



IFHIMA
International Federation of
Health Information Management
Associations



REGIONAL DIRECTOR REPORT

November 2019

Name of the Region: The Americas

Name of the Regional Director: Gail Robinson

IFHIMA member countries in this region: 4
Barbados, Jamaica, United States and Canada

Number of Associate Members in this region:

Number of Corporate Members in this region: 0

Number of Educational Institution Members in this region: 3

---oo0oo---

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE REGION 2016-2019:

BARBADOS HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

National Director = Deneice Marshall

Membership

- To date we have approximately 15 members.

Knowledge

- BHIMA members have hosted three Health Information Management Awareness Days during HIP week for the period 2016- 2019 at the local hospital and selected polyclinics. The activities were well received and were featured in the local newspapers.

Advocacy

- BHIMA is still working with the Administrators at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the Ministry of Health to seek formal registration of the HIM profession along with the Paramedical Council which is the registration body for Allied Health professionals in Barbados. This process has been delayed due to the changes in the Government Administration. BHIMA's long-term goal from this initiative is to seek legislative professional name changes for the workforce.
- As Barbados transitions from a paper-based system to the National Health Information System. Members of BHIMA were assigned to various committees to assist with the upgrading of job descriptions and the HIM scope of practice.
- BHIMA hosted our 3rd biennial joint conference with the Barbados Association Radiographers (BAR) November 10-12, 2017 at the Radisson Aquatica Resort, Barbados. The Conference theme "Breaking the Silos: Innovation, Intervention, Integration". Keynote presentations included Marci MacDonald, President of IFHIMA, Larry Sylvestre, Regional Sales Manager at IBM, Cassandra Bissen (Past President of the American Health Information Management Association and Performance Engineer at

at the Mayo Clinic and Dr. Dexter James, CEO of the Queens Elizabeth Hospital, Barbados.

- BHIMA 5-year anniversary week, activities ran from the 11-16 November 2018 included the following:
 - o Joint breakfast seminar with the Barbados Association of Radiographers feature topic was: The Evolving Role of HIM Professionals – Cancer Registration
 - o Awareness Day workshop at the St. Philip Polyclinic held by HIM students
 - o HIM display boards were posted at the various local polyclinics across the country

Education

- The Barbados Community College offers a two-year Associates Degree in Health Information Management.
- The Barbados Community College and the Ministry of Health are scheduled to offer a continued education course in Coding and Classification of Diseases for Medical Records Staff, February 2020.
- The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus is currently offering a Bachelors of Health Sciences with a concentration in Health Informatics.

BHIMA PLANS 2019-2022

1. KEY PRIORITIES

- o Advocacy- Awareness workshops and social activities for HIP week.
- o Barbados Association of Radiographers and BHIMA joint conference- tentatively scheduled for November 2020.
- o Work with PAHO/WHO representatives to formulate a framework to assist with the strengthening of the HIM profession and Health Information Systems in Barbados and the region.
- o Work with IFHIMA and other stakeholders to establish an HIM Caribbean chapter/network to support under serve countries in the region.
- o Over the next few months BHIMA Education Committee will embark on series of research projects which will target local and regional health care organizations to gather information on the HIM profession in the Caribbean

2. CHALLENGES

- o Limited engagement/ support from key stakeholders regarding professional development and association initiatives which has a significant impact on membership and recruitment.

JAMAICA HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION **National Director = Veronica Miller-Richards**

1. Summary of Activities e.g. National/Regional Conferences

- Inaugural Conference on Health Information Management at the University of Technology (UTECH) – May 16, 2019. The theme was The Changing Landscape in Health Information Management. Key focuses looking at new trends and developments in HIM.
- JMRA/JaHIMA Health Records Week of Activities – October 20-26, 2019. Theme - Ensuring Health Information Integrity. Health Information Management Conference held on October 23, 2019.
- The JMRA, Marjorie Hendricks Award for Excellence in Medical Coding and Academic Excellence Awards for outstanding performances in the Health Information Technology program at the UTECH was given to 5 Health Information professionals on September 26, 2019.

2. Achievements

- PAHO/WHO held a High-Level Meeting in Jamaica on IS4H in November 2016 with Ministers, PS, CMO's and senior technical leaders from across the Caribbean. Renewed PAHO/WHO's commitment to advancing IS4H and to develop an Agreement on IS4H Vision and Goal. The Second Phase, the

- Information System for Health Human Resources Functional Assessment: Collaborative Design Workshops convened over the period June 4-6, 2019. Jamaica's contribution towards piloting of the ICD 11 to include the online version in collaboration with WHO.
- WHO/FIC meeting in Korea- October 2018 – International Classification of Diseases.
- Input to IFHIMA's Strategic Initiatives (Advocacy, Knowledge Domain & Membership)

Advocacy

- PAHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Jamaica and with funding from the International Development bank (IDB) sensitization sessions on-going with HIM professionals and other health professionals in relation building for the strengthening of EHR development for the country
- Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in collaboration with Government of Jamaica are in continued consultation with the Personal Health Information Protection [PHIP] Bill. The Government over the last year tabled a Personal Health Information Protection Bill within the house of Parliament.
- Approval for registration and licensure with the Council of Professional Allied to Medicine (CPAM) has been granted.
- IS4H – Knowledge, management and Governance is collaborating with Education to involve Universities etc with HIM components with a focus on electronic Health Information.
- Electronic Health Records modules now introduced as a course of study at the University level for students who are pursuing studies in the Associate Degree in Health Information Technology.

Membership

- The Association currently has an increase in its membership

JaHIMA PLANS 2019-2022

1. KEY PRIORITIES

- Advocacy of membership
- Increased strengthening of Health Information Capacity building workshops for both students and the wider profession
- Intervention of Administrative Managers to give support for untrained persons to be trained for the profession
- Registration and licensure with the Council of Professional Allied to Medicine (CPAM)

2. CHALLENGES

- Lack of recognition of HIM as a profession
- Inadequacies in the large number of trained/skilled HIM professionals
- Support nationally for training of HIM professionals

AMERICAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION National Director = Lorraine Fernandes

1. Summary of Activities

- Held three successful annual conventions with 3000+ attendees at each.
- Rebranded annual convention in 2019 to the “Health and Data Convention” to reflect industry changes
- Held three annual “Assembly on Education” for HIM educators from the 300+ programs accredited by CAHIIM in the USA.
- Sponsored annual “Hill Day” for 2-5 attendees from each of the 40 states. This two day event focuses on state and federal issues impacting HIM, advocacy, and visits to Senators and Representatives from each state.
- Welcomed Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, in February 2018 as the new AHIMA CEO.

- Supported 19th IFHIMA Congress through multiple announcements in the weekly news, publishing article in the March 2019 Journal of AHIMA, and social media activities
- Continued to support IFHIMA through the Service Level Agreement for financial services, as has been the practice for over two decades.

2. Achievements

- Margaret Skurka, AHIMA member, appointed to NCVHS which will evaluate and recommend approach, actions and timeline for ICD 11 in the US, as well as other health data and policy areas.
- Re-established key partnerships with College of Health Information Management Executives (CHIME), Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), and American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA). These organization are leaders in healthcare through practice, advocacy, research, and vendor influence.
- Approved new mission and vision for AHIMA and AHIMA Foundation.

3. Input to IFHIMA's Strategic Initiatives (Advocacy, Knowledge Domain & Membership)

- Evaluate strategic priorities in light of ICD-11, technology, healthcare transformation, and workforce challenges.

AHIMA PLANS 2019-2022

1. KEY PRIORITIES

- Advance and advocate for the creation and use of trusted information across the evolving health continuum
- Shape the health information profession by growing the influence and competitiveness of health information skillsets
- Drive strategic transformation and renew growth as a great partner and place to work.

CANADIAN HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION National Director = Gail Robinson

1. Summary of Activities

- These past three years have been filled with positive change and a renewed sense of community within the HIM® field. In 2018 we saw the arrival of our new CEO & Registrar, Jeff Nesbitt, who is fully committed to engaging the HIM® profession to both deepen and expand the value we offer to our members and stakeholders across Canada. This past year he has traveled across the country to meet our members, educational partners, and stakeholders in the other regions.
- Our 2018 national conference connected HIM® professionals from across the country, who enjoyed the opportunity to engage and learn from their colleagues. We continue to build on this success by hosting chapter events from coast to coast. Members want more value from CHIMA – more engagement, more advancement, and more recognition.
- We're engaging to build a community within Canada's HIM® profession, because our daily work is critical to the care that Canadians receive. We continue on the path we set out in the strategic plan, which was approved in 2017, to make a difference to Canadians through the use of health information.

2. Achievements

- New CEO and Registrar: Since joining the Canadian Health Information Management Association and College in August 2018, Jeff has had the opportunity to meet with and talk to people about the difference the HIM® profession makes to Canadians. From Whitehorse to Newfoundland and everywhere in between, people have been warm and friendly in engaging with him to share their ideas on where we have opportunities, challenges, and areas for improvement. Welcome video message from CEO Jeff Nesbitt is posted on the CHIMA website.
- New strategic plan: We've created a national team who is excited to get down to work to both deepen and expand our contribution to advancing the profession — and we look forward to working with our members to make a difference. View our strategic plan at <https://www.echima.ca/strategic-plan>.

- Provincial chapters and strategic partners: We focused on partnerships to drive the profession forward, and we've strengthened our chapters to foster communication, education, and networking. In 2016, CHIMA and the provincial associations decided to combine efforts and bring the provincial associations into the Association as chapters. Find out more at <https://www.echima.ca/chapter-map>.
- Member engagement: We have grown our membership value and, as a result, are seeing higher levels of member engagement. Members play an important role in building this community. When our members volunteer, participate, or pay their membership dues, they are advancing both themselves and the profession and creating a stronger community of likeminded professionals across the country who recognize the importance that information makes to the people of Canada.
- New professional designations: We have been active in launching three new professional designations into the field: terminology standards, classification and coding, and clinical documentation improvement. Learn more at <https://www.echima.ca/certifications>.
- View our full accountability report from last fiscal year (February 2018–2019): <https://www.echima.ca/uploaded/CHIMA%20Accountability%20Report%202018-2019-0A.pdf>

3. Input Into IFHIMA's Strategic Initiatives/Plan

- We have opened nominations for the IFHIMA National Director position. We shall have more comments once our National Director joins, and as we work towards strengthening our relationships through this position. <https://www.echima.ca/ifhima-nomination>

CHIMA PLANS 2019–2022

1. KEY PRIORITIES

- We're actively executing our strategic plan and are excited about the steps being taken. Link to strategic plan: <https://www.echima.ca/strategic-plan>
- HIM 2020 Conference brought to you by CHIMA: <http://www.himconference.ca/>
- See our latest CHIMA Connection newsletter for further information on the four initiatives that are currently underway. (www.echima.ca)