We have finally concluded the discussion to gain additional space on the 14th floor. DBMI will receive suite 1400 (the old Raymond James space) and suite 1450 (the current Web Applications Group space). We now begin the process of planning for renovation and moves.

Dr. Malin and Coda will develop a plan which will outline which labs will move into the various spaces. They will work directly with the other faculty members that will be effected by the move. At this point we know that Dr. Matheny will move some of his team from the VA. Other groups may be moving once the plan is finalized.

You may recall that about 6 months ago we completed a survey to ask faculty what plans they had for growth over the next 1-3 years. The responses from that survey will be used to help determine how this new space will be used.

I know that we are still growing, and this space will not solve all of our needs. But it will certainly help move us in the direction of creating an atmosphere of collaboration. If any faculty person is aware of new requirements, they should let me know so we can begin planning for additional growth.

TCS and Vanderbilt University Medical Center partner to advance healthcare and life sciences research

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and VUMC will drive specific research in areas including: genomics, metagenomics, systems biology, bioinformatics, improved care management, and advanced healthcare analytics. This important collaboration will also lay the foundation for TCS’ COIN™ emerging technology network to connect with Vanderbilt University’s Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization (CTTC) start-up community.

“At TCS, we’re investing in new and emerging digital technologies to develop innovative solutions that our clients need to re-imagine their businesses,” said Suresh Muthuswami, president, head, Insurance and Healthcare, TCS. “TCS and VUMC share a passion and curiosity that will enable us to collectively solve complex healthcare challenges and problems. The unique combination of TCS expertise and solutions, coupled with VUMC academia and private research, will create an environment that accelerates innovation in a critical industry like healthcare.”

“Research is one of VUMC’s core missions,” said Dr Kevin Johnson, Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor and Chair of Biomedical Informatics, Professor of Pediatrics, Chief Informatics Officer, Vanderbilt University Medical Center. “We are thrilled about this new partnership with TCS, as it allows us to enrich our initiatives to create the largest impact on the lives of people globally and provide the highest quality of research possible.”

As a partner in TCS’ Co-Innovation Network (COIN™), the two organizations will combine forces surrounding product development, enhancement capabilities and go-to-market strategies in healthcare IT.
Today, I would like to tell you a bit about Ed. Shultz, MD, MS, who has held many positions in leadership in HealthIT, and who recently served as Director of Technology Integration for the Informatics Center. Ed is a shining example of a member of our department who has achieved international stature through the work he has done to support Vanderbilt’s operation, and yet who is modest and focused on his efforts here. Since first coming to Vanderbilt in 1997 to serve as Director of Technology Integration and subsequently, Chief Technology Officer of the Informatics Center, Ed quickly became one of the principle architects of the Vanderbilt information technology infrastructure. His team developed many of the processes in place at VUMC that have contributed to our information systems stability and their national visibility as a leading-edge, innovative electronic care delivery platform over nearly two decades.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Oregon (BS Mathematics, 1975), Ed earned his MD at Yale in 1979, Ed first gained interest and experience in applied technology during his three-year stint in the U.S. Army. During medical school, he envisioned an increasing role for computers to improve decision support. Upon completing his residency in clinical pathology with a focus on laboratory medicine at the University of Minnesota, he pursued a masters of science in its biophysics graduate program with a focus on mathematical modeling as an NIH-sponsored postdoctoral fellow. From there, Ed was recruited in 1984 to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical School as Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology. There, Ed served in the vanguard of physician-scientists there engaged in developing informatics tools for medical education, clinical documentation and analytics. He was soon appointed Director of the Program in Medical Information Science and Director of Dartmouth’s National Library of Medicine sponsored Informatics training program. Ed also contributed to the design of national-level information systems while a member of the Department of Veteran Affairs Integration and Technology Applications Requirements Group from 1991-1996.

Upon coming to Vanderbilt, and working closely with Dr. Stead, Ed defined a technical architecture for our health information technologies that emphasized generalized services to replace siloed applications. This approach to clinical informatics architecture allowed Vanderbilt to achieve re-use and scale, which supported our evolving clinical enterprise. Ed also mentored software engineers and directed technical support for VUMC server and application development infrastructure and for enterprise-level decision support databases, including creating the first VUMC-wide data warehouse. The engineering team that Ed recruited and mentored has grown from five programmers to over 70, they have created nationally recognized innovative solutions to medical information problems, and have supported a large number of other faculty members’ extramurally sponsored research. Ed also evolved the VUMC infrastructure to support the integration of commercial and locally developed information resources. His efforts have led to a number of prestigious awards for Vanderbilt, including more than a decade on the nation’s “Most Wired” list for our groundbreaking information technology architecture.

Ed’s work has had wide impact beyond Vanderbilt’s walls, and he is a respected national scholar. Although Ed’s role has primarily been focused on service work to the operational side of VUMC, he has nonetheless been PI or Co-PI on grants totaling over $17 million. He has continued to publish intermittently since his arrival at VUMC, amassing over 800 citations. Ed has participated on seven national committees and numerous national study sections. He has served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association, chaired the national Department of Veteran Affairs Expert panel on Inter-application communication from 1992-1996, and served as a member of the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, 1993-1996. He chaired the national Technical Committee of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research on "The Feasibility of Using Existing Automated Ambulatory Health Care Record Systems for Outcomes Research". As a result of Ed’s contributions to the informatics community, he was elected to Fellowship in the American College of Medical Informatics, one of the highest honors available to biomedical informatics faculty, and served on its elected executive committee.

The Department has been honored to have Ed as a member of its faculty. He has played a key role by participating in developing numerous high-impact informatics initiatives, in fostering campus-wide research and educational activities, and in providing advice as we embark on our transition to a commercial EHR vendor. He has been a terrific ambassador for Vanderbilt in his over 19 years here.
Spotlight Awards

Two people in DBMI received Spotlight awards over the past month. Teresa Gillespie and Mark Frisse both received the awards when they got noticed. The Spotlight award is a Vanderbilt recognition program.

With this program, any supervisor or manager may present a certificate to an employee. The certificate can be redeemed for $5 value at Courtyard Café, or VCH Vandy Café, or one movie ticket at a Regal theatre.

Movie tickets can be picked up at HR Concierge in MCN, VCH, or OHO locations.

If you notice someone who deserves a Spotlight certificate, you can pick them up in Coda Davison’s office.

Please congratulate our two employees for being spotted.

Travel Requirements Reminder
By: Doug McCoy

I just wanted to send a reminder to everyone that when submitting Concur travel reports you are asked to include a copy of the pre-authorization as a report level receipt (instructions below). I’ve noticed a few come my way recently that did not have this attached. You also need to be attaching information about the trip (e.g. an itinerary, etc.) – the details are below. Please double check to make sure you are including these things going forward.

1.) We recently learned that expenses being reimbursed prior to actual travel cannot be directly charged to restricted funds (4-04s). If you are putting together a Concur report to reimburse someone for expenses before their actual travel has completed, please use the “dummy center” 1-04-785-0040. In the comment section of the report header, tell me the center number that the expense needs to be JE’d to after the travel has completed. This requirement only applies to individuals using Concur. Students who use the paper student travel forms can have their expenses directly applied to a restricted fund.

2.) A reminder that you need to submit a pre-travel authorization request for all Vanderbilt-funded travel. You must receive approval prior to making any arrangements.

b. Information about the meeting/conference/reason for travel. This could be an official itinerary, a print out from the conference website, or an invitational email.

c. Any other helpful info
i. For example, foreign travel approval email from the Office of Sponsored Projects
ii. Other emails discussing the trip

3.) In order to bring our reports in line with other departments and make sure our records are complete, we are now asking that you include the following as “report level receipts” for every Concur travel report:

a. A copy of the pre-travel authorization from Elizabeth.
Mid Year Reviews

During the month of January, all supervisors should have completed their mid-year reviews with their staff. The following guidelines were sent out by Elizabeth Brown.

Beginning on January 4th, employees should login to Performance Central at https://hr.vanderbilt.edu/performance-central/ to complete a mid-year self-evaluation by entering comments on the categories of Goals, Credo, and Elements of Performance.

By January 18th, employees should save and submit their mid-year evaluation and print or send a .pdf copy to their one-up leader.

Leaders should schedule the Mid-year Performance Evaluation meeting time with their employees to review both the employee’s mid-year self-evaluation and document their own comments on the categories of Goals, Credo, and Elements of Performance in the attached MSWord template that mirrors the Performance Central mid-year evaluation form. Conversations should be complete by February 26th.

Leaders should keep a copy of the mid-year evaluation in the employee’s department file by forwarding to Elizabeth Brown and provide staff with a copy.

Please make sure you complete the conversations with your employees by the end of February.

Safe VU APP
By Elizabeth Brown

I would like to encourage everyone to download the new SafeVU app. This app will allow the Vanderbilt Police Department (VUPD) to locate you should you need urgent assistance. Emergency calls placed from VU/VUMC land lines will automatically route to VUPD, but since so many people use cell phones instead of land lines, those calls wind up with the general metro PD and valuable time is lost in appropriately routing emergency personnel.

Additional information is available on the SafeVU website:

http://police.vanderbilt.edu/services/safevu.php
Quote of the Month

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.

Vince Lombardi

Good News

Dr. Wei-Qi Wei
American Heart Association – Scientist Development Grant
“Exploring Statin Pleiotropic Effects within a Very Large EHR Cohort”

Dr. Tom Lasko
R01 with NIH/NIBIB
“Identification, Extraction and Display of Clinical Data Patterns with Application to Anesthesia Workflows”

Dr. Michael Matheny
NIH Subcontract with University of California, San Diego
“patient-centered SCAlable National Network for Effectiveness Research (pSCANNER)”

Dr. Zhao and Dr. Johnson at Dr. Zhao’s going away party.