Last month, I presented the “State of the Department” address to a fairly full audience in Light Hall. It was such a pleasure to see you all there, laughing at my attempts at humor, but also with some very stimulating questions. We have a lot to be proud of, though we have some building still planned. That presentation is now available online (for more information, please speak to Rischelle Jenkins). I encourage you all to take a look, and to attend as many seminars as you can. It’s great fun presenting to a large crowd!

By the way, thanks to Daniel Fabbri, for putting together what already looks like a great series for this year!

I am delighted to announce that we received news this morning that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has approved DBMI’s application for a Clinical Informatics fellowship and we will welcome our first fellow July 1, 2016! Chris Lehmann, MD has invested a HUGE amount of effort to secure the success of this new fellowship — please join me in congratulating him (and Mark before him) in acknowledgement of this landmark contribution to our educational mission! We will have a special “pop the cork” celebration of this achievement soon — stay tuned!

Read on for the article that will appear in The Reporter shortly.

In September, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved the Clinical Informatics Fellowship at Vanderbilt University. The clinical home for the new fellowship will be the Department of Anesthesia chaired by Warren Sandberg, MD, PhD, who graciously agreed to welcome matics program to join the department's other fellowships. Didactic teaching will be supported by the Masters in Applied Clinical Informatics program offered through the Department of Biomedical Informatics (DBMI). Dr. Kevin Johnson, chair of DBMI, stated “Vanderbilt has one of the leading Biomedical Informatics programs in the country. It is only natural for Vanderbilt to take a lead on the education of Clinical Informaticians.”

Fellows will train two years in this new fellowship, which will embed them into Vanderbilt Health IT teams but allow them also to stay active in their primary specialty. After successful fellowship completion, fellows will be eligible to sit for the Board Exam offered through the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM).

Dr. Cindy Gadd, Vice-Chair for Educational Affairs in DBMI welcomes the new fellows, who will start in July of 2016. Dr. Christoph U. Lehmann, chair of the Exam Subcommittee at the ABPM, will be the inaugural Fellowship Program Director.
Faculty Spotlight
By Trent Rosenbloom,

I would like to tell you a little bit about a gem in our midst, Dr. Chris Lehmann. Chris is a Professor of Pediatrics and Biomedical Informatics, an astute practicing neonatologist, and has touched every major biomedical informatics organization around the country and internationally. I would fill the entire newsletter listing Chris’ accomplishments, which would be unfair to the other contributors, so I will focus on a few highlights.

Chris first came to Vanderbilt in 2012 from his position at Johns Hopkins to take on a joint appointment in Neonatology and Informatics. I like to think of his primary appointment in a clinical department as having an informatics plant, secretly doing clinical informatics recon work for the betterment both of the clinical department and ours. Chris had indeed already shown his informatics chops at the time in an impressive way. A short list of Chris’ recognitions and service follows. In 2009, Chris had conceived and launched the journal Applied Medical Informatics, devoted to original research and commentary on the use of computer automation in the day-to-day practice of medicine, and he has served as the Editor-in-Chief since its inception. In 2009, he also co-edited Pediatric Informatics, the first textbook on this subject. Chris served on the American Medical Informatics Association Board from 2008 to 2013, and served two terms as the organizations secretary. In 2010, he was inducted as a fellow into the American College of Medical Informatics. In 2010, Chris was appointed Medical Director of the Child Health Informatics Center for the American Academy of Pediatrics, where he was involved in developing the Model Pediatric EHR Format. Chris also serves on the federal Health IT Policy Committee and as the chair of the Examination Committee of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, Subcommittee for Clinical Informatics. In 2012 he became a Vice Presidents of the International Medical Informatics Association in charge of the IMIA Yearbook.

Chris has shown real leadership in the field, pioneering a number of major activities and launching a number of vital resources. He has served as the funding director for the Child Health Informatics Center for the American Academy of Pediatrics. In this capacity, he has worked through research, federal advocacy, and outreach to improve Electronic Health Records to provide better pediatric functionalities to improve the quality, efficiency, safety of pediatric care. While 79% of pediatricians used EHRs in 2012, many used EHRs that were not able to support pediatric specific requirements and needs. Chris served on the AHRQ grant to develop a Model Pediatric EHR Format. He continues work on another AHRQ grant to further improve on the Model Format. From this perch, Chris serves as on the federal ONC Health Information Technology Advisory Panel and advises HHS and ONC on matters related to vulnerable populations, and serves on the AMIA federal Health IT Policy Committee.

Chris also led the national effort to establish Clinical Informatics as a medical subspecialty. He established the journal Applied Clinical Informatics in 2009, and serves as the founding Editor-In-Chief. He served on the task force, which defined the training requirements for the Clinical Informatics fellowship, and is the chair of the subcommittee for Clinical Informatics Board Exam at the American Board of Preventive Medicine. He also chairs an advisory committee at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, which wrote Clinical Informatics Milestones and advises on Clinical Informatics fellowship applications. He has published on the process of becoming board certified in Clinical Informatics and has been a national and international speaker on this issue. Since 2010 Chris has served as the chair of the Examination Committee of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, Subcommittee for Clinical Informatics.

In addition, Chris has a long history of grant funded research in clinical informatics. His research interests focus on applied clinical informatics and the use of health information technology to improve patient care, safety, and outcomes. He has developed, implemented, and evaluated several health IT tools that have been demonstrated effective in reducing provider errors, reducing costs, decreasing unnecessary medication usage, and improving safety. In particular, Chris is one of the most prolific developers of HIT solutions to improve pediatric care. For example, he created a CDS tool for pediatric parenteral nutrition that was found to reduce errors in ordering by 90% and a narcotic drug prescription writer that reduced dosing and dispensing errors and is still in use at Johns Hopkins because its functionality exceeds those available in commercial systems. He developed a pediatric oncology order entry system that improved safety and quality, a continuous infusion calculator that reduced errors and improved efficiency for physicians, and a prediction tool to anticipate PICU occupancy using real-time physician orders. An electronic antimicrobial stewardship tool saved a Children’s Hospital over 350,000 dollars the first year with sustained annual savings.

Getting tired yet? I am.

Chris has developed a number of quality measures and reporting tools using existing clinical databases and electronic medical records to predict opportunities to improve the quality of care and to reduce costs. Examples included the development of an algorithm to predict when a patient can be switched from expensive intravenous medications to cheaper oral medications, a quality measure to explore the administration of Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis, a measure using data on medication ordering and administration to determine what he has termed the “health of a hospital”, as well as report cards to improve the laboratory monitoring of patients on medications. Chris’ innovative approaches to secondary use of existing EHR data have allowed quality measures and improvement initiative with substantial impact on patient care.

And if that were not enough, Chris has also done pure clinical research that has had high impact. In 2003, he was the first to describe the relationship between retinopathy of prematurity and the early serum glucose level in premature infants. Subsequently, several other researchers confirmed this finding in retrospective and prospective studies. Chris tells me that this finding will open the way to aggressive management of early infant glucose to reduce the incidence and severity astating

Based on impressive work, was selected chair of the
Publications Spotlight


Quote of the Month

Do not take life too seriously.
You will never get out of it alive.

Elbert Hubbard

Reminders

Health Plus “Know your Numbers”
Thursday, October 8 10:00 am – Noon
DBMI Conference Room – 14th Floor

Health Plus will be here to measure blood pressure, weight and body mass index. Stop by at your convenience. The process only take a few moments and these numbers can be used toward completion of the Gold for the Gold Program.

Go for The Gold deadline is October 31, 2015

Fluapolooza is Wednesday, October 7th

Useful Links

http://www.2525westend.buildingengines.com/

This website will give you useful information about building information and procedures.