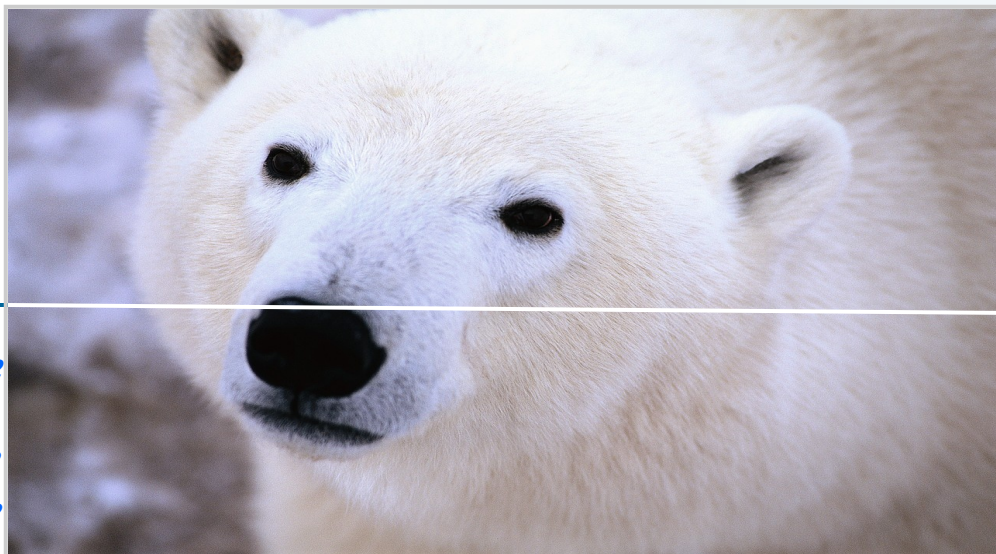


Visit the MHIMA Website at:
<http://www.mohima.org/AboutMHIMA.html>
[Click Here For Past Issues of e-Alert:](#)



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President's Message

Is anyone else tired of the snow and cold weather? I was re-reading last month's message where I talked about seeing the first snowfall of the season; since that time, at least in my part of the state, we've had over 10 inches of snow and 2 weeks of bitterly cold weather. Count me as someone who's ready for Spring.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and made it to the new year unscathed. Here we are in 2010, another year closer to ICD-10! From comments I have heard, some of you are excited about that, some of you are dreading making the change. There might even be a few of you out there that are still in denial, certain that Washington will put it off yet again.

Has anyone made any New Year's resolutions? My perennial resolution is to clean my desk off and keep it that way. I'm still in the "get it clean first" mode; I'll let you know if I have any success.

A few months ago, we discussed the reapportionment issue at the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates Operations team is discussing proposed changes and will be developing a bylaws change proposal to be discussed at Winter Team Talks and voted on sometime in the spring. We will keep you posted as to what the proposal is and how it will affect Missouri.

Well, have a great month, try to stay warm. As usual, I'll leave you with my Bizarre Holiday list. For January, some holidays that caught my eye are:

- January 11 is National Step in a Puddle and Splash Your Friend Day
- January 12 is Feast of Fabulous Wild Men Day
- January 13 is Blame Someone Else Day
- January 16 is Hot and Spicy Food International Day
- January 19 is National Popcorn Day
- January 23 is National Pie Day and Measure Your Feet Day
- January 27 is Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day
- January 29 is National Corn Chip Day

Talk to you next month!

Jeff

MHIMA Vision:

MHIMA will dedicate efforts and resources to serving members by increasing, promoting, and perpetuating the visibility of the health information management profession through education, communication and advocacy.

AHIMA Redesigns Certification Website

AHIMA is proud to unveil our new and improved certification and credentials Web pages on ahima.org.

The [new certification pages](#) are more user-friendly than ever.

Content has been reorganized and streamlined to be easy to navigate.

Visit ahima.org/certification today.



Have You Visited Your CEU Center Lately?

Visit your personal [Continuing Education Units Center](#) to access:

Your CEU completion history and personal CEU information, including:

- Certificate number
- Issue date
- Credential status
- Cycle end date
- CEUs required
- Self-assessment cycle end date (if applicable)
- Yearly self-assessment(s) (if applicable)
- The CEU reporting center where you can:
- Track your CEUs
- Officially report your CEUs

More Ways to Obtain CEUs

As an HIM certified professional, there are many ways to obtain continuing education units (CEUs). Here is one way to get started:

Self-assessment activities:

CCS and CCS-P self-assessment activities qualify for five (5) CEUs each. Other self-assessment activities may qualify for CEUs if the following provisions are met: (1) identifies areas of strength and weakness in relation to current HIM practice; (2) provides suggested resources for follow-up; and (3) provides evidence of completion. (AHIMA prior approval required)

[Track and report your CEUs.](#)

Unsure how many CEUs you need based on your credential(s)?

Visit the [credential calculator](#) for an easy way to determine CEUs needed for credential maintenance



Getting Organized with a Notebook PDA

Feel like everything is getting away from you?

Don't know when the next project is due?

Can't remember that great idea you had during lunch?

Take advantage of the cold weather. While staying in try putting your business and personal lives in order with a notebook and pen.

With a little preparation you can turn the classic [Moleskine notebook](#) into a portable "external hard drive" for your brain! Follow the suggestions found at these links and discover how to create your personal paper PDA.

[How to Make a Moleskine PDA](#)

[The Monster Collection of Moleskine Tips, Tricks and Hacks](#)



Hot Topics Survey

At the start of another new year most people make New Year's Resolutions. This month's hot topic survey asks readers if their resolution will include getting organized. Will your resolution include CEU maintenance?

1. I am very organized on my own with maintaining my CEUs.
2. I will use the AHIMA CEU website from now on to keep my CEUs organized.
3. I don't keep my CEUs organized.



[Click here to take the survey.](#)

AHIMA Rights Bill Sets Ideal Standard for Protecting Consumer Health Information

AHIMA
HEALTH INFORMATION
Bill of Rights

With an eye toward establishing a stronger and more transparent bond between healthcare consumers and trustworthy health information, the American Health Information Management Association announced establishment of a Health Information Bill of Rights as a model for protecting the personal health information of the nation's more than 300 million healthcare consumers.

The Health Information (HI) Bill of Rights, [seven protections](#) supported by in-depth validations, was made necessary by "Repeated abuses of access, accuracy, privacy and security of the most basic rights of individuals whose trust has been betrayed and dignity compromised," said AHIMA president Vera Rulon. [Read more.](#)





December Shooting Star Recipient

Candy Neu, MDE, RHIA, CCS, was selected by the MHIMA Board for the Shooting Star Award for the month of December for her outstanding service to the HIM community. Candy has been an instructor and program director for St. Charles Community College in the HIM program since 1991. She has taught hundreds of students the fundamentals of health information management as well as the joys of coding. She relates well to the mix of students that fill her classrooms, from the recent high school graduates eager for a career as well as the older students who may be changing careers. Students report that she provides a mix of resources in the classroom to maximize the learning experience and is particularly creative in practicum placements to meet the students' needs. Most of her students pass the accreditation examination soon after graduation and find employment in the greater St. Louis area hospitals and healthcare facilities. When attending an Eastern Missouri Health Information Management event, you will find Candy in attendance and surrounded by former students. Candy also supports Eastern Missouri Health Information Management Association by maintaining the membership database, providing statistical reports for the annual meeting, and assists with organizing the annual coding roundtable.

Candy earned a Bachelor of Science in Medical Records Administration from Saint Louis University in 1986, and a Master of Distance Education, Athabasca University, Alberta, Canada, in 2004. In addition she has a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language (French) from the University of Texas at Arlington. Candy has also been a HIM Director, a HIM Analyst, Administrative technician, and has taught 7th and 8th grade mathematics as well as Junior High French.

Thank you Candy!

Healthcare Finance News Warns: Be Wary of Zone Program Integrity Contractors

HIM professionals may be caught unaware when zone program integrity contractors (ZPIC) arrive in their organizations. While most HIM professionals understand RAC auditors, they may be unaware that a second set of auditors has been approved by CMS. ZPICs are the former program safeguard contractors. They are considered by CMS to be the first identifiers of potential fraud and abuse. CMS will utilize the ZPIC program to identify cases of suspected fraud, investigate them, and then proceed with immediate action. The ZPIC will have the authority to report directly to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for possible criminal or civil prosecutions as a result of investigations. Read this article from [Healthcare Finance News](#) article for more information on ZPICs.

AHIMA Announces New President

On December 1, the AHIMA Board of Directors announced that it has selected Alan F. Dowling, PhD, to serve as CEO of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). Dowling, who will take office on January 13, 2010, has more than 35 years experience in health informatics and brings a broad-based background, including information systems leadership, hospital and academic experience, and corporate and non-profit work, to AHIMA.

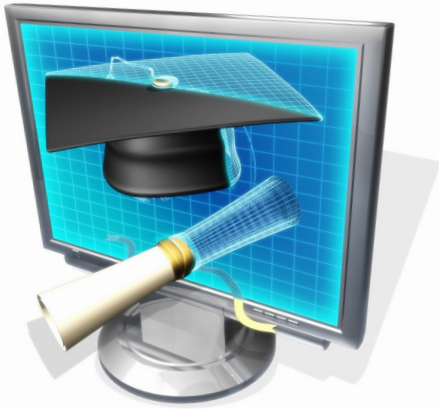
He is president of Global Health Associates LLC, which provides executive and board consultation on information systems and technology transfer and adoption in the US and internationally. Dowling also serves as adjunct professor of information systems at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH.



[Click here to see Dr. Dowling's video interview](#)



Spotlight on Distance Learning



Distance learning is fast becoming common place among degree and certificate seeking individuals. Once sought out by adults who simply did not have the availability to go to traditional day programs, distance programs could be difficult to find. However, for a generation who has never known a world without the Internet, distance learning is simply a norm. For those of us who knew a world without the Internet, distance learning may not have even been on our radar screen.

Perhaps you are one of those HIM professionals who would like to pursue a formal certificate or degree but do not believe you have the time. Have you considered distance learning? As with all things in the HIM realm, distance learning programs have evolved rapidly and are offered by a wide variety of CAHIIM accredited schools. These programs are offered online and each has it's own unique format.

Among them, you will find coding certificate programs as well as associate, bachelor, and graduate level programs. If you are ready to take your career to a new level and grow as an HIM professional, distance learning might be the answer you are looking for. As the saying goes, the sky is the limit, a limit which is set only by you. Begin your new adventure, by researching all the CAHIIM accredited programs available at <http://www.cahiim.org/>

MO-HITECH Project

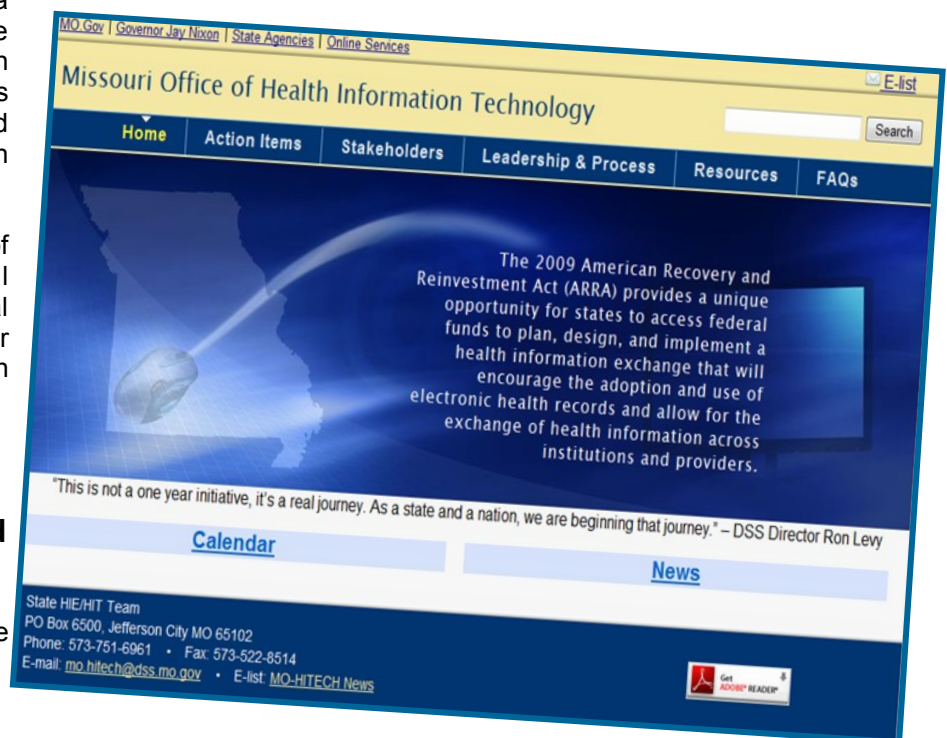
MHIMA's eHIM Workgroup is charged with staying abreast of Missouri's efforts on a statewide health information exchange (HIE). Currently the Missouri Office of Health Information Technology (MO-HITECH) has been charged with developing a strategic and operational plan for a sustainable HIE in Missouri.

Workgroup meetings in the areas of Governance, Finance, Technical Infrastructure, Business and Technical Operations, Legal/Policy and Consumer Engagement are held every two weeks in Columbia, MO.

If you or a co-worker are currently attending these meetings, we would like to hear from you!

Please contact eHIM@mohima.org and share your experience with us.

For more information about the MO-HITECH project,
visit <http://dss.mo.gov/hie/>



Calendar of Upcoming Events

January

MHIMA is collaborating with the Texas Health Information Management Association to offer you some great upcoming audio conferences!

When you register online, please be sure to select "MHIMA" on the registration form.

Joint Commission Update for 2010

January 29, 2010
11:00-1:00 CST
2 CE's

Connecting the Dots: A Legislative Update on ARRA

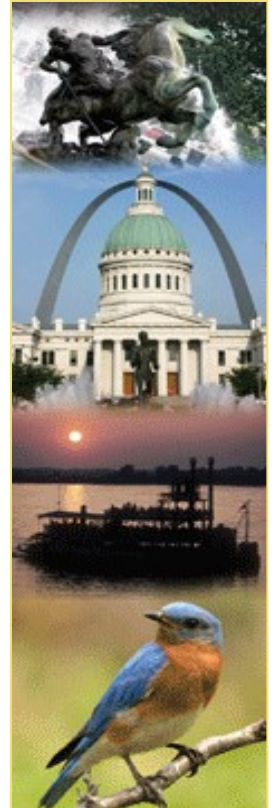
February 12, 2010
11:00-1:00 CST
2 CE's

Neoplasm Coding

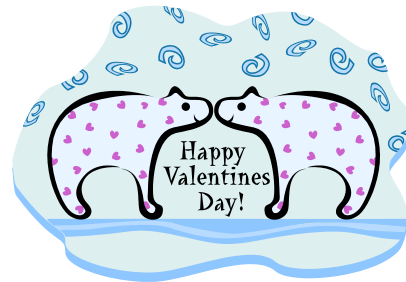
February 19, 2010
11:00-1:00 CST
2 CE's

[Click here for more information](#)

To visit the MHIMA calendar of Events: [Click here](#)



February



Mark Your Calendars Now!

MHIMA Annual Meeting

Apr 28 – 30, 2010
St. Charles Convention Center, St.
Charles, MO

MHIMA Annual Meeting

Apr 27 – 29, 2011
Chateau on the Lake
Branson, MO

KHIMA/MHIMA Joint Meeting

Sep 16 – 17, 2010
Sheraton Kansas City, 9103 E 39th St.,
Kansas City, MO

We are excited to announce that
MHIMA and KHIMA will hold a joint
meeting in September 2010.



MHIMA Directory

MHIMA Board Directory

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2nd Year Delegate

Maggie Gambill,

2nd Year Delegate

Jane DeSpiegalaere-Wegner, RHIA, CCS

1st Year Delegate

Michelle Kornfeld

Alternate Delegate

Regional Links

[Click Here for
Eastern Missouri](#)



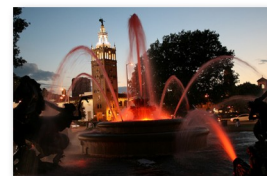
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Have an article and/or picture for the Newsletter? Send it to the Newsletter Committee at newsletter@mohima.org

