

Leading with Purpose

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by Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA

Dear colleagues,

This is a bittersweet moment for me. My year as AHIMA president is coming to an end. Time certainly does fly when you're having fun!

This year has been filled with progress, good work, and breakthroughs—on the job and throughout the industry. More HIM professionals are leading the transition to e-HIM®. Our association is helping to advance the national agenda for an interoperable health information network.

Looking Back

What did AHIMA achieve in 2005? Our association continued to progress in virtually every area. Our position within the industry has never been stronger. We have pursued a broad range of important opportunities such as the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology, anti-fraud research, SNOMED mapping, and a joint policy alliance with the American Medical Informatics Association.

Internally, we have developed a set of strategic drivers for our transformation, allowing us to focus collectively on a shared vision. The momentum we have generated, our strategic focus, and our plan for growth position us for improved performance. This year we also facilitated and encouraged a culture of engagement by partnering faster and getting our members and leadership involved earlier. I assure you this culture of engagement will continue, allowing many to lead at all levels within our association.

AHIMA's members and staff really made the difference this year. Our results and achievements reflect the tireless dedication of hundreds of volunteers and staff. We pursued our initiatives through creativity, resilience, and a commitment to excellence.

Looking Ahead

In looking back, it is clear just how much has changed over the past year. Our association and profession have changed in ways that our founders could not have foreseen. You and I now share this responsibility to continue to advance our profession through all the challenges of the coming years. None of what lies ahead will be easy. The road could be uneven and unpredictable—but we know where it leads.

As the year ends, I would like to thank you for what you have done to help make this year a year of breakthroughs. I am deeply grateful to each of you. Looking ahead, we know that the future will present some real challenges for us. However, our collective strengths and our swift and bold actions will help us move forward. I look forward to working with you and celebrating the triumphs still to come from our shared efforts. The year ahead will be filled with many opportunities for all of us. And together we can create a brighter future for our profession.

As Winston Churchill once said, "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

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Article citation:

Abdelhak, Mervat. "Leading with Purpose." *Journal of AHIMA* 76, no.10
(November/December 2005): 8.

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