Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Tuesday, April 1, 2008
12:00 - 12:50 p.m., Room RR-134

Nick Anderson, Ph.D., M.S., Acting Assistant Professor
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Deputy Director, Biomedical Informatics Core
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"Information Management Issues and Barriers in Biomedical Research"

In brief, this talk will consist of: 1) The biomedical information management context; 2) Discussion of the challenges this poses to informatics systems development and implementation; 3) Overview of research methods used to study this domain; and 4) Current research in this area

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Dr Anderson obtained a BS in Computer Science at Evergreen State College in 1991, and a MS in Biomedical Informatics at Oregon Health & Science University in 2004. Between these degrees he worked in the private sector as both an engineer and engineering manager with several informatics companies that focused on developing applications to support personal health management. It during this period that he became interested in exploring how to balance the rich information necessary to describe the long-term maintenance of a clinical condition with a format that best supported the unique nature of a end-user's health management workflow. He continued to explore these themes of information distillation at OHSU where he studied relationships between "on-the-ground" users of rich biomedical information environments and the tools used to support research workflows. His thesis focused on the tasks tools and workflows involved in the adoption of a commercial microarray analysis system within a genomic/proteomic lab.

He continued to focus on this research area when he moved to the University of Washington as a National Library of Medicine Fellow. In 2007 he received his PhD for studying how the use of microarray expression analysis tools as a component of the experimental workflow affected research design, information sharing and collaboration. He is presently the Deputy Director of the Biomedical Informatics core for the Institute of Translational Health Science, where his focus is on developing access to data from scientific instrumentation and systems that provide integrated access to support clinical translational research. He is also an Acting Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Education and Biomedical Informatics, where his research areas are to study the relationships between informatics systems and data sharing policy, and to extend and refine methods to capture biomedical researcher needs as to inform system design, implementation and support.