

Email news bulletin of The University of Melbourne Health Informatics Network 2006-10-06

Next hosted CHIRS* will be on Thursday 16 November at University House, 5-6:30pm : Please support this initiative by putting it in your diary now, if you'd like to join / continue the relaxed and informative conversations we've had to date. Just turn up; if a colleague / student is interested, bring them along. (*Collaborative Health Informatics Research Social; rhymes with "beers") HI Network members who'd like to gather on the third Thursday in October, please do so, but NB neither convenor can be there.

Workshop on collaboration to advance clinical informatics education. The next 3-way meeting is provisionally scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday 16 November in Parkville. At the workshop on Friday 15 September with guest speaker Evelyn Hovenga there was strong interest from Monash University and CQU in working with Melbourne to develop a large-scale strategic project. The project concept is a simulated state-of-the-art interdisciplinary healthcare information system for shared use in learning and teaching. If you are interested in playing an active role but haven't previously registered your interest please contact Kathleen Gray.

The NCRIS / NHMRC workshop to scope the national "Population health data and clinical data linkage" capability, Sydney Monday 11 September, was attended by ~80 health researchers and data owners. It canvassed options for potential DEST expenditure of ~\$20M on this areas over the next 3-4 years. Teng Liaw, Marianne Hibbert and Kathleen Gray attended from The University of Melbourne; please contact one of these people if you would like the discussion paper or further details of the meeting.

Proposed U21 health informatics course: In Nottingham in September at the U21 Medical and Health Sciences Group meeting, the Committee noted the commitment and effort demonstrated by the HI Network working group on the proposal; members also noted the range of current competing offerings, and it was agreed that the project should remain on hold for the foreseeable future, to be revisited if there is a demonstrable increase in the need / demand for such a course. For further details please contact Peter Harris.

Liz Sonenberg has flagged two grant proposals she has submitted recently: Wayfinding without vision: exploring design from the user perspective (with Stephan Winter, Geomatics) ; and A platform for robot-assisted rehabilitation after stroke (with Mary Galea, Physiotherapy).

Steve Howard has supplied a brief report on an NHMRC & The Cancer Council of Victoria project that is running 2006-2009, Maximising the effectiveness of interactive automated programs for smoking cessation. Project team: Prof Ron Brand TCCV, Mr Connor Graham Information Systems, Mr James Balmford TCCV, A/Prof Steve Howard Information Systems, Mr Peter Benda Information Systems, Ms Nicole Bishop TCCV. The project is investigating different combinations of technical support (e.g. web, email, SMS, MMS, etc.) for people who want to quit smoking or remain quit. In the first phase, usage of <http://www.thequitcoach.org.au> is being analysed and prototype phone messaging is being developed.

Lucy Firth has accepted a senior executive role in the Northern Territory Health Department. Although Darwin-based, she remains a senior fellow of the Dept of Information Systems and a member of the Health Informatics Network. We salute her energy and enthusiasm in facilitating the HI Network during 2006; Dr Simon Milton of the Dept of Information Systems replaces her as co-convenor of the network. Lucy remains contactable at lfirth@unimelb.edu.au; Simon can be reached on smilton@unimelb.edu.au or phone 8344 1528.

How many HI Network members are affiliated with the Australian College of Health Informatics? Have you considered joining? Please look at <http://www.achi.org.au> for further information or contact Teng Liaw.

HI Network members, do you have ideas / news / requests for information? Let Simon Milton or Kathleen Gray know, for a bulletin in late November. We'd like your feedback on these bulletins, too. Remember that you can add events of interest at <http://www.mdhsonline.unimelb.edu.au/informatics/index.php/Research> and update your profile at <http://www.mdhsonline.unimelb.edu.au/informatics/index.php/Members>