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Florida Health Information Management Association

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President's Message

November/December 2001

Mario A. Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P



If there has ever been a moment in which I have been as proud to be a member of FHIMA it is at this time. This year the 73rd AHIMA National Convention was held in Miami Beach, FL and I had the honor on behalf of all FHIMA members to welcome members and guests from across the nation to our State and my native city.

The year long efforts of Irene Tramonte, RHIA as AHIMA liaison to organize, decorate and coordinate volunteers for the FHIMA hospitality booth was a resounding success, members from across the nation had nothing but praise about FHIMA and the warm welcome they received. My gratitude to all of you who volunteered at the FHIMA hospitality booth, you were our ambassadors.

Acknowledgment, is also in order to Lori E. Lucas, RHIA, RoseAnn Webb, RHIA and Floribel Perlata, RHIA for volunteering their time to serve as the credentials chair and committee members, respectively, during the 2001 AHIMA House of Delegates (HOD).

This year your FHIMA delegates Jacquie Jones, RHIA, Sharol Pausal Noblejas, RHIA, Michelle Mock, RHIA, Holly Woemmel, RHIA and myself proudly represented our State wearing our new FHIMA logo polo shirts. I am proud to say that as FHIMA delegates we were vocal and influential in passing new resolutions, your chief delegate Michelle Mock will be providing a detail report of the HOD proceedings to be posted on e-Coastlines.

Congratulations are also in order to three of our own FHIMA members. Linda Stone, RHIT and Barbara A. Fortuna, RHIA newly elected to the AHIMA Council on Certification for RHIT Educator and RHIA Educator, respectively. Also, to Sue Hitchens, RHIT, HCRM who is serving as a committee member of the International Federation of Health Records Organization (IFHRO), which will be meeting in Washington, D.C. in 2004.

Those attending the AHIMA convention witnessed a historical event with the launching of Communities of Practice (CoP's). With a click of the mouse, AHIMA members received notification to join this new modality of communication tool. I encourage all of you to embrace this new technology as we continue to venture into new realms of our ever changing HIM roles and stake our claim as leaders in the Health Information Management profession. We are truly pioneers of the 21st Century!

At our recent FHIMA board meeting the committee reports indicate that all committees are arduously working to ensure that members needs are being met with the directives set forth by the board of directors. Soon you shall be receiving registrations for the upcoming Mid-Year Conference to be held January 25 & 26, 2002 in Orlando, FL. This year the theme for this conference is "Sowing the Seeds of Change." Congratulations, to Peggy L. Meli, MS, RHIA and her committee members for putting together a most educational and innovative program. Please make every effort to attend this conference and make it a success with your participation.

The FHIMA Board of Directors is still in the process of finalizing the 2001-2003 strategic plan. With the newly launching of the CoP's, the FHIMA board is looking towards the future on how this new technology will affect and change our organizational and operational infrastructure both at the State and regional level. It is the board's primary objective that the strategic plan allows FHIMA the flexibility to operate in ways patterned by AHIMA's infrastructure. Therefore, enhancing communication and research tools to meet members needs and streamlining current organizational and operational processes.

In closing, I must say that the tragic events of September

11th, 2001 have affected all of us, as a nation and as individuals. I ponder the thought of why such things happen? I can only say that those lives were not lost in vain. They have given our nation a newfound spirit of unity and compassion. We must embrace these attributes in our personal and professional roles. Let us use Health Information & Technology week (November 4 - 10, 2001) to celebrate the solidarity of our profession, to embrace our differences and to continue to evolve our roles in the HIM profession as pioneers of the 21st Century following the rhythm of time.



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**Mid-Year Conference 2002
Sowing the Seeds of Change**



Date:
January 25-26, 2002

Place:
Holiday Inn Select
Orlando International Airport
5750 T.G. Lee Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32822
407-851-6400

Registration Fees:
\$125 Full Registration
\$ 85 One Day Registration

To register on-line or print a registration form, [CLICK HERE.](#)

Room Rates:
Single/Double - \$94

Call the Holiday Inn Select at 407-851-6400 to make your reservation. Be sure to mention that you are with FHIMA to



get the conference rate of \$94 per night. The reservation deadline is **December 30, 2001.**

Attire: Business Casual

Program:

Friday, January 25, 2002

7:30 a.m. – **Registration and Continental
Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. – **FHIMA Welcome**
8:35 a.m.

Mario Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P
FHIMA President

8:35 a.m. – **An Almanac for Change**
9:30 a.m.

Linda Ball

Leesburg Regional Medical Center
*Planning & managing the change
process.*

9:30 a.m. – **Breaking New Ground**
10:30 a.m.

Clarence Brown, MD

President & CEO

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Cutting Edge Treatments for Cancer

10:30 a.m. – **Stretch Break**
10:45 a.m.

10:45 a.m. – **Seeds of Compassion**
11:45 a.m.

Chad Kollas, MD, FACP, FCLM

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center
Pain Management at End of Life

11:45 p.m. – **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – **How Does Your Garden Grow?**
2:00 p.m.

Shirley Kraeger, CGC

Orlando Regional Healthcare
Genetic counseling.

2:00 p.m. – **Stretch Break**

2:15 p.m.

2:15 p.m. – **Sowing Seeds of Privacy**
3:15 p.m.

Linda Noel, MEd., RHIA

Privacy Officer for Orlando Regional
Healthcare
Privacy Officer

3:15 p.m. – **Sowing Seeds of Security**
3:45 p.m.

Peggy Rowles, RHIA

Orlando Regional Healthcare
*Hot tips on increasing the security of
your medical records.*

Saturday, January 26, 2002

7:00 a.m. – **Registration and Continental**
8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**

8:00 a.m. – **FHIMA Welcome**
8:05 a.m.

Mario Perez, III, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P
FHIMA President

8:05 a.m. – **Making Your Garden Grow**
9:30 a.m.

Karen Youmans, MPH, RHIA, CCS

QuadraMed
Benchmarking

9:30 a.m. – **Stretch Break**
9:45 a.m.

9:45 – 10:45 **Nurturing Your Garden**
a.m.

Howard G. Smith, MD

Director of Burn Services, ORH
Trauma/Burns/Critical Care

10:45 a.m. – **Planting Straight Rows**
11:45 a.m.

Jerry Jorgenson, RHIA

Orlando Regional Healthcare
*Coding of Trauma, Burns & Critical
Care cases with physician CPT and
inpatient ICD-9-CM coding.*

- 11:45 a.m. – **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**
1:15 p.m.
- 1:15 p.m. – **The Sounds of the Garden**
2:05 p.m.
Martha McConnel

Orlando Regional Healthcare
Developing Proactive Listening Skills
- 2:05 p.m. -- **Stretch Break**
2:15 p.m.
- 2:15 p.m. – **Tending the Garden 101**
3:00 p.m.
Deb Stalvey, Nurse Auditor

American Medical Review, Inc.
Lost and late charges.
- 3:00 p.m. – **Tending the Garden 102**
3:45 p.m.
Margi Clark, RHIA, CCS, CCS-P. CPC

MC Strategies
Interventional Radiology

11.5 Total Continuing Education Credits

For more information, please contact Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA at fhima@naples.infi.net or (941) 597-1751.

Call For Topic or Speaker



Do you have a "hot" topic or know of a great speaker for the FHIMA June 2002 Annual Convention? If so, please contact either Iliana Magunagoicochea at Imaguna@aol.com or Jan Morat at JLMorat@hotmail.com.

FHIMA ANNUAL CONVENTION - 2002

**Date:**

June 4-7, 2002

Place:

[Caribe Royale Resort Suites & Villas](#)

8101 World Center Drive

Orlando, FL 32821

407-238-8000

Rates:

Single/Double - \$135

Standard King - \$135

King Deluxe - \$155

Executive Suite - \$235

Villas - \$235

For more information, please contact Lori Eytel Lucas, RHIA at fhima@naples.infi.net or (941) 597-1751.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Your Opportunity to Lead FHIMA

Diane Evangelista, RHIA

devangelista@mhs-net.com

The Nominating Committee is seeking qualified FHIMA members as candidates for the 2002 FHIMA ballot. Have you ever thought about holding an FHIMA office? Do you know someone who may be an ideal candidate for an FHIMA Office?

We are seeking candidates for the following volunteer positions:

▶ **President-Elect:** Succeeds the President in leading FHIMA. Works closely with regional associations. Two candidates preferred, one elected.

Qualifications: Prior experience as a member of the FHIMA

Board is strongly preferred and encouraged. Additionally, prior experience as regional association president, FHIMA Committee Chairman or office held in another state's association as well as active membership in AHIMA.

▶ **DIRECTORS:** Conduct business of the Association and serve as liaison to Committee Chairmen. Six candidates preferred, three elected for a two year term.

Qualifications: Prior experience serving as a FHIMA Committee Chairman or officer in a regional association as well as active membership in AHIMA.

▶ **DELEGATE TO AHIMA:** Represents FHIMA at AHIMA House of Delegates. Serves a Chief Delegate. Prefer three or four candidates, one elected for a two-year term.

Qualification: Active membership in AHIMA/FHIMA for at least two years with knowledge of AHIMA and FHIMA activities through at least one of the following:

- *Present or previous membership on FHIMA Board.*
- *Served as delegate to the FHIMA House of Delegates.*
- *Previous service as a delegate to AHIMA.*

▶ **AHIMA NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** One name to be submitted to AHIMA House of Delegates. HOD votes for Nominating Committee members to serve a one-year term.

Qualifications: Candidates should have held prior FHIMA office or made other significant contributions to the profession. Service or recognition at the national level is very helpful.

Click here to obtain [2002 FHIMA Nomination Form](#).







For more information, please contact:

Diane Evangelista, RHIA
1713 SW 103 Lane
Davie, FL 33324
Work: (954) 985-5948
Fax: (954) 985-1502
devangelista@mhs-net.com

The deadline is December 31, 2001.

SERVICE AWARDS
ATTENTION: All FHIMA Members

Nominations are now open for the following awards:

-  Distinguished Member
-  Distinguished Service (FHIMA Member or Non-member)
-  Literary
-  Outstanding Student
-  Outstanding New Professional
-  Outstanding Professional (Practitioner or educator)

We have many deserving members. Please review the criteria and submit your nomination to:

Melissa A. Larsen, RHIA, CTT+
1702 Edith Street NE
Palm Bay, FL 32907
(H) 321-727-1791
(W) 800-942-6374 Ext. 23675
Melissa.Larsen@dictaphone.com

Deadline for receipt of nominations is March 15, 2002.

Please Note: As per 2000-2001 policy and procedures **nominees will be contacted to provide supporting information to the committee.

Nomination Form - Service Awards



Distinguished Member



Outstanding Student



Distinguished Service



Outstanding New Professional



Literary Award



Outstanding Professional

Click Here For The [Service Awards Nomination Form](#).

Click Here For The [FHIMA Resume Criteria for Awards Nomination](#).

2002 FHIMA SCHOLARSHIP
Sharon Fitzgerald, RHIT



Florida **H**ea**I**th **I**nfo**r**mation **M**anagement Association is pleased to announce a continued support of individuals pursuing Health Information Management careers. FHIMA has again voted to provide scholarships this year to students enrolled in both undergraduate and graduate studies related to the Health Information Management field.

As in years past, scholarships will be awarded to FHIMA members to defray the cost of a Health Information Management related education. Awards will be presented at the Membership Luncheon during the 2002 Annual Convention. Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing of their award in May. Scholarship recipients are strongly encouraged to be present at the Annual Convention Membership Luncheon to accept the award.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Applications are available from Program Directors, on the FHIMA website, or by contacting the Scholarship Chairperson. Your completed scholarship application and required attachments must be received by the FHIMA Scholarship Chairperson no later than published deadline.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be presently enrolled in one of the following program

Health Information Management Program.

Health Information Technology Program.

AHIMA Independent Study.

Graduate level degree seeking program relevant to H.I.M. (Graduate applicants must be either an RHIA or RHIT and have a bachelor's degree)

Current membership in AHIMA/FHIMA .

An individual is only eligible to win one scholarship for each category.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2002

Mail Applications & Attachments To:

Sharon Fitzgerald, RHIT
FHIMA Scholarship Chairman - 2002
809 SW 6th Court, Cape Coral, FL 33991-2458
(H) 941-458-4658
(W) 941-851-0474
sharonart422@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION:

FHIMA utilizes a point system to evaluate scholarship applicants. Scholarship Committee members will review the applications for the following criteria:



Properly completed application -- with attachments present



Scholastic ability -- official transcripts will be reviewed



Leadership ability -- the resume and/or other documents will be reviewed. The following areas will be considered: awards/honors, previous and current employment (if any), school activities, volunteer work etc...



Potential contribution to the profession -- the essay titled "How I Plan to Achieve My Long Range Professional/Career Goals" (undergraduates) or career objectives (graduate) will be reviewed.



Professionalism – supporting letters and professional organization membership

Click Here For The [FHIMA Scholarship Application](#)
AND [Reference Criteria Form.](#)

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THE EVOLUTION OF MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION (OR HOW I WORK AT HOME SUPERVISED BY MY CAT)

*Pati AR Howard
Medical Transcriptionist
Orlando Regional Healthcare System*



I haven't typed the term "within normal limits" for almost 14 years, yet I'm employed full time as a medical transcriptionist for Orlando Regional Healthcare System.

Twenty-three years seems like a lifetime ago. That is when I started my medical transcription career, in the radiology department of a small hospital. My sterling qualifications consisted of two things: nursing school experience and typing greater than 65 words per minute. The loud clackity-clack of an IBM Selectric typewriter was the background rhythm within that small radiology office. We worked with Dictaphone transcribe units and standard-sized dictation tapes. I then typed "within normal limits" over and over and over again. No brief forms, no saved macros, no PRD, just fingers flying and typing the same phraseology repetitively. We did have "predefined text" at

that time, but had no ability to personalize our own. I left that job after a year and subsequently worked for years for large transcription services, honing my skills and getting valuable experience. At that time, there was no such thing as a medical transcription course, let alone a degreed program. "On-the-job" training is now a dinosaur id

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AHIMA Update

November/December 2001**National Healthcare Survey Results**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recently released the results of a nationwide survey of more than 1,000 healthcare professionals. The results show that 58% of providers surveyed believe that the quality of US healthcare is less than desirable, with as many as 95% of physicians reporting that they have witnessed a "serious" medical error. 80% of those surveyed believe fundamental changes are needed in the American healthcare system.

The results of the survey were announced during the launch of a new \$20.9 million initiative, "Pursuing Perfection: Raising the Bar for Healthcare Performance" funded by the RWJF. The goal of the initiative is to help hospital and physician organizations dramatically improve the quality of healthcare by pursuing perfection in all of their major healthcare processes. The working definition of "pursuing perfection" means striving to:

- deliver services accurately and correctly and at the right time
- avoid services that are not helpful or cost effective
- prevent safety hazards and errors
- respect each patient's unique needs and preferences



ER Demand Exceeds Resources

According to a recent survey released by the Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC), patient load coupled with both a severe nursing and bed shortage, is forcing many hospitals nationwide to divert critically ill patients to other emergency departments. Recent HSC site visits to 12 nationally representative communities show emergency room diversions to now be a year-round problem, not just during certain high-volume periods, such as flu season. The study suggests that the demand for emergency services has increased due to less stringent case management by HMOs, increased percentage of uninsured patients, and increased enforcement of the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). Between 1994 and 1999 the number of emergency departments nationwide has declined by 8%, thus reducing supply for increasing demand.

E-health

AHIMA began its advocacy efforts in the e-health arena with last summer's very successful consumer e-health conference. The meeting was followed by the development of AHIMA's e-health tenants, which have received considerable industry and government attention. The Association continually monitors the e-health environment, including the use of the Internet, to ensure that AHIMA's positions are understood, represented, and implemented. AHIMA will soon introduce a practice brief defining the medical record as a road map to the electronic health record of the future.

Medicare Reform

President George W. Bush recently announced his initiatives for reforming the Medicare program. Elements of the plan include a national drug discount program for seniors and Medicare plan competition and choice. For more information on this plan, go to www.whitehouse.gov

Patients' Bill of Rights

The United States Senate recently passed S1052, the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act. The final versions of the bill extends protections to approximately 191 million Americans in private insurance plans. The bill:

- guarantees patients in managed care plans the right to see specialists outside of their managed care plan or HMO.
- provides patients the right to appeal their insurance company's decisions to deny coverage to a medical expert for an external and independent review. The decision of the expert would be legally binding.
- provides patients the right to sue their HMO.
- exempts employers the from liability who finance and administer health plans for their employees.

The White House has promised a veto of the bill as it is currently written.

Reminder:

Please keep your AHIMA contact information current, either by updating your member record on-line via the AHIMA (enter your member record via the AHIMA Web site) or by notifying our customer service team phone 312-233-1100; [email info@ahima.org](mailto:info@ahima.org).

Contacting AHIMA

For general queries, email info@ahima.org. For professional practice questions, go to the AHIMA Online practice forums at <http://www.ahima.org/bibs/index.html> or send email to: proprac@ahima.org.

If you'd like to update your mailing address or email address, include your full name, member ID number and your new information - send to: info@ahima.org. For general questions, contact [AHIMA Online](#).