

PRINTOUT—Your Leaders in Health Information Management

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A Message From the HRABC President

Welcome to the new fandangle e-version of the Printout! Christening the new format of the newsletter is an excellent way to start my term. I want to send a big thank you to **Nancy Haugen, Gerald Yu** and the rest of the **Executive team** as the past year has certainly been all about learning the ropes.

As the days are whipping by fast and darkness accompanies me in the morning as well as when I leave the office, there can be no dampening of my excitement for the upcoming year. Besides the e-newsletter, your HRABC Executive is busy investigating ways to reach out and touch someone (hopefully the membership) with educational activities, networking opportunities and the use of technology to facilitate all of the above. This new e-version of the newsletter will allow us to share updates on these initiatives more frequently and in a more accessible way.

Continuing on from the previous executive's actions to rebuild the reserves of the association, we will be lean and mean in how we do things. Okay, maybe



not mean. We'll just be lean with the budget and robust with the outcomes. But we can't do it all alone. The impetus for changing the Printout came from **Gary Arnold** (thanks for the idea!), who among others has contributed much to HRABC in the past and continues to do so now. If your thinking juices are flowing one day with a great idea, please pass it along.

The Executive team will work hard to make this a year full of innovation and hearing your thoughts and ideas! With all the changes coming down the pipeline, we look forward to engaging everyone.

Extending Tax Breaks to Certification Exams—Good News for HIM Grads

Submitted by Shirley Sirkia, HRABC Treasurer

Good news for all HIM Graduates of 2011+ writing the CHIMA National Certification (NCE) Exam! This past summer, on June 6th, the new Majority Government re-introduced the 2011 Federal budget first tabled on March 22nd prior to the election. A relevant provision to note is the amendment to the Tuition Tax Credit to now recognize fees (in excess of \$100) paid to an educational institution, professional association, or other similar institution for taking an exam required to be licensed or certified in order to practice a profession or trade in Canada. Ancillary fees that are not included are costs for travel, parking, equipment (e.g. calculators). The CHIMA national exam is held on the second Wednesday of July and first Wednesday of November of each year. Cost is \$420.



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Free 2012 HRABC Membership

HRABC is pleased to announce that **Linda Lee** is the winner of the free membership renewal for 2012 for referring a new member.
Congratulations Linda!

Introducing the New Executive, 2011-2012

Welcome to our continuing and new HRABC Executive members. Wishing you a wonderful year!

President—**Kenny Der**
President Elect—**Linda Penner**
Past President—**Nancy Haugen**
Secretary—**Denise Jensen**
Treasurer—**Shirley Sirkia**
Communications—**Kelsey Ziegler**
Membership & Credentials—**Linda Choy**
Professional Practice—**Claire Rigter**
Programs & Arrangements—**Mona Scholes**

Med2020 partners with NRC to create new coding product

Reprinted with permission from Canadian Healthcare Technology, November 3, 2011 - Volume 8, Number 21

OTTAWA – Med2020 Health Care Software Inc., a Canadian pioneer in Health Information Management solutions has announced the launch of Med2020 codeSmart, a computer-assisted coding tool developed in collaboration with the National Research Council Institute for Information Technology (NRC-IIT).

Using Natural Language Processing (NLP) to analyze and convert speech to text, Med2020 codeSmart is designed to facilitate automation of the coding

processes for Health Records departments in hospitals across Canada.

Med2020 leveraged the expertise of NRC's award-winning research team – which recently outperformed 40 teams from four continents at the i2b2 medical text mining competition.

Med2020's decision to work with the NRC-IIT was the result of recognizing that in order to solve the challenges hospitals face in overcoming coding backlogs, coder shortages and improving efficiencies, an automated tool was needed.

"We're excited to introduce this product to market as we know automating coding processes will reduce turnaround times, which is a major issue for many hospitals," said Eric Sparks, Chief Executive Officer at Med2020. "Med2020 codeSmart allows the coder to 'code smart' – being prompted with a code

they can then review and approve, enabling faster submission times with improved consistency, enhanced accuracy and data quality."

Dr. Joel Martin, project lead for the NRC-IIT, said "Med2020 codeSmart comprises sophisticated technology that demonstrates how artificial intelligence, in the form of speech recognition and natural language processing, can recognize speech and convert it to text in a meaningful way so that it has a real and practical application in hospitals.

"The role of the NRC-IIT is to encourage new technological developments and work with Canadian businesses to help them achieve their goals. We were confident that we could assist Med2020 in developing a coding tool that could meet many coding needs within the HIM community."

Med2020 codeSmart is a solution that helps solve coding efficiency challenges, promotes

faster direct patient care by expediting completion of coded information and potentially generates significant cost savings.

About Med2020 Health Care Software Inc.

Med2020 is a leading provider of modular health information management solutions for the healthcare industry and is headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario. Solutions are offered to assist in capturing, reporting and analyzing health data to support enhanced information sharing, encourage informed decision making and streamline facility operations. Med2020's flagship product, WinRecs, is installed in more than 50% of hospital sites across Canada (according to independent market research). For more information, please visit www.Med2020.ca

Next issue submission deadline: Feb. 1, 2012

Next issue posting to website deadline: Feb. 15, 2012

Mobile MRI gets green light on Vancouver Island

Reprinted with permission from Canadian Healthcare Technology, November 3, 2011 - Volume 8, Number 21

VICTORIA – Patients on Vancouver Island will soon have improved, locally available access to Mobile Resonance Imaging (MRI), as the Vancouver Island Health Authority announced the establishment of mobile MRI services for Campbell River, the Comox Valley, Port Alberni and Duncan.

"This is great news for patients and families living on the North Island, West Coast and Cowichan Valley," said Don McRae, MLA for the Comox Valley.

Chance to Win an Early Bird Membership Renewal Prize!

Dear HRABC members,

Don't miss out on this opportunity for a chance to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card!

Benefits to our members include:

- Your professional membership is respected and frequently required by employers;
- 2 CPE credits for Active membership;
- Continuing education sessions such as teleconferences;
- Access to HIM job postings;
- e-Communications (email blasts, The PrintOut);
- Website with a member's only section;
- Networking opportunities with HIM colleagues.

How to Enter:

Simply pay your 2012 HRABC membership dues on or before **Friday, December 9th, 2011** to be eligible for a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

You can also increase your chances of winning the prize by spreading the word and inviting any potential new members to sign up as well. Each new member who indicates your name as the referral on their membership form allows your name to be entered into the draw.

Remember to also join HRABC on LinkedIn if you haven't signed up already. This provides a platform for you to interact with your colleagues in a professional networking environment. Sign up at www.linkedin.com or contact **Linda Choy** at hrabc.membership@gmail.com for further information.

Respectfully yours,

Linda Choy, CHIM
Chair, Membership & Credentials



Mobile MRI (cont.)

"Being closer to home means less travel time which helps reduce stress and that's a big part of the equation when it comes to your health."

The new VIHA-operated service is expected to be up and running in late spring or early summer of 2012. The mobile MRI will be located on specially designed pads in Campbell River, Co-mox, Port Alberni and the Cowichan Valley. It will operate 50 weeks per year with two weeks designated for

service and maintenance

Over 3,800 MRI scans are planned to be performed by the mobile scanner, amounting to 16.5% of the total 23,000 MRIs that are provided annually in VIHA at this time. The volumes and schedule in each community will be determined based on population size and historical MRI use.

"The importance of MRI in diagnosing and supporting the treatment of disease has grown rapidly in recent years as the technology has im-

proved," said Dr. John Mathieson, Medical Director of Medical Imaging for VIHA. "A mobile MRI service is a significant addition to VIHA's medical imaging services and will support better patient care and outcome as well as ensuring our radiologists throughout Vancouver Island have the opportunity to conduct reads on this increasingly important technology."

Regional Hospital Districts have expressed interest in bringing these services to their communities. Over the coming weeks, VIHA will be discussing funding arrangements with them.