HAPPY HOLIDAYS! I’m sure everyone is busy preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This time of year is always fun for me. I usually start looking for recipes to make our family gathering different and tasty. I, also start combing Amazon for gifts but now that my kids are all grown, my Christmas list doesn’t seem as long. But this year will be different. Most healthcare workers are suffering from some form of chronic pain; and for me, cooking lavish dinners is not possible anymore. So, we will go out for Thanksgiving (I really don’t mind having someone else cook for me). And for Christmas, we will head to my old stomping grounds - New York City! It has been a while since I was home for Christmas. I am definitely looking forward to being with family, but NOT the cold weather.

This time of year also means busy hospitals: patients with the flu or pneumonia, those involved in accidents from overcrowded highways going to malls, or those falling off roofs and ladders while hanging up decorations. I’m sure many are also preparing for staff shortages and closing projects or implementations.

As we approach this holiday season, I want to wish everyone a fabulous Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. Thank you for all you do and for keeping our Chapter active.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Barbara Klepfer, MSN, RN-BC

Barb has worked in the field of Informatics since 2005 when the 11-hospital network she was employed at embarked on the EHR journey. A nurse by background, Barb completed her MSN specializing in Nursing Informatics in 2009 & obtained her ANCC Board Certification as an Informatics Nurse in 2012.

Working in various roles from Project Coordinator to Director on the clinical side, Barb has helped design, implement, optimize & support operationally the EHR program. Barb developed a Nursing Informatics department within her hospital network, has been deeply involved w/ Promoting Interoperability (formerly, Meaningful Use), electronic Quality Measures, EHR deployment at 10 hospitals to name a few. Barb also worked in the IT department for a number of years overseeing all the regulatory components an EHR needs to maintain & keep up to date.

What Does the Post-EHR Future Hold for Nurse Informaticist?

Over the past decade, nursing informatics (NI) has played a crucial role in the electronic health record (EHR) implementation. Since 1992, the ANA (American Nurses Association) has recognized this specialty, and we are the liaison between technology and people. But now that majority of hospitals have implemented some form of an EHR, where is the focus? What are NIs doing? Now that I have been working as an Adjunct Professor for several universities, I find that NI programs need a to change.

The article by Topaz & Pruinelli (2017) found that many nurses, educators, and nurse scientists lacked skills and competencies for meaningful use of big data. Technology is moving at such a fast rate that nurses are often missing the conversation with the tech giants. Take for instance, Apple - they have been getting into the health industry for some time now. Since 2018, they have hired dozens of doctors to expand their digital health products and created three health “kits” for the iPhone and Apple Watch (Kimmell, 2019). No mention of hiring nurse informaticists.

What about Natural Language Processing (NLP)? Nurses chart and create narratives on their patients every day but as opposed to other disciplines, e.g. medicine, there are very few NLP systems that focus explicitly on nursing data (Topaz & Pruinelli, 2017). How can we analyze nursing-relevant narrative big data if computational linguists and computer science engineers aren’t including us in the machine learning process? And it doesn’t end there. How many NIs are working on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IOT), or Virtual Reality (VR)? When I look into these big tech companies, I do not find career openings for nurses.

It all comes down to education. As we approach 2020, I believe nursing informatics programs need to start incorporating new skills such as concept of big data, the evolving field of connected health, and other emerging technologies such as AI. What do you think?

By:

Maria Faison, DNP, MSN, RN
Save the date...

HIMSS20 Global Health Conference & Exhibition
March 9-13, 2020 Orlando, FL
Orange County Convention Center

ANIA Annual Conference
May 7-9, 2020 Chicago, IL
Hyatt Regency

Texas Regional Conference
May 7-8, 2020 Houston, TX
Westin Galleria Hotel
Houston, TX

AHIMA20
October 14-17, 2020
Atlanta, GA

IN THE NEWS


Is Technology Replacing the Patient History?

Board Members Contact Info:

President: Maria Faison, DNP, MSN, RN
(email: armyflipchic@gmail.com)

VP: Michelle Ockleberry, MSN, RN-BC, CPEN
(email: michelle.ockleberry@bswhealth.org)

Secretary: Laura Maverick, MSN, RN-BC
(email: laura.maverick@hsahealthcare.com)

Treasurer: Heather Litwhiler, MSN, RN, CNE