What's the difference between health information technology, health information management, and health informatics?

Over the past several years, the use (or over-use!) of the phrase health information technology has caused confusion for some health science educators. We’ve talked about the “Health Informatics Career Pathway” for years… Should we now change the name of that pathway to “Health Information Technology?” Should we be teaching our students “Health Information Management?” Are they all the same? If not, what’s the difference?

Health Information Technology
Health Information Technology, also called Health IT, or just HIT for short, gained national attention at the end of the last decade when it was widely touted as a way to increase healthcare quality and safety while decreasing costs. HIT was discussed in the Presidential debates of 2008, and was included prominently in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) “Economic Stimulus” bill of 2009.

But designing and implementing HIT solutions usually involves much more “computer science” than “health science.” The terms most often heard when discussing HIT include: computers, hardware, software, data, programming and networking. These are really the tools needed to collect, store and communicate health information. So unless we are training future IT professionals such as computer programmers, systems architects, or network engineers, the term “health information technology” does not seem like a good fit for the career pathway, or for most of the courses health science educators teach.

Health Information Management
According to the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), health information management – or HIM, for short – has historically dealt with the “management of health data and medical records needed to deliver quality healthcare.” With the rising importance of the Electronic Medical Record (EMR), now more commonly referred to as the Electronic Health Record (EHR), there is a growing overlap between HIT and HIM.

The terms often heard when discussing HIM include: records, coding, documentation, policy, guidelines, administration, and compliance. These are terms that are somewhat more familiar to us as health science educators. However, most true HIM professionals plan and develop the policies and procedures used to manage healthcare information. They often deal with information at a very high systems level, rather than at the operational “tools” level. So if we are not educating Doctoral, Baccalaureate, or at the least Associate Degree students in the study of information systems, the title “health information management” may not be a good fit for many of our programs either.

Health Informatics
In general, “informatics” is thought of as the intersection of people, information, and technology. One popular definition for health informatics is “a discipline at the intersection of information science, computer science, and health care.”

If we apply this intersection concept to our discussion of HIT and HIM, we could draw this graphical illustration:

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Feature  Your Education Will Shape Your Destiny

By Desla Mancilla, DHA, RHIA

We all occasionally question the big decisions we make in life. But the decision I made to become an HIM professional is one I have never regretted. I have long been of the opinion that if I must work (which I must, and I’m guessing you must too), I want to work at something I really enjoy. In HIM, we are fond of saying that there is something for everyone in this field. It is never too early to start taking control of your professional destiny so you can truly enjoy your career in HIM.

Education and employment go hand in hand. The more educated you are, the better prepared you will be to take advantage of the unexpected employment opportunities that will greet you in the future. "Learn more to earn more" was the message of last August's Journal of AHIMA article “Vision 2016 to Reality 2016: Building a Profession,” outlining AHIMA’s initiative to elevate the profession to meet the increasingly complex demands of HIM jobs by encouraging advanced education and creating new educational pathways that lead to better jobs and new leadership opportunities.

"More school" is probably not something many of you want to hear right now. But consider these findings from the 2010-2011 AHIMA Salary Survey:

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Unlock Your Inner Genius:

Listen to your gut instincts to achieve greater professional success

By Marjorie Wolter

Dr. Marjorie Wolter is a speaker, mentor and founder of Vita Celebrata, a consulting firm specializing in inspired leadership and creating unique cultures of success. With over 20 years of experience, she is a catalyst for those who will only be satisfied having achieved the highest level of business success. Marjorie has authored three books: "Magnificent Men are Everywhere," "Seekers and Evolutionaries" and "Living the Accomplished Life." You are invited to learn more about her speaking and consulting by visiting www.drmarjoriwolter.com or calling 800-959-8096.

Stan couldn't get rid of the nagging ache in his stomach. Was his body the problem or was another culprit responsible? Constant preoccupation with discomfort had taken a toll on his ability to be productive both at home and work. He was skilled in employing all the latest technology to improve efficiency, but at the end of the day, there was barely enough energy left to pull his bulging laptop bag up from the floor.

To add insult to injury, a new employee was making more work for Stan. Granted, John needed time to get acclimatized to the new position, but this was the worst possible time for mentoring a coworker. Stan's stomach really kicked up when he thought about everything that needed to be accomplished.

Consider the possibility that Stan's level of pain was in direct relationship to the stress brought by using the same work strategies he had used since college graduation. Disconnection from authentic genius was the source of his

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“A mediocre person tells. A good person explains. A superior person demonstrates. A great person inspires others to see for themselves.”

-Harvey Mackay
The National Cancer Registrars Association
39th Annual Educational Conference

By Anthony Pineda

The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA) represents cancer registry professionals and Certified Tumor Registrars (CTR). The non-profits primary focus is education and certification with the goal to ensure all registry professionals have the knowledge to be superior in their field. Cancer registrars are critical and lead to better information that is used in the management of cancer, and ultimately, a cure.

Students who are enrolled in the cancer information management (CIM) program are encouraged to join the NCRA at the national and state level. The membership dues for students enrolled in a full-time college-level curriculum are $40 per year. The dues for the California Cancer Registrars Association (CCRA) are $16 per year. To join visit:

NCRA  http://www.ncra-usa.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3499
CCRA  http://www.ccraregistrars.org/membership.htm

This year the NCRA Annual Educational Conference will be held on May 30 – June 2, 2013 in San Francisco. The conference theme is Golden Opportunities for Education and Professional Growth by the Bay. This is an excellent networking opportunity for students enrolled in the CIM program. Scholarships to attend the conference are available to NCRA members with no available funding to attend. For example, the Danielle Chufar Annual Conference Scholarship includes conference registration fee, airfare (up to $600), and hotel for three nights. Applicants must submit a 500-700-word essay about “how mentoring is a golden opportunity for professional growth.” To find out more about scholarships for NCRA 2013 visit: http://www.ncra-usa.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3304.

References
Those with a master's degree are less likely to be unemployed (9.1 percent) than those with a baccalaureate degree (12.9 percent).

For every degree you earn you will make, on average, an additional $15,830 per year, or approximately $630,000 more over a 40-year career.

Those with a master's degree are 22 percent more likely to make more than $96,000 per year than those with a baccalaureate degree.

Destiny is the product of preparation and hard work. As you complete this phase of your HIM education and move forward, the AHIMA Foundation is here to serve you by offering merit scholarships to help you pay for further education, training in securing funding for research projects, venues for academic publication, professional development resources, and more.

We look to you as the future of the profession, and we can't wait to see what you make of it.

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Intuition
Instead of ignoring it when Stan felt a pang coming on, he could reconnect with his intuition - his gut instinct - and ask what it was trying to tell him. Repeating this process daily for just two to three weeks would glean more insight than Stan could possibly imagine. All discovery and entrepreneurial home runs are based on hunches. They are indispensable for keeping you ahead of the pack.

Integrity
Stan knew he was tense. Instead of focusing on that sensation, he could think about the unfulfilled desires that were making him feel this way. What was his heart's desire for success? Adding that question to his notes would point him in the direction of where he really wanted to be going. By lining up with his integrity, it would be impossible for any situation to throw Stan off balance. Analyzing himself, Stan realized a big portion of his stress had its genesis in holding back from sharing many of the ideas he had for improving his department's performance. Withholding was at cross purposes with his integrity.

Intelligence
Obviously, Stan thought plodding logically through difficulty was the only route that made sense. What he didn't know was that half his brain was shut down. The creative part of his brain, the one responsible for breakthroughs and invention, was being ignored. Stan could do some easy things to awaken that neglected 50 percent of his intellectual capacity. Quick fixes to rev up his creative side could include trying these inordinately simple actions to break stale old patterns of inefficiency:

- doing a portion of his note-taking with his non-dominant hand
- setting his silver and tableware backward
- taking a different route to work
- taking a class in a foreign language, martial arts, music, writing or art

Inspiration
By plugging into all his amazing attributes, Stan was inviting an entirely new lifestyle. Instead of looking for the cause of what was wrong, he could remain inspired, living large, and achieving his wishes with ease. All that would be required was following an easy formula:

Intuition + Integrity + Intelligence = Inspiration.

Stan's stomach may have been speaking to him with the only voice it had: pain. The longer he avoided listening, the more intensely his abdomen screeched. Biologists have found that there are at least two centers other than the brain that create chemicals that direct our emotions: the heart and the gut. Simply put, that means there is sound research to back up gut instincts or intuition.

Heart problems make sense, too. Anytime you deny yourself, you are denying personal integrity, the domain.

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References
of the heart. Now, there are scientific studies to back up why stress produces heart palpitations from an emotional perspective.

Additionally, only using half a brain stresses our primary organ of intelligence. It can't help but be out of kilter if we never consider looking at opportunity in a perceived crisis. Seeing the brighter side engages creativity - finding a solution when it makes no logical sense. New innovations are thought up every day that totally change the way our entire society lives and works.

Once Stan tuned into his inner genius, his confidence soared. From this newly inspired state, he realized he knew enough to transform his workplace. Within weeks, a business plan for expanding his department by 30 percent virtually completed itself, and he had rekindled an old passion for running, which, incidentally, was pain free. Five days into the new routine, he met up with his manager while jogging. Taking the risk to speak up about the expansion plan paid off big. The manager was ready to implement Stan's plan immediately.

Not only did Stan release himself from a long-standing cycle of pain, he garnered himself a promotion and a hefty list of business accolades to boot. Charged up by his success, Stan found more than enough time to show his new coworker the ropes. Within weeks, John and Stan became an incredibly productive team.

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References

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Free Webinar

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) continues to assist students to be successful in the health information management (HIM) field. On Wednesday, February 20, 2013, AHIMA is offering a free webinar in their Career Prep Webinar Series, Advice from Recent Graduates – Navigating the Job Search. This session will be a Q&A session with recent graduates taking on the next steps after graduation. To register for the event click here. Submit questions for the webinar to Eric Duvic at erin.duvic@ahima.org by Wednesday, February 13, 2013. To access more archived Career Prep webinars, click here. Mark your calendar for the next webinar on Monday, April 15, 2013 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. CT, featuring how to manage a Linkedin profile.

References
ICD-10 Chapter II: Neoplasms

HEPATOBLASTOMA  PANMYELOSIS
MESOTHELIOMA   LEUKEMIA
RETROPERITONEUM  RHABDOMYOMA
HAEMANGIOPERICYTOMA  HODGKINS DISEASE
RHABDOMYOSARCOMA  MALIGNANT
CONJUNCTIVA  HYPOPITUITARISM
Links and Resources

HIT/CIM Student Peer Club
Facebook
http://facebook.com/hcspe2011
LinkedIn
http://la.linkedin.com/groups?gid=4408348
Blogger
http://sbchcspc.blogspot.com
Google Group
https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups&hl=en#!forum/sbcss-hit-cim-student-peer-club-hcspe

Advance for Health Information Professionals
Student & New Grad Center
http://health-information.advanceweb.com/Student-New-Grad-Center/default.aspx

Health 2.0
http://health2con.com

Health Information Careers Pathfinder
http://hicareers.com/pathfinder.swf

HIM Career Map
http://hicareers.com/CareerMap/%20

HIT Pro Exams
http://www.hitproexams.org

Landing That First Job
http://hicareers.com/Toolbox/landingfirstjob.aspx

The American Association of Professional Coders (AAPC)
http://www.aapc.com/
Credentialing Information

The Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI)
http://www.ahdionline.org/
Credentialing Information
http://www.ahdionline.org/scriptcontent/creddesig.cfm

The California Health Information Association (CHIA)
http://californiahia.org
CHIA Student Scholarships
http://californiahia.org/chia-student-scholarships
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http://californiahia.org/join

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMMS)
http://www.himss.org
Credentialing Information
http://himss.org/asp/CertificationHome.asp

The National Cancer Registrars Association (NCRA)
http://www.ncra-usa.org
Credentialing Information
http://www.ctrexam.org/credential/index.htm

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC)
http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_home/1204

The State of California Office of Health Information Integrity
http://www.ohi.ca.gov/cohohi/Home.aspx
ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

By Gagan Bal

The Santa Barbara City College HIT/CIM Student Peer Club (HCSPC) is always seeking highly motivated students who are looking to complement their educational experience and help other students in the process. If you would like to become involved in the development, management, and administration of the HCSPC, you should consider becoming a part of our Club Advisory Committee.

We need enthusiastic and committed HIT/CIM and Medical Coding students to volunteer their time to accomplish club tasks. If you are interested in joining our Advisory Committee and would like to meet and get to know your peers, please contact me at sbcc.hcspc@gmail.com. Please include a short sentence about why you would like to join our team.

DISCUSS ANYTHING FROM ANYWHERE IN OUR

HCSPC Google Group

Access Google Groups on your Android™ or Apple® iOS device by pointing your mobile browser to: http://goo.gl/0iKf1 or send the group an email at sbcc-hcspc@googlegroups.com.

Information about ICD-10 is here!

Club description:

To provide an avenue for HIT/CIM students to network and support each other in their academic and career pursuits. Because the HIT/CIM programs are fully online, students have limited opportunities to meet and connect with other students. This club will use web-based technologies to create an online student community of support.