

# HIM's Time to Dance in the Crossroads: HIM Professionals Must Seize This Moment of Change

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By Rita Bowen, MA, RHIA, CHPS, SSGB

Two years ago I made a career move to enterprise director of HIM so that I could focus on privacy and engage in my organization's EHR implementation. I saw this as a time to think creatively and work with open-minded people committed to bringing something new and extraordinary into our work environment.

I admit there were struggles as we began the planning and implementation process. A friend jokingly said that it would be nice to have a genie that could help make the implementation happen.

Today, EHR implementations require time and the willingness to interact with others. This interaction will allow a free flow of ideas to serve as catalysts to new visions and ideas.

We as a profession have embraced lifelong learning, attending meetings to embrace new thought leadership. But we must also connect with others who will join our workforce or who are already working within the HIM space.

## Find That Inspirational Hero

If you feel stuck in your current work environment, it is time to get unstuck. If you're already unstuck, then it is time to push to a higher playing field where creativity, inspiration, ideas, and genuine commitment are waiting to be tapped.

I recently read the blog post "Thought Leaders Now Being Replaced by Feeling Leaders" by the Idea Champions, a consulting and training company. A feeling leader is someone in business who has made the journey and isn't afraid to let the rest of us know what they've learned along the way.

When we think of a leader who inspires us, it's usually due to the feeling behind their thinking, and innovation is really about being moved. We are in a critical time where we need to be intrinsically motivated and make an effort to get off of dead center and accomplish something meaningful, like the meaningful use of EHRs.

My parents always said, "It's awful to get stuck at the crossroads, between this and that, and never get moving to the real point of direction." Our heroes should include people who don't just stand at the crossroads, but dance in them—inspired individuals who find delight in the unknown, get juiced by the challenges, and realize that innovation is not a program, initiative, or model, but a way of life.

## Find Your Passion

I have always pushed the limits and pursued my goals with passion. I remember my first speech class instructor noted that people sitting in an audience want an experience, not just information. They want to feel something, not just hear something.

So be passionate about whatever you do and you can engage and connect with others. Engaging others to be excited about the journey helps ensure success.

And have a sense of humor. As the saying goes, "There is a reason why ha-ha and a-ha are almost spelled the same." It is about the experience of breakthrough.

Above all have confidence in what you are doing. The origin of the word "confidence" is the Latin "to believe in" or "to have faith." So have faith in yourself and dance in the crossroads.

Thank you all for the opportunity to have served as your president. It has been an amazing experience—I have enjoyed the dance!

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