

Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

**Tuesday, April 8, 2008
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room RR-134**

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“Visible Human 2.0”

The Visible Human male data set was released to the public in November 1994. The female data set was released a year later. There are now almost 3,000 licensees of the data set world wide. Several hundred products use the data sets as well as countless research projects.

The Visible Human Project is an example of “open science”. In this talk I will describe the genesis of the Visible Human Project and its data sets. Since the release of the Visible Human data (open data), the project successfully completed the development of a set of open source software tools (open software) for image segmentation and registration, ITK. The project has recently started a new phase which is the development of a knowledge base of human variation (open knowledge) which we propose to accomplish through a Web 2.0 environment.

Michael J. Ackerman received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in Biomedical Engineering. He is currently Assistant Director for High Performance Computing and Communications at the National Library of Medicine, responsible for programs in medical imaging, collaborative environments and next generation networking. He holds academic appointments as an Associate Professor of Computer Medicine at the George Washington University and as an Assistant Professor of Medical Informatics at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Dr. Ackerman was elected a Founding Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) in 1992 and a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics (ACMI) in 1985. He serves on the Editorial Boards of TeleMedicine and e-Health, and the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association. He has published a book and over 190 papers and book chapters. His work on the Visible Human Project has been recognized through numerous awards including the 1998 Johns Hopkins University Ranice W. Crosby Distinguished Achievement Award and the 1996 Satava Award for Medical Applications of Virtual Reality, and was nominated as a finalist for a 1995 Discover Magazine Award for Technological Innovation in Software and a 1996 Smithsonian Award for Information Technology.