Looking Back on a Successful 2004

Save to myBoK

by Melanie Brodnik, PhD, RHIA

As 2004 draws to a close, I would like to thank all who have helped to make the year a success. Our success this year stems from the collective work of our members, state leaders, volunteers, board members, and AHIMA staff who worked to further our goal of moving health information management into a full electronic environment.

In the past year our achievements toward this end have been numerous. We have:

- Produced reports on core data sets for the electronic health record (EHR), computer-assisted coding, EHR management, and the personal health record (PHR)
- Completed a major work force study with all reports and articles published in the FORE Library: HIM Body of Knowledge (BoK)
- Engaged in consumer outreach with myPHR.com and educational opportunities about health records and health information
- Advocated adoption of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS and engaged in mapping SNOMED CT to ICD
- Established the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education
- Sought independent accrediting body status and consensus on an HIM educational framework
- Advanced tools for peer-to-peer connections (e.g., the Communities of Practice and BoK) and learning (the Learner Management System with e-learning subjects including conversational IT, project management for IT, case study analysis, clinical terminologies, and SNOMED)
- Collaborated with key public and private organizations including Connecting for Health, e-Health Initiative, and NAHIT in advancing EHRs, health information infrastructures, and PHR initiatives
- Assumed a collaborative leadership role in forming the Certification Commission for Healthcare Information Technology

Added to this list are the very successful 76th National Convention and 14th IFHRO Congress held in Washington, DC, in October. Three years of planning resulted in a stellar convention with more than 3,500 in attendance. I think all who attended would agree that the use of information technology in healthcare knows no boundaries. We have a lot to offer the global community as a profession in terms of e-HIM™ practice applications and our model for educating HIM professionals.

As I reflect on our accomplishments, I am optimistic about our future. We function in an industry that relies increasingly on the information we manage. AHIMA is well respected nationally as evidenced by our coleadership in the EHR certification commission and activities related to HL7 and in mapping SNOMED CT to ICD. We are operationally efficient, financially sound, and strategic in thinking.

AHIMA is dedicated to the professional development of our members and to lifelong learning as a means of transitioning members into future roles and responsibilities in an electronic environment. We have set a course of action to achieve future success, and I have no doubt we will. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams," and the HIM industry is in the midst of realizing the dream that is e-HIM.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve as your 76th AHIMA president and to have worked with so many dedicated individuals in fulfilling our strategic initiatives for 2004. My wish for you in the coming year is to continue to dream and envision what you would like your role to be in future e-HIM practice.

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