Resources for Field – Organizations, Information, Education

What is Biomedical & Health Informatics?
William Hersh, MD
Copyright 2018
Oregon Health & Science University

Resources for field

• Organizations
• Information
• Education
Professional organizations

• AMIA (formerly American Medical Informatics Association)
  – www.amia.org

• Mission
  – AMIA advances the informatics professions relating to health and disease. To this end it advances the use of health information and communications technology in clinical care and clinical research, personal health management, public health/population, and translational science with the ultimate objective of improving health.

Other professional organizations

• Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) – www.himss.org
• American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) – www.ahima.org
• Association of Medical Directors of Information Systems (AMDIS) – www.amdis.org
• Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) – www.allianceni.org
• Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII) – www.phii.org
• International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB) – www.iscb.org
• Society for Imaging Informatics in Medicine (SIIM) – www.siim.org
• Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) – www.acm.org
• Medical Library Association (MLA) – www.mlanet.org
Medical and nursing specialty societies (non-exhaustive)

- American Nurses Association (ANA) – [www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)
- Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) – [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)
- American College of Physicians (ACP) – [www.acponline.org](http://www.acponline.org)
- American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) – [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)

Where does one find more information? Textbooks

Where does one find more information (cont.)? Textbooks

- Weaver et al. (eds.), *Nursing and Informatics for the 21st Century*, HIMSS, 2010
- Bui and Taira (eds.), *Medical Imaging Informatics*, Springer, 2010
- Skochelak et al. (eds.), *Health Systems Science*. Elsevier, 2017

More information (cont.), Journals

- Journals of AMIA
  - JAMIA – [https://academic.oup.com/jamia](https://academic.oup.com/jamia)
  - JAMIA Open – [https://academic.oup.com/jamiaopen](https://academic.oup.com/jamiaopen)
- Methods of Information in Medicine (MIM)
- International Journal of Medical Informatics (IJMI)
- Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR)
  - JMIR Medical Informatics
  - Journal of Biomedical Informatics (JBI)
- Applied Clinical Informatics (ACI)
- Bioinformatics
- Journal of Digital Imaging (JDI)
- Biomed Central (BMC, [www.biomedcentral.com](http://www.biomedcentral.com))
  - BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making
  - BMC Bioinformatics
More information (cont.), Meetings

- AMIA meetings
  - Annual Symposium
  - Informatics Summit
  - Clinical Informatics Conference
  - Informatics Educators Forum
- Medinfo (biennial)
- Other clinical informatics meetings
  - HIMSS, national meeting and local chapters
  - AMDIS Physician-Computer Connection
- Bioinformatics meetings
  - Pacific Symposium on Biocomputing (PSB)
  - International Society for Computational Biology (ISCB)

More information (cont.), Web sites

- US government
  - HHS ONC – [www.healthit.gov](http://www.healthit.gov)
  - ONC HIT curriculum – [https://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/health-it-curriculum-resources-educators](https://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/health-it-curriculum-resources-educators)
  - HRSA Health IT Toolbox – part of AHRQ National Resource
- Other
  - HITECH Answers – [www.hitechanswers.net](http://www.hitechanswers.net)
  - Clinfowiki – [http://clinfowiki.org](http://clinfowiki.org)
More information (cont.), email lists and blogs

- Email lists
  - HISTalk – [http://histalk2.com](http://histalk2.com)
  - From organizations such as AMIA, HIMSS, AMDIS, etc.
- Blogs – (many!)
  - Geek Doctor (John Halamka, MD) – [http://geekdoctor.blogspot.com](http://geekdoctor.blogspot.com)
  - Healthcare Standards (Keith Boone) – [http://motorcycleguy.blogspot.com](http://motorcycleguy.blogspot.com)
  - Informatics Professor (Hersh) – [http://informaticsprofessor.blogspot.com](http://informaticsprofessor.blogspot.com)

More information (cont.), acronyms

- Always asked, so here is a list
  - AMIA – [https://www.amia.org/glossary](https://www.amia.org/glossary)
Education and training in informatics

- Since a highly multi-disciplinary field, no standard curriculum or accreditation
  - Many programs with diverse curricula
  - After general overview, description of OHSU program given as an example
  - Consult programs' Web sites for details
- Education historically focused on academics but expanded to meet needs and opportunities for practitioners and users
- Programs come in many flavors: clinical, biomedical, health, bio-, nursing, etc.
- Major funder of programs is NLM, which funds programs to train future researchers at doctoral (PhD) and postdoctoral levels at 14 universities
  - Also funding from other sources, including institutions funding clinical informatics subspecialty fellowships

Educational programs

- List of US informatics programs on AMIA Web site
  - [https://www.amia.org/education/programs-and-courses](https://www.amia.org/education/programs-and-courses)
- NLM-funded programs
- Also continuing education programs, such as AMIA 10x10 (“ten by ten”)
  - Flagship course of program developed by OHSU
  - [https://dmice.ohsu.edu/hersh/10x10.html](https://dmice.ohsu.edu/hersh/10x10.html)
Career pathways have diverse inputs and outputs (Hersh, 2009)

- Health care professions, e.g., medicine, nursing, etc.
- Natural and life sciences, e.g., biology, genetics, etc.
- Computer science (CS), IT, and undergrad informatics
- Health information management (HIM)
- Others, e.g., business, library and info. science

There is no single career pathway, ladder, etc.

Jobs in:
- Healthcare systems
- Clinical leadership
- IT leadership
- Biomedical research
- Industry
- Academia

There are many career opportunities in many settings for all tracks

Cardinal rule (formula) of informatics education

What you do when you get out = f (What you did before you started + What you learned in the program)
Key attributes of OHSU informatics educational program

- **Building-block structure**
  - Work done at one level can be carried forward to next, i.e., 10x10 → Certificate → MS/MBI → PhD

- **Tracks**
  - Clinical informatics – original program; focused on health and healthcare areas
  - Bioinformatics and computational biology (BCB) – focus on genomics but has expanded to biomedicine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-Level Competency</th>
<th>Domain Names for Clinical Informatics (CI) Track</th>
<th>Domain Names for Bioinformatics &amp; Computational Biology (BCB) Track</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apply core concepts of using data, information, and knowledge to advance health and biomedicine</td>
<td>Health &amp; Clinical Informatics</td>
<td>Bioinformatics &amp; Computational Biomedicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply knowledge of appropriate area(s) of health and biomedicine to informatics practice and research</td>
<td>Health Care</td>
<td>Biomedical Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply computing skills to biomedical informatics</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply quantitative methods to biomedical informatics</td>
<td>Evaluative Sciences</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply people and organizational knowledge to informatics</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Management</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply advanced scholarship to biomedical and health informatics</td>
<td>Thesis/Capstone/Dissertation Requirements</td>
<td>Thesis/Capstone/Dissertation Requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Application of curriculum to specific programs

- 10x10 program is version of introductory course in clinical informatics track
- Graduate Certificate program focuses mainly on first two domains of clinical informatics track
  - Biomedical informatics
  - Organizational and management sciences
- Master’s programs add other domains plus either
  - Thesis – MS
  - Capstone or Internship – MBI
- PhD program adds specialized research training, cognate area of interest, doctoral seminar, and dissertation

Another view of “building block” approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Base:</td>
<td>Knowledge Base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Clinical Informatics</td>
<td>- Advanced Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bioinformatics and Computational Biology</td>
<td>- Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Thesis (MS) or Capstone (MBI)</td>
<td>- Cognate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10x10</td>
<td>- Advanced Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Certificate</td>
<td>- Doctoral Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Biomedical Informatics</td>
<td>- Mentored Teaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Organization and management</td>
<td>- Dissertation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.ohsu.edu/informatics-education
Overview of programs available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree/Certificate Track</th>
<th>PhD</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>MBI</th>
<th>Grad Cert</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Informatics (HCI)</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BCB)</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
<td>On-campus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OHSU informatics – by the numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree/Certificate</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>BCB</th>
<th>CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Biomedical Informatics</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master of Science</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate Program</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>738</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International students from: Argentina, Singapore, Egypt, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Thailand, China, and other countries
How have OHSU students and graduates done?

- Over 20 years of experience...
- General observation: What people do when they graduate is partially dependent on what they did when they entered, e.g.,
  - Physicians, nurses, public health, etc. draw on their clinical/professional background
  - Information technology professionals draw on their unique background and experience
- Graduates have obtained jobs in a variety of settings, e.g., clinical, academic, and industry
- Some have obtained jobs before finishing the program

Future of the field

- These are exciting times for biomedical and health informatics, with many opportunities in a wide variety of settings
- Attention must also be paid to the professional practice and education of informaticians
- But the main focus of the field must be how to optimally use information and technology properly to advance human health