

# Email news bulletin of The University of Melbourne Health Informatics Network 2007-01-12

## CHIRS\* - VerSI sponsorship in 2007

Next CHIRS is on Thursday 18 January, 5-6.30 at University House. In 2007 CHIRS will be (mostly) on the third Thursday of each month: upcoming dates are Feb 15; Mar 15; Apr 12 (early because of Easter); May 17; Jun 21. No need to RSVP, and if a colleague / student / research partner is interested, please bring them along. (\*Collaborative Health Informatics Research Social; rhymes with "beers")

In 2007 you can get the collaborative juices flowing over a pint or a pinot, with the compliments of VerSI, the Victorian eResearch Strategic Initiative <http://versi.edu.au>. VerSI has generously agreed to give CHIRS some sponsorship during 2007 to help encourage greater understanding and planning by network members, colleagues and partners, about ways that we can exploit distributed high-performance computing resources, data resources, scientific instruments and communications technologies to advance the HI research agenda. If you'd like to know more about VerSI please contact Gaby Bright [gabrielle.bright@versi.edu.au](mailto:gabrielle.bright@versi.edu.au) 8344 3768

## Health Informatics Steering Committee

A Reference Group has been formed to oversee our University-funded Steering Committee activities over the next 18 months - Peter Harris, Liz Sonenberg, Teng Liaw, Loane Skene, Jim Black, Simon Milton and Kathleen Gray. A meeting Tues 23 January will start detailed planning on four initiatives; if you have ideas, suggestions or the urge to be actively involved in one of the following, please let us know as soon as possible:

1) Open access Internet resource - Upgrading of the existing Health Informatics Network web site, including development of short video clips that tell the story of selected projects at the University televisually, in layperson's terms, and including related resources such as podcasts, selected readings, staff profiles. 2) Public forums series - A series of 3 forums open to the general public to exchange views with leaders in a range of health sciences disciplines on contemporary health informatics challenges and solutions in the community, industry and government on subjects of wide and topical interest to many members of the public and to the health, scientific and engineering and knowledge management professions. 3) Scholarly exchanges - Sponsorships for distinguished international health informaticians to spend up to a week as visiting scholars at the University to be available for discussions with staff, research students and research partners; for example, those who will be in Australia attending the international Medinfo conference in Brisbane in August 2007. 4) Academic outreach and leadership initiatives - Funded time release up to 20 hours per person as incentives for staff and research students working on health-informatics-related projects to undertake special initiatives in collaboration with relevant health sciences professional associations in order to extend and apply those projects, such as to lead working groups, offer workshops, make submissions to inquiries or organise public forums.

## Research funding offered by US National Institute of Mental Health/NIH/DHHS

Information Technologies and the Internet in Health Services and Intervention Delivery - details are available from [http://australia.infoed.org/spin/spin\\_prog.asp?87167](http://australia.infoed.org/spin/spin_prog.asp?87167)

## Do you have news or ideas?

HINet members with ideas, news, or needing information contact Simon Milton or Kathleen Gray. The deadline for inclusion in the next HINet bulletin is Friday 2 February. You can also add events of interest at <http://www.mdhsonline.unimelb.edu.au/informatics/>

-- Regards from HI Network convenors

Dr Simon Milton, Department of Information Systems, The University of Melbourne Phone +61 3 8344 1528  
Dr Kathleen Gray, Biomedical Multimedia Unit, The University of Melbourne Phone +61 3 8344 8936