

October, 2011

### President's Message



**“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”**

~ John F. Kennedy

Laurie Tanita, BSHA, RHIT, CCS, OrHIMA President  
[laurie.tanita.@providence.org](mailto:laurie.tanita.@providence.org)

This is an exciting time to be a HIM Professional. There is virtually no area of Health Information Management that is not undergoing changes. The OrHIMA Delegates just returned from the annual AHIMA House of Delegates business meeting where we voted on bylaw changes for AHIMA. These bylaw changes passed and will mean that there will be changes in the structure of the House of Delegates. Like our federal government, we will now have a speaker of the House. The opportunity to serve as speaker is open to anyone who is an AHIMA member and I encourage those interested to go to the AHIMA webpage and find out what is involved. This year a Speaker of the House and a Speaker-Elect will be voted on. Also voted in were resolutions on diversity and ethics in the HIM profession.

During the weekend in Salt Lake City, the delegates spent much of the time working in groups on strategic issues for our profession. We worked on issues like how to make sure that the HIM professional remains relevant while the industry undergoes changes like meaningful use, Accountable Care Organizations, health information exchanges, ICD-10, and all the other changes. Many great ideas were presented, and it was wonderful to see all the professionals in the room working together to better the position of us all. One thing that seemed clear to me throughout the day was that we all need to become lifelong learners. OrHIMA wants to be sure to offer educational opportunities to assist you, so please make sure to let us know what topics you want us to offer education on.

The OrHIMA Fall Institute took place in September in Albany, and it was great to see those of you who attended. I personally had fun seeing how well I could code ICD-10 cases and the presenters were certainly knowledgeable and interesting. The physician speakers were also very well received. The education committee did a great job of putting this event together and I would like to thank our Education Director, Yvonne Stiller, and all the volunteers that made it such a great event. The Education Committee is already planning the spring convention and is always looking for volunteers to help. Please contact Yvonne if you are interested in being a part of the committee.

The older I get the faster the year goes. It is hard to believe that Halloween and Thanksgiving are nearly upon us. I have many things to be thankful for and I hope that you do too. I hope that you all have a fun filled Halloween and a peaceful and relaxing Thanksgiving spent with family and friends.



Patrice L. Spath, MA, RHIT  
OrHIMA Past President and  
Delegation Chair  
[patrice@brownspath.com](mailto:patrice@brownspath.com)

### **Update: 2011 AHIMA House of Delegates**

On Oct. 2nd, 219 delegates from the AHIMA component state associations met in Salt Lake City to discuss strategic alternatives for the HIM profession and vote on various action items. In the morning, the Oregon delegation participated in strategic work sessions on the following topics: Advancing the Profession: Meaningful Use, Healthcare Reform, and ACOs; Master HIM Practice Realms; Position and Relevancy in the Healthcare Industry; Position the HIM Professional as the CIO, CKO, or Data Integrity Executive; and Understand Emerging Issues. The group discussion results will be used by the AHIMA Board and delegate teams to design tactics for meeting current and future needs of members.

In the afternoon, the House of Delegates approved the new professional Code of Ethics and two Resolutions: Diversity and Inclusion and HIM Professionals Manage the Quality of Health Data. The proposed AHIMA bylaws revision was approved as submitted. These documents will soon be

available on the AHIMA website. In 2012, OrHIMA will need to modify its bylaws to maintain consistency with the new AHIMA bylaws. For example, OrHIMA will need to add an Emeritus membership status for members that are age 65 and over.

The new AHIMA bylaws also include two new national leadership positions: Speaker and Speaker-elect of the House of Delegates. The Speaker will be a voting member of the AHIMA Board during their one year term of office (Jan-Dec). A draft operational concept and job description for these positions was approved by the delegates. Candidates must be a member of the House of Delegates at the time of the election process. To start this change in 2012, delegates will soon be voting for a Speaker and a Speaker-elect. After this phase-in, the delegates will only vote on a Speaker-elect each year.



[OrHIMA 2011 Delegates](#)



[Yvonne Stiller & her HOD Team](#)



## What Has Your Board Been Up To?

Christina Grijalva, RHIA, President-Elect  
[christinagrijalva@bendbroadband.com](mailto:christinagrijalva@bendbroadband.com)

The OrHIMA Board of Directors has been busy with an array of projects over the past few months. I will touch briefly on a few of them. On September 14, 2011, Portland State University's Center for Public Service and the Oregon Health Authority's Office of Health Information Technology held the AIM 2011: Innovating for Healthy Oregonians Conference. Key stakeholders from many sectors, including business, government and nonprofit associations to share the latest trends, implementation strategies, and lessons from across the country on the promise of electronic health records and health information exchange to accelerate and support health care improvement efforts. OrHIMA was one of many corporate sponsors for this historic event.

The Board has also embarked upon a project to create a formal record retention policy for the numerous documents and photos that have been collected over the years by OrHIMA. The initial steps of this project will begin this fall.

The Board has several other projects brewing as the Fall season rapidly descends upon us. We will make every effort to keep our membership informed as these projects develop.

### **House Team: Professional Development and Recognition**

By Christina Grijalva, RHIA, President-Elect

The Professional Development and Recognition team met on September 1, 2011 and October 1, 2011. The team had discussion surrounding the resolutions and proposed AHIMA Bylaws revisions that were voted on during the October 2, 2011 House of Delegates meetings. Also discussed were various ways to highlight the value AHIMA credentials as well as promote the Ambassador Program. You may click on this link [AHIMA Delivers Value Poster](#) to access a terrific poster demonstrating the value of an AHIMA credentialed professional. It is free to download and print. I have one proudly displayed at my office entrance.

If you are not familiar with the Ambassadors Program, it is a training support program for ICD-10 Trainers that have completed an AHIMA ICD-10 Academy and have an active certificate. Program

benefits include a dedicated ICD-10 Ambassador CoP, access to discounted AHIMA training materials, and an ICD-10 project referral web page, where Ambassadors can choose to be listed for contract/freelance opportunities. This program is free until Jan. 1, 2012. Qualified AHIMA members may enroll now at <http://ahima.org/ICD10/ambassador.aspx>



### **Education Committee Activities**

Yvonne Stiller, MA, RHIA, Education Director  
[yvones@mcmc.net](mailto:yvones@mcmc.net)

Another successful Fall Institute has come and gone. Ninety-two people were in attendance. The majority of attendees were “very satisfied” with the overall usefulness of speakers/topics; meeting location; length of conference and online registration. OrHIMA members Dana Brown, Linda Dawson and Carol Romo were speakers at the Fall Institute. Their presentations were well received, and it makes me proud to see the knowledge and talent we have within our membership.

The Education Committee now begins to plan the 2012 State Convention to be held May 17, 18 & 19 at the Holiday Inn Portland South in Wilsonville. Evaluations and comments from the 2011 convention and the Fall Institute will be used to help plan the 2012 convention. We make every effort to assure that we are providing a convention that is enjoyable and educational for our membership. We are aware that the convention typically is not well attended by those who are in management positions. In the next couple of months we will be reaching out to discuss how we might make the convention more of a draw for those in management.

This year I have the pleasure of representing OrHIMA in the AHIMA House of Delegates. I have been assigned to the HIM Higher Education & Workforce team. This team is charged with 1) providing input to the HIM Education and Strategy Committee to advance Vision 2016: A Blueprint for Quality Education in HIM initiatives. 2) Provide support and recommendations to increase the number of clinical practice sites/professional practice experiences (PPEs). 3) Support and promote robust academic network of programs and faculty that produce and place graduates prepared for future roles. Advocate for workforce development. 4) Provide support and recommendations for increasing the number of HIM educators. 5) Provide input on professional curriculum competencies at all academic levels to maintain relevancy. 6)

Communicate and provide input to the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) on academic program issues.

As you can see, this is no small task. As HIM professionals we should all be concerned regarding the future of our profession. The education and preparation of students graduating from HIM programs is a major component of our profession. As noted above, we need to prepare for increasing the number of HIM educators. HIM programs across the nation struggle with finding PPE sites for their students. How can we expect quality candidates for our open positions when we refuse to participate in their education? The AHIMA Code of Ethics states that as members we are to recruit and mentor. You can sign up to be a PPE site manager at <http://www.ahima.org/schools/facresources/ppe.aspx>. You will also receive CEUs for being a PPE site manager.

I would also like to direct you to the article “Teaching the Future” in the October Journal. This article discusses education’s response to the AHIMA Core Model developed this year. A call for volunteers has gone out for the newly formed *Council for Excellence in Education*. The council will be responsible for determining strategy for the education community. The newly formed council will replace the current Education Strategy Committee and will become effective January, 2012. You may submit an application to volunteer on the AHIMA web site.





Fall Institute ICD-10 Speaker: Carol Romo, RHIA, CCS



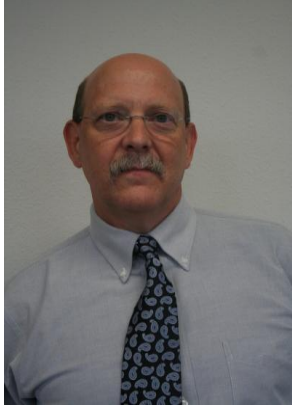
Fall Institute participants



Carol Wintermute, ACS-EM  
Skin Procedures and Auditing E/M codes



Linda Dawson, RHIT, ICD-10-PCS Speaker



## **Public Relations Committee**

Whit Watkins, RHIA, Public Relations Director

[William.w.watkins@kp.org](mailto:William.w.watkins@kp.org)

OrHIMA Public Relations provides recruitment materials for the Health Information Management (HIM) industry. The public relations committee reaches out for opportunities to connect with the educational programs serving Oregonians interested in the HIM field. A new focus over the past year, in collaboration with other BOD committees, has been the recruitment of corporate sponsorships. This continuing and increased emphasis on corporate sponsorship will add to the financial viability of the organization, as well as provide opportunities for professional outreach to other partners in the HIM community. Additionally, one of the key roles of the public relations committee in the upcoming and future year(s) will be identifying key professional groups with a goal towards increasing the visibility and advocacy of the organization.

If you are interested in working with the public relations committee, please join us. We are looking for volunteers, and currently are seeking interested parties to serve as project managers for Corporate Sponsorship, Student PPE Placement, Professional Outreach, and Community Education.

## **Professional Practice Experience (PPE) Update**

The Board recently indicated that a review and updating of current Professional Practice Experience (PPE) was warranted. As a Component State Association, OrHIMA has an obligation to develop the next generation HIM workforce. Additionally, developing students in PPE's helps to foster the growth of both the HIM profession and HIM educational institutions.

Several other factors went into this decision. More students are entering HIM field, requiring an increase in PPE opportunities. Changes in the healthcare industry have increased time stressors for potential PPE sites, making for a more difficult situation in accepting student PPE's. An inability to place students in PPE's in a timely fashion means the potential loss of students' outside-the-box creativity and HIM educational opportunities.

The following PPE proposal was ratified by the Board on October 12th, 2011:

- The Public Relations director/committee will contact HIM programs and request feedback regarding the best way OrHIMA can serve them given limited time resources.
- The Public Relations director/committee will contact potential PPE sites and encourage the site to consider a PPE student. Feedback from the sites will be requested regarding barriers to student placement and the role OrHIMA can play in facilitating PPEs.
- OrHIMA will encourage non-traditional sites as a way to ease PPE shortages. This would also give students a broader view of the potential employment opportunities in HIM industry.
- The Public Relations director/committee will develop incentives/rewards for healthcare organizations that take students. This could take the form of a mention in a future issue of e-Pursuit or at conferences. E-Pursuit will also be considered as a medium to recruit sites/potential facilities.
- The possibility of utilizing Facebook will be explored as a recruiting and placement tool.



### **Legal/Legislative Committee**

Lynne Shoemaker, RHIA, CHP, CHC, Legal/Legislative Director

[shoemakerl@ochin.org](mailto:shoemakerl@ochin.org)

In the previous edition of e-Pursuit, I discussed the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for a Health Information Exchange (HIE) Consent Policy that was filed on July 15 . Oregon Administrative Rule 943-015-0000 would have established HIE requirements, including notifying patients that their medical records were part of an HIE, and having the patient sign an HIE notification acknowledgement form. The OAR would have also ensured that patients had the option to “Opt out” of having their electronic medical records being included in a HIE. The proposed change to the Oregon Administrative Rules did not pass. According to the Oregon Health Information Technology Oversight Committee (HITOC), from stakeholder feedback already received, more HITOC staff time and additional input is needed to design the Administrative rules so that they will provide meaningful HIE consent for patients and to be able to be

operationalized by the organizations implementing the rules. According to HITOC, the rules adoption process should be re-initiated when:

- The structure and criteria for Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) are more clearly defined;
- Stakeholders and HITOC staff have a better understanding of how consent management will work most effectively and efficiently, both from a technological and procedural standpoint; and/or
- Query-based HIE begins to take shape in Oregon



### **OrHIMA Nominating Committee**

Chair: Bonnie Altus, MS, RHIT, CPHIMS, CHPS

[Bonnie.altus@onlinemac.com](mailto:Bonnie.altus@onlinemac.com)

It is time for the annual recruitment of candidates for run for board positions for 2012-2013 (effective July 1, 2012) and the nominating committee is seeking your nominations! Voting will be conducted electronically prior to the OrHIMA Annual Convention.

Our goal is find at least two people to run for each board position, preferably three or four. We need to have the ballot filled out for the December board meeting, which is approaching quickly.

The board meetings are conducted by teleconference so you can serve on the board regardless of the part of the state where you live. Presently board meetings are in the afternoon on the first Friday of the month.

#### **The positions we need to fill are:**

President-Elect (3 year commitment)

Secretary (1 year term)

Treasurer (2 year term)

Communications Director (2 year term)

Education Director (2 year term)

We also need to identify individuals who are willing to be on the ballot for the 2012-2013 nominating committee.

Is it your time to serve? If so, contact Bonnie Altus at [bonnie.altus@onlinemac.com](mailto:bonnie.altus@onlinemac.com) or Joan Bradshaw at [jbradshaw@rosevilla.org](mailto:jbradshaw@rosevilla.org). If you want more information about a specific position you may either contact me or the board member currently in that position.

### **President-Elect**

This is a one year position that assumes the President position in year two and Past-President in year three. As Past-President you will chair the finance committee and serve as head delegate to AHIMA. During all three years you will be a delegate to the AHIMA House of Delegates.

### **Secretary**

This is a one-year term and the primary responsibilities are to take minutes at the board meetings and the annual meeting at the OrHIMA conference. This is a great place to start if you want to get more familiar with board activities and decide what position is a good fit for you.

### **Treasurer**

This is a two-year term and involves maintaining the association books using Quick Books and preparing financial reports months for the board meetings.

### **Communications Director**

This is a two-year term and is responsible for producing ePursuit, overseeing the website and distributing emails to the OrHIMA membership. During the second year in this position, you will be a delegate to the AHIMA House of Delegates.

### **Education Director**

This is a two-year term and is responsible for the Annual Convention, the Fall Institute, the ICD-10 initiative, educational webinars, and other educational activities. During the second year in this position, you will be a delegate to the AHIMA House of Delegates.

Again, please contact Bonnie Altus at [bonnie.altus@onlinemac.com](mailto:bonnie.altus@onlinemac.com) or Joan Bradshaw at [jbradshaw@rosevilla.org](mailto:jbradshaw@rosevilla.org) if you wish to serve OrHIMA in this and coming years!

## **The Benefits of Networking.....**

By Angela Keller, COCC Class of 2011 Graduate

Smile, with your eyes and lips. Wrap yourself in your most confident clothes and present yourself as the best gift anyone could ever have. Shake hands with a cheerful but determined grip. Email, Hotmail, TEXT, .XML dazzle them electronically. Be genuine, upbeat and passionate about Health Information Technology. Write personable hand written notes and call in Thank You's. Be and do all of these, but first and foremost, be the best you, you can be and

**NETWORK!**

As a very small digit in the grand scheme of Health Information Technology, how was I going to stand out in a crowd? What could I do to show prospective Employers that I was worthy of notice and a quick read of my one-page Atta-girl Resume coming straight out of college? I chose to dust off my camera and volunteer. I sent just a few little pesky emails to the OrHIMA volunteer committee until I was, to my surprise, talking to the President of the OrHIMA Board. They were very excited to have an experienced photographer.

I arrived at OrHIMA anxious and eager. Having only been through one interview with a small city concierge doctor----whom I totally overwhelmed because we were going to bring him into the electronic field and I had a couple of great HL7 compliant computer systems I had studied that I thought he would like and we would have his office ICD-10 compliant and he could get funded and financed...ugh...sigh. Yes I was going to live in this small beautiful city and ...but wait....he said no. I still followed up with a pleasant call and a hand written letter thanking him for his time. Doctors have a difficult time understanding we just want to help them.

Well, back to the OrHIMA convention..... I caught people running from, to, and in mid-sentence with my camera. A glare of my flash and then my beaming face they would see. I met so many great RHIT's and RHIA's I thought I had died and gone to the big land of Health Informatics--- where the coding queries abound and the records are always completed accurately and on time.

My professor, my classmates, people I had worked with on public service projects and my mentor from my first practicum were all there and all very supportive. The OrHIMA board members welcomed all students with open arms. I went up to new people with a flash and left them with a thought of me. By late afternoon I was perusing my latest photos when I noticed a woman whom I had been taking pictures of earlier smiling at me. She had a genuine comfortable smile with the manner to go along with it. I found myself telling her my concierge doctor story and we both laughed. She told me to never stop being passionate about our work.

The next morning at the student's breakfast this lady was presiding over the talks. Now I knew she was on the OrHIMA Board and obviously someone who made a difference in the grand scheme of things but my head was spinning from all the names and events of the weekend. As I took pictures another student spoke up and asked to give this woman her resume. As everyone was filing out I asked her if she would take one of mine also.

The OrHIMA convention was a great success; however, it was time for finals. Lost in the world of study, optical neuropathy and focal hand dystonia, the last thing I was expecting was a phone call. A woman with an infectious laugh was inviting me to consider a newly created position at her beautiful large hospital. I read the job description and immediately took it to my HIM College Chair. My first question was, "Do you think I can do this?" Her reply was to turn to me and say, "I have no doubt and I am so proud of you."

Amazing that it's only been a few months when it feels like a lifetime. Health Information Technology is exciting, in-depth, and evolving into the electronic world fast. I am proud and thrilled to have volunteered and that I took the chance and handed off that piece of paper that

put my skills in a creative one page summation. My first day of work my new supervisor, the one with the wonderful laugh, took me to greet my Director. There, once again, was that comfortable smile. I knew I was home.



**“If you don’t like change, you’ll like being irrelevant even less.”**  
~Alison Levine

### **Communications Director Report**

Debra Harris, MA, RHIA, Communications Director  
[debra.harris@salemhealth.org](mailto:debra.harris@salemhealth.org)

I can recall when I was one of the fresh faces in this profession. Maybe it’s the three and a half decades I’ve devoted to Health Information Management that gives me pause to reflect on what I’ve done (or neglected to do) to help the association and my colleagues grow, learn and advance in this profession. Maybe it was being a delegate to the AHIMA House again this year for the first time since 1993. That was a momentous year in AHIMA’s history: we changed our name from AMRA to AHIMA and our credentials became RHIA and RHIT. As a new grad, it appeared there was an insiders’ circle in this business: people who had all the expertise, the contacts and the courage to make things happen around them. I later came to realize that those early mentors and colleagues were simply people who: were passionate about HIM (then known as Medical Records), who led from the front, who demonstrated their vast knowledge by reaching and teaching the rest of us, who displayed the courage to make tough decisions, and who steadfastly built and maintained their professional networks (long before “networking” was even part of our vocabulary!). Many of the same professional and volunteer principles apply today that worked back then. If you like change, if you aren’t satisfied with the status quo, if you want to influence a colleague’s development in the HIM profession, V-O-L-U-N-T-E-E-R! Put your name on the ballot for next year (re-read Bonnie Altus’ call for nominations this month), offer to serve on a committee, reach out! Why?? Because we all stand on someone else’s shoulders as we grow in our careers. Someone helped you get established in the HIM profession, and we all need to pay it forward. We need YOU!

In the second year of my term as Communications Director, I am serving on the Best Practices House Team with colleagues from all the CSA’s Boards. Since July, we have helped edit the

following Best Practices Briefs: Management Practice for Release of Information, Managing Non-Text Media in Physician Practices, A Transcription Toolkit and Guidelines for Managing a Data Dictionary. We also had input to the revision of the **AHIMA Consumer Bill of Rights**. Watch for the publication of these Best Practices in the upcoming AHIMA Journals.

Remember to update your member profile if you've moved or changed your e-mail address. When the AHIMA database is not current, we lose touch with members. If a fellow OrHIMA member is not receiving these communications, please remind them to update their AHIMA member profile.

## **OHSU Looking for Advisory Committee Members**

The graduate HIM certificate program at the OHSU is looking for advisory committee members who can donate up to ten hours a year. We are particularly interested in subject matter experts in Operational Management, Data Sets, Implementation of an EHR, legal and privacy issues in HIM, and non-acute care settings.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Joanne Valerius, MPH, RHIA, Program Director at [valerius@ohsu.edu](mailto:valerius@ohsu.edu) We need your time and expertise. Please consider this valuable volunteer opportunity.



## **Calendar of Events**

### **OrHIMA Events:**

- **Board of Director Meetings:**
  - First Friday of every month, 2-4 PM
  
- **Annual Spring Meeting:**
  - May 17-19, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Portland South, Wilsonville

### **AHIMA Events:**

**Audio seminar/webinars:** Further information can be found at <http://www.ahima.org/ContinuingEd/Audio/default.aspx>

## **AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS Trainers: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis and Procedure Coding**

On-Line

12/8/2011 – 12/10/2011, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM PST

## **Data Structures and ICD-10-CM/PCS**

On-Line

12/12/2011, 12:00 PM–3:00 PM CST

## **ICD-10 Summit**

In Person Meeting

Baltimore Hilton, Baltimore, MD

4/16/2012 – 4/17/2012, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM CST

## **Computer-Assisted Coding Summit**

In Person Meeting

Baltimore Hilton, Baltimore, MD

4/18/2012, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM CST

## **National Conventions:**

- **2012 National Convention**, September 26-Oct 4, 2012, in Chicago, Illinois
- **2013 National Convention**, September 15-20, 2013 in Atlanta, GA

