

# Translational Informatics for Global Health: An Argentina-Oregon Collaboration

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## Global health motivations

- As economically emerging middle-income countries (e.g., Argentina) develop a larger middle class, diseases related to basic nutrition, sanitation, and basic public health measures become overshadowed by burdens of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases (Nugent, 2008; Lim, 2007)
- Focus of this project is to harness the value of biomedical informatics to improve clinical and translational research (CTR) at a large, established academic medical center in Buenos Aires



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## About Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires (HIBA)

- Large academic medical center in BA
  - Founded in 1853
  - Network of two hospitals with 750 beds (200 intensive care) and 23 clinics
  - HMO with 150K patients; serves 1.5M others
- Over 30 residency programs and 34 fellowships
- Established research portfolio, including NIH funding
  - Participation in over 60 research projects and 400 publications
- Created its own university in 2001 with a School of Medicine and School of Nursing



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## HIBA Department of Medical Informatics

- Under leadership of Dr. Quiros, starting around 2000, launched
  - ITALICA, an internally developed EHR
  - Department of Medical Informatics
  - Medical Informatics Residency Program
  - (Quiros, *Yearbook of Medical Informatics*, 2009)
- Under leadership of Dr. Otero, translated OHSU-AMIA 10x10 course into Spanish, which has been delivered to over 400 people across Latin America (Otero, *Meth Inf Med*, 2010)
- Hosted IMIA Education Working Group and Latin American Countries (LAC) meetings in 2008



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# HIBA medical informatics

**Visión de la informática**

- Es la intersección de lo que las personas hacen con la información y tecnologías para su mejor utilización (Kukafka, 2001)
- Es mas (y menos) que las ciencias de la computación
- Requiere una fuerte comprensión del dominio subyacente, como la medicina

Personas  
Información  
Tecnología  
Informática

AMA 10x10 1.1 OHSU HOSPITAL ITALIANO

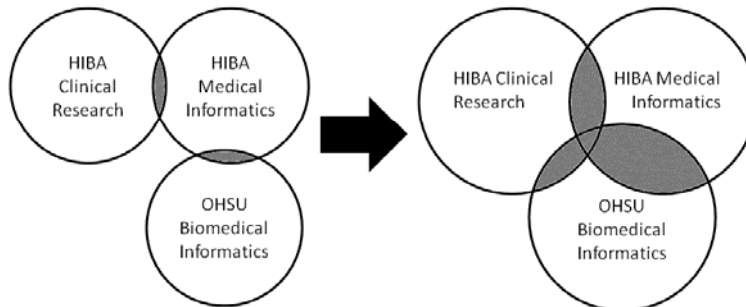
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## Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) assets to project

- Department of Medical Informatics & Clinical Epidemiology
  - Accomplished and diverse research program
  - Well-known leader in informatics education
  - NLM T15 training grant
- OHSU Global Health Center – campuswide effort in global health, galvanized by awarding of Fogarty Framework R25 in 2009
- Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) – OHSU CTSA grant, awarded in 2006

## Overall goals of project

- Translate the existing strengths of HIBA and its established collaboration with OHSU to develop a new program focused on CTR informatics
- Establish HIBA as an international center of excellence in biomedical and health informatics that demonstrates for other middle-income countries a pathway to achieving excellence in global health informatics



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## Specific aims of project

- Short-term training – Develop version of Spanish 10x10 focused on CTR and deliver locally
- Intermediate training – Develop course in CTR informatics for both HIBA residency and OHSU graduate program
- Long-term training – Provide training for future HIBA informatics leaders as fellows at OHSU
- Also – develop long-term formal collaborative educational programs, including joint master's degree

## Progress to date

- CTR-oriented 10x10 course under development and to be offered in August, 2010
- CTR informatics course under development and to be launched in 2010-11 academic year
- First two fellows arrived in Portland in March, 2010



Cheering on Boca Jrs when they visited Portland with informatics fellow Damian Borbolla, MD