



# HIIT NEWSLETTER



HEALTH INFORMATICS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HIIT) GROUP OF THE  
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
THE ON-LINE NEWSLETTER COMMITTED TO IMPROVING GLOBAL HEALTH THROUGH  
TECHNOLOGY

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HIIT's *mission* is to improve the public health and facilitate prevention through innovative and effective approaches of information technology and informatics.

As part of our *core values*, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethics, integrity, honesty, openness, respect, responsiveness, accountability in public health and the community, and assuring quality health care for all. We have an appreciation and respect for the diversity of our partners and the public, and hold each other accountable for upholding our core values.

As you browse our website, please keep in mind that terms and conditions set forth in our by-laws agreement are to be honored. We thank you for joining us and please become involved and make HIIT one of the most active groups of the APHA. Again, thank you!

## HIIT Launches its Premier On-line Newsletter and Redevelops its Website

## Welcome New Members

The leadership of HIIT is pleased that so many have joined our group as members of the American Public Health Association (APHA). The APHA Health Informatics Information Technology Group *envisions* an informed public through policy formulation, and enhanced public health through the application of the best methods of information technology.

The members of the Health Informatics Information Technology (HIIT) Group of the American Public Health Association (APHA) is delighted that our first on-line newsletter is being launched according to Dr. Diane L. Adams, Founder and President of HIIT. Dr. Adams states that it is a new day for us all to be able to inform APHA members, students, retired individuals, various organizations and association, and most of all our community about the commitment to

improving global health through technology. Our on-line newsletter will be published in the months of April, August and December.

## Health Informatics Information Technology

Health informatics is the science of information management in healthcare, and its application to support clinical practice, decision-making and research. Informatics extends beyond using the computer as a tool for computation into the process of knowledge acquisition, storage, retrieval, representation, and manipulation. A major focus of informatics is the support of information systems for reasoning, decision-making, and learning. Health informatics encompasses the fields of information science, computer information systems, and educational technology in support of health care delivery, education, and management.

Public health informatics is the development, implementation and, management of population based public health informatics systems and infrastructures for: surveillance system development, group utilization analysis, program outcome and quality assurance, public health systems analysis, and evidence-based disease management.

## Spotlight on C. Ed Hsu University of Maryland Faculty



**C. Ed Hsu** is Assistant Professor of Public Health Informatics in the Department of Public and Community Health, University of Maryland College Park Campus. Dr. Hsu directs the graduate Certificate Program in Public Health Informatics at the University of Maryland. He received his graduate training in health informatics (MS),

health management and policy (PhD), and health services organization (MPH) from the University of Texas Houston Health Science Center, and holds an adjunct appointment in informatics with the University of Texas-Houston.

His recent research activities focus on the application of information technology, particularly the geographic information systems (GIS) in the improvement of health surveillance and public health preparedness, and in the study of health disparities. Other research focused on using spatiotemporal methods to analyze the trends of Avian Flu health case distribution. He has been consulted by the media for his work on Avian Flu and pandemic flu preparedness.

Dr. Hsu has published in many peer-reviewed journals and co-authored a book chapter in public health informatics and preparedness, health disparities and minority health using spatiotemporal analysis. He serves on the editorial boards of the International Journal of Health Information Systems and Informatics and American Journal of Health Behavior.

A native of Taiwan, he likes to cook Chinese food. Hsu was trained as an athlete (college baseball player) and is a seasoned runner of Marathon tournaments. At leisure he enjoys biking and hiking with his family in the picturesque Rock Creek Park trails near his home of Kensington, Maryland.

## Upcoming Events

### The American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting & Exposition

BOSTON, MA NEW CONVENTION CENTER  
NOVEMBER 4-8, 2006

“The 134<sup>th</sup> APHA Annual Meeting is the premier platform to share successes and failures, discover exceptional best practices and learn from expert colleagues and the latest research in the field. Scientific sessions, networking opportunities and events, explore a world of

ideas and innovation with more than 13,000 peers and leaders in public health.”

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### **HIIT GROUP OF APHA**

BOSTON, MA NEW CONVENTION CENTER  
NOVEMBER 4-7, 2006

Please check APHA Program Manual for list of HIIT’s activities starting with business meeting on Saturday, Nov. 4 and ending with panel sessions on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2006.

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### **HIMSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION**

NEW ORLEANS, LA – ERNEST N MORIAL  
CONVENTION CENTER  
FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 1, 2007

For additional information, contact The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) at <http://www.himss07.org/index.aspx>.

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### **NAHIT ANNUAL MEETING**

WASHINGTON, DC  
MAY 15, 2007

For additional information, contact The National Alliance for Health Information Technology at <http://www.nahit.org/cms/>.

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### **AMIA 2006 Annual Symposium**

Hilton Washington and Towers  
Washington, DC  
November 11-15, 2006

For additional information, contact The American Medical Informatics Association at (AMIA) at <http://www.amia.org/>.

### **AMIA 2007 Spring Congress**

Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin  
Orlando, FL  
May 22-24, 2007

For additional information, contact The American Medical Informatics Association at (AMIA) at <http://www.amia.org/>.

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## **HITT’S Charter Leadership**

### Officers

Dr. Diane Adams – Founder/Chair  
Dr. Jayfus Doswell – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Ms. Sandra Worrell – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair-Elect  
Ms. Tracy Hilliard – Secretary (PhD Candidate)  
Dr. Ramesh Krishthmurthy – Financial Advisor  
Dr. Laurie Fitts – Student Liaison

### Committees Chairs

Ms. Sandra Worrell – Strategic Planning  
Dr. Laurie Fitts – Membership  
Ms. Brenda Leath – Community Outreach  
Dr. M. Brian Blake – Education and Research

### Advisory Board

Dr. Dave Pontenziani  
Dr. Lillian Tom-Orme  
Dr. Dave Ross  
Dr. Mike Roco  
Dr. Polly Turner  
Mr. David Rookard  
Dr. Jay Bernhardt  
Ms. Brenda Leath  
Dr. M. Brian Blake

## **News in Brief**

“The first edition of the British Computer Society’s (BCS) health informatics community newsletter has been launched, containing a number of articles beneficial to

health informaticians.” <http://www.informatics.nhs.uk/item/2065>

APHA will announce its 2007 “Call for Abstracts” in December. We look forward to receiving many abstracts submitted to HIIT during the required time interval. [www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org).

Membership Chair of HIIT, Dr. Laurie Fitts was accepted into the Masters of Public Health Informatics Program at the University of Chicago, School of Public Health.

Dr. Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Financial Advisor of HIIT and Fellow with CDC’s Public Health Informatics Program, will be traveling out of state on November 1 through December 1, 2006 with a team of experts from the CDC to engage in public health informatics studies.

Juxtapia LLC and Georgetown University are to collaborate on a virtual teaching



conference as a result of a \$49,013 award from the National Science Foundation in Virginia.

Through its Small Grant for Exploratory Research program, the foundation funds small projects seeking cutting-edge scientific advancements.

Jayfus Doswell, Juxtapia’s president, gives an example of potential applications such as a camera and voice-recognition software instead of a teacher and a blackboard. With

much enthusiasm he notes that the award will be used to fund a workshop and conference for researchers to discuss the state of the virtual instructor technology.

### Special Thanks To

Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director of APHA for his leadership, staff support, and open lines of communication with the HIIT group throughout the entire process.

Dr. Jay Bernhardt, former Member of the APHA Executive Board served as a Mentor to the HIIT Group, and remains as Member of the HIIT Advisory Committee.

Mr. David Rookard, an Advisor to HIIT and who was responsible for sponsoring our booth at APHA's Exposition and Meeting in 2005 and 2006. Mr. Rookard is also responsible for sponsoring the redevelopment of our 2006 website.

Mrs. Gertrude McClairen understood HIIT's vision and sponsored our first website on the world wide web.



**Congratulations to HIIT!**

