



Health and the Digital Age

Building the Health Informatics Research Agenda

A health industry workshop for senior staff in healthcare, public health, IT and research.

The workshop will look at the opportunities and challenges of taking health records into the 21st Century.

Wednesday 15 August 2007, 9.30am to 5.15pm

Jim Potter Conference Centre,
Ground floor, Old Physics Building,
The University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus

We will discuss the challenges of bringing different health disciplines and the IT industry together to work in concert. We will consider the technical, cultural, social and political impediments to data sharing. And we will talk about the training and education issues for health practitioners and health informaticians.

The workshop will also help the University set its priorities for research in health informatics.

9.30am-11am - Enabling research: Data, standards and integration in health

We will cover the journey of health data and how to protect its secondary use — for research, health planning and administration. We will discuss ways that data can be described to ensure understanding of the meaning and context over time and we will review the relevant NCRIS priorities.

Speakers include: Hugh Leslie, director, Ocean Informatics; Michael Frommer, director, Sydney Health Projects Group, University of Sydney.

11.30am-1pm - Using health data across the continuum of care: Drivers

What benefits arise from sharing information across the continuum of care?
How can we share information when there are no nationally consistent and interoperable clinical information systems in use. How can we make progress?

Speakers include: Sheila Teasdale, chair of IMIA Primary Care Informatics Working Group, Nottingham University.

1.45pm-3.15pm - Health informatics education

What professional competencies should a health informatician have? Is there a career path? How do we build and sustain capacity?

Speakers include: Paul Gorman, Oregon Health Sciences University; Evelyn Hovenga, Central Queensland University; Brendan Lovelock, Health Informatics Society of Australia.

3.45pm-5.15pm - Local and global aspects of public health informatics

Climate change and the growth of global air-travel mean that the threat of rapidly-spreading pandemics grows every day. How can health informatics contribute to surveillance across regional and national borders?

Several perspectives will be presented: international surveillance needs; the needs of indigenous and remote health care providers in Australia and of the Victorian Health Department.

Speakers include: Lucy Firth, Northern Territory Department of Health and James Fielding, Epidemiology & Surveillance Program with the Victorian Department of Human Services.

Catering: Coffee will be available from 8.30am and catering will be provided over the course of the day.

Parking: Parking near the University is limited. Trams and taxis can drop you off at the campus.
The Old Physics building is located in the middle of campus on the south side of the Union building.
Building 128 Ref G14 (www.pb.unimelb.edu.au/CampusMaps/Parkville.pdf)

Register: Spaces are limited. To book for the full workshop or one of the sessions, please contact Jacqui Hislop on (03) 8344 1508 or health-informatics@unimelb.edu.au.