

Visions of Future, Global Initiatives Focus for 2004

Save to myBoK

by Melanie Brodnik, PhD, RHIA

Our 75th diamond anniversary, year-long celebration was quite a success. We celebrated our rich history and the important contributions AHIMA has made to the field of HIM. We also confirmed that the work we do has never been more important. We are thriving as an association, with some 46,000-plus members, and our profession is an exciting, dynamic field that offers our members great diversity in employment settings and job roles.

We also engaged in significant preparation for what the future holds. Our association is well respected, operationally efficient, and strategic in thinking, and we continually plan and dream, which provides us with a sense of direction and visions for the future.

The Time Is Now

Visions are about possibilities. Take Visions 2000 and 2006 and now e-HIM, our vision and action plan for moving HIM into a fully electronic environment. These are all visions of possibilities, of a desired future state, and of our dreams for success. In 2003 we set a course of action to position ourselves for the future, and what we do this year will also be key to our success. As AHIMA Executive Vice President and CEO Linda Kloss, RHIA, CAE, stated in her presentation "HIM Futures" at October's convention in Minneapolis, "The time is now."

Building on past endeavors and 2003 actions, our 2004 strategic initiatives are designed to ensure we continue to position ourselves for the future. We will continue to focus on improving work force efforts to increase the supply of skilled, credentialed HIM professionals. We will continue to collaborate with other organizations and disciplines to ensure our professional relevance and leadership in national issues such as EHR and PHR systems, privacy, patient safety, and e-health.

Further, we will continue to spotlight best practices of members whose success in EHR implementation will help pave the road for others to follow. We will also seek consensus on a new framework for HIM education and for revising curriculum models to reflect course work needed to educate students for the future. We will devote special attention to the development of new forms of knowledge and practice through applied and theoretical research. Reinforcing efforts to expand our body of knowledge through the Foundation of Research and Education grant funding processes will also be a priority.

Finally, we will collaborate on developing e-HIM solutions in a global community by hosting the 14th Congress of the International Federation of Health Records Organizations in conjunction with our own 76th National Convention and Exhibit in Washington, DC, October 9-14. Plan now to attend this year's unique opportunity to interact with others from around the world.

A Year of Initiatives

Our 76th year will be a year of not only national e-HIM initiatives, but of initiatives that will enable us to explore health record issues, share ideas, and exchange information with others on a global basis. We have a lot to accomplish in 2004 and beyond. We have a clear vision and a solid plan to guide us.

We also have a new visual representation-our new logo-to remind us of our mission. With continued energy, excitement, and enthusiasm for the future, I have no doubt we will thrive in this changing environment. As a profession and an association, we will emerge as leaders of things to come.

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