

Maintaining Momentum: Breakthroughs Abundant for 2005

Save to myBoK

by Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA

It is an honor and a privilege to have been given this opportunity to serve as your president this coming year and to lead AHIMA at such an important and exciting time. While many other professions are facing uncertain growth and limited rewards, we are fortunate that our profession continues to grow and offer rewards to those confident enough to accept its challenges.

My convention remarks highlighted breakthroughs we can achieve in 2005 through more HIM professionals leading the transition to the electronic health record (EHR). We can advance the national agenda for the EHR with quality initiatives in the areas of standards development and implementation, product certification, work force development in physician practice settings, and consumer adoption of personal health records.

Other breakthroughs to look to in 2005 include:

- Adding more students to our academic programs and more young, innovative practitioners to the field.
 - Developing cutting-edge education for both students and practicing professionals that meets changing work force demands and is delivered through a variety of channels and built upon the highest quality standards. Education that assumes advanced degrees is the common and expected path for our members who want to lead.
 - Having the value of our credentials recognized, understood, and affirmed not just by our members and our traditional employers but by the entire healthcare community.
- To achieve these breakthroughs, we must all work together within our component state associations and at the national level.

A Cumulative Effort

In the book *Good to Great*, author Jim Collins and his team of researchers find that there is no single defining action for achieving greatness, no grand game plan or inspired innovation, no miracle moment or lucky break. Instead, greatness is achieved through a cumulative process, step-by-step, action-by-action, decision-by-decision, turn-by-turn.

Picture a huge heavy flywheel, a massive metal disk mounted on an axle. Your task is to get that flywheel rotating on its axle as fast and for as long as possible. You push with great effort, inching the flywheel forward until it completes one entire revolution. You continue pushing, and the flywheel moves faster through a second rotation. Keep working in the same direction. It builds up speed. You keep pushing, faster and faster it goes with each turn.

Then, at some point, breakthrough. Momentum kicks in your favor, hurling the flywheel forward turn after turn, its own weight now working for you, not against you. You aren't pushing any harder than the first rotation, yet the flywheel goes faster, ten times faster, a hundred times faster, with almost unstoppable momentum.

Now, imagine this analogy in regard to the 2005 breakthrough opportunities.

It is all of us working together, guided by our leaders and with disciplined action, accumulating and sharing knowledge, improving our skills and expertise, step by step, turn upon turn, building momentum until the tipping point—the point of breakthrough.

Some people can only dream about having the professional opportunities that are available to us today. Aren't we fortunate to have such tremendous breakthrough opportunities right here in front of us?

Let's achieve them together. No contribution is too small, and every little push on that flywheel will make a difference.

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