Olympia Farmers Market.