Report to AMIA Academic Forum

William Hersh, MD, FACP, FACMI
Course Director
First offering April 12-14, as reported by AMIA e-News
Off to a successful start

• Course successfully launched April 12-14 in Bethesda
• Now making improvements for next offering in Philadelphia in June
• Also on track with planning for offerings in Portland in August and Chicago in September
History

• Signed on as course director in summer, 2012
• Selected three faculty for experience in academia and in operational settings
  – Tom Payne, MD – University of Washington
  – Bimal Desai, MD, MBI – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
  – Diane Montella, MD – Veteran’s Administration
• Additional participation in planning from
  – Ben Munger, PhD
  – JT Finnell, MD
  – Jeff Williamson, MEd
  – Elaine Steen, MA
  – Scitent team
• First planning meeting in Portland in October, 2012
Design of the course

• Adhered to core content of Gardner et al. JAMIA, 2009 paper
• Developed slide format that also included
  – Areas of core content outline covered
  – Learning objectives – to become key points
  – Recommendations for additional reading
• Evening sessions – choices given but overwhelming selection of first two
  – Approaching exam
  – Reviewing sample questions
  – Discussing case studies
  – Providing course feedback
Challenges in developing course

• Late-breaking panel at AMIA indicated that ABPM was treating ABMS application and JAMIA papers as “gospel”
• Release of exam specification by ABPM in March provided little additional value beyond top-level distribution of exam questions
  – Fundamentals - 10%
  – Clinical Decision Making and Care Process Improvement - 30%
  – Health Information Systems - 40%
  – Leading and Managing Change - 20%
• Curriculum outlined based on paper from Gardner (2009) – reproduced verbatim in ABPM exam study guide
Challenges for the faculty

• Experienced educators but not experienced “teaching to the test”
• Minimal details from ABPM on exam content
• Core content is typically covered in master’s degree program – how to cover essentials in this three-day course
• Varied knowledge of many current informatics practitioners – from none to degrees and fellowships
Summary of feedback – we are addressing

• Room small and warm
• Materials only available in paper book
• Some discussion got away from test material – debate, personal experience, etc.
• Some lectures too short, others ran on too long
• Desire for more/less coverage on various topics
• Wanted more use of sample questions
Looking forward

• Three day, face-to-face course, four times
  – April 12-14: Bethesda, MD – 85 attendees
  – June 7-9: Philadelphia, PA – 70 registered
  – August 9-11: Portland, OR – 41 registered
  – September 9-11: Chicago, IL – 39 registered

• On-line course

• Practice Examination

• FTF and on-line $995 member/$1195 non-member
Some comments on the Practice Examination

JT Finnell, MD
Indiana University
More on the Clinical Informatics Subspecialty

Jeffrey J. Williamson, M.Ed.

AMIA Vice President of Education and Academic Affairs

www.amia.org
Clinical Informatics Subspecialty

First examination for certification in the subspecialty of Clinical Informatics:

- October 7-18, 2013
- One day
- Multiple choice examination
- Administered at Pearson VUE Professional Centers
Clinical Informatics Subspecialty

Apply by June 1, 2013

- $550 application fee
- $1,750 examination fee
- $400 to $1600 sliding scale late fees apply through July 15, 2013
Admission Requirements:

1. Current certification by at least one of the Member Boards of ABMS
2. Graduation is required from a medical school approved by the Board
3. Valid medical license
4. And….
Clinical Informatics Subspecialty

Admission Requirements: Practice Pathway

- Three years of CI Practice over five years
- Must be at least 25% of a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) to be considered
- Documented, broad-based professional activity with significant CI responsibility
- Verification by a person or persons who are knowledgeable about the applicant’s practice, such as the chief of staff, the applicable department chair, the director of a related Clinical Informatics training program, or the director of the clinical informatics.
Clinical Informatics Subspecialty

Admission Requirements: Fellowship Training Pathway

• Completion of a fellowship program of at least 24 months
• Non-accredited fellowship training curriculum as well as a description of the actual training must be submitted
• Training in a non-accredited fellowship program of less than 24 months in duration may be applied toward the practice pathway
• Starting in 2018, only programs that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) will be accepted.
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Demographics and feedback from first FTF offering of the AMIA CIBRC

April 12-14, Bethesda, Maryland
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Limited to about 75 attendees, sold out

Impressive expertise among attendees

Included exam applicants & lifelong learners
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary ABMS Board Certification</th>
<th>n=57</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preventive Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allergy and Immunology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstetrics and Gynecology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thoracic Surgery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify) - None at Present Time</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify) - Through Preventive Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry and Neurology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urology</td>
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Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Prior CI Training (n=57)

- Yes
- No
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years practicing clinical informatics for at least 25% of full time</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 10</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 - 20</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 +</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Current clinical informatics role

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMIO</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educator</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Director</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Development</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informatics Committee Chair</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Delivery</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Champion</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Health IT Grant Funding</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informatics liaison for critical care</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIO for government health care agency.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellow</td>
<td>1</td>
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Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Rate your awareness of the Core Content for Clinical Informatics (Gardner et al., 2009), its role in shaping in the subspecialty of clinical informatics, and how it relates to the clinical informatics subspecialty board certification exam.

Pre-course 3.8

Post-course 4.3

1=not aware | 3=somewhat aware | 5=highly aware
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Rate your ability to describe the role of data across the health care system, the laws governing use of data, and technical approaches to ensuring quality and protection of data and apply this knowledge to my practice of clinical informatics.

Pre-course 3.6

Post-course 4.1

1=not aware | 3=somewhat aware | 5=highly aware
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Rate your ability to identify the range of clinical decision support tools; explain how to determine which application is appropriate for specific situations; describe how to develop and implement clinical decision support tools and apply this knowledge to my practice of clinical informatics.

Pre-course 3.8

Post-course 4.2

1=not aware | 3=somewhat aware | 5=highly aware
Rate your ability to describe the processes of developing or selecting a clinical information system, preparing and supporting clinicians for system implementation, and evaluating system effectiveness and apply this knowledge to my practice of clinical informatics.

Pre-course 3.8

Post-course 4.2

1=not aware | 3=somewhat aware | 5=highly aware
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Rate your ability to identify the key types of health information systems and describe how to achieve system interoperability and apply this knowledge to my practice of clinical informatics.

Pre-course 3.6

Post-course 4.0

1=not aware | 3=somewhat aware | 5=highly aware
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Rate your ability to identify the non-technical factors that influence the adoption of clinical information systems by clinicians and describe strategies for promoting effective use of clinical information systems and apply this knowledge to my practice of clinical informatics.

Pre-course 4.1

Post-course 4.5

1=not aware | 3=somewhat aware | 5=highly aware
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Rate your ability to identify the non-technical factors that influence the adoption of clinical information systems by clinicians and describe strategies for promoting effective use of clinical information systems and apply this knowledge to my practice of clinical informatics.

Pre-course 4.1

Post-course 4.5

1=not aware | 3=somewhat aware | 5=highly aware
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

Do you feel your participation in the AMIA CiBRC prepared you to sit for the exam? (Please answer as if you intend to take the exam.)

- **Yes** (majority)
- **No**
- **Undecided**
Based on the criteria described by the ABPM, do you feel you are eligible to sit for the exam?
Clinical Informatics Board Review Course

If you are deemed eligible by the ABPM, will you sit for the exam?

- Yes, in 2013 (majority)
- Yes, after 2013
- Unsure
- No current plans to sit for the exam
CIBRC: Overview of Item Writing Process

“Item” = practice question

There is a set of principles for writing sound items. AMIA process for developing a pool of items that will be used in the online practice exam:

- being guided by Ben Munger, PhD and supported by Elaine Steen
- using approach similar to development of certification exam
- is totally separate from ABPM process for writing items that will be on the exam
- will interface with Scitent (online product vendor-partner)
CIBRC: Overview of Item Writing Process

- Fall 2012 Open call for individuals to apply to serve as Item Writers (total of 37 volunteers)
- Chose Chief Editor and Editors from among volunteers
  - Chief Editor: JT Finnell
  - Editors: Robert Jenders, Bob Marshall, Joseph Kannry, Doug Rosendale, Feliciano Yu
- Held 4 hour orientation session at AMIA Symposium
- Item Writers self-selected teams based on expertise that corresponds to the Core Content
- First set of items due from item writers December 20, 2012; 5 items expected per month per item writer
- Weekly calls with JT, Ben, Elaine, Jeff & monthly calls with Editors, Ben, Elaine, Jeff
- Editors organize communication with item writers
- Currently use Word and Dropbox for item development and review
- When items are complete, they are “pushed” to Scitent for entry into item management system
- Editor Review Meeting held April 11th
- 5 of 6 editors attended April Board Review Course to help them gain understanding of how faculty view the Core Content
CIBRC: Overview of Item Writing Process

Original goal: 150 to 200 items by June 1

Results to Date:
- 69 items reviewed by Editors on April 11th
- 41 accepted with final editorial review needed
- 3 rejected
- 25 sent back for more work
- 11 items ready for Group Review by Editors
- 179 items in process (does not include items that Editors have not yet submitted to Chief Editor)
CIBRC: Overview of Item Writing Process

Challenges & Next Steps

- Difficult to write practice questions for an exam that writers haven’t seen
- Few centralized external resources for item writers
- More time intensive than originally expected
- Building an item banking tool with a vendor on the fly
- Intensity of process, need for FTF to get real work done
- Test feasibility of conducting Editor Group Review of items via teleconference
- May need to recruit individuals with specific subject matter expertise and expand pool of item writers and editors
- Next training session at 2013 Symposium
- And of course sell product!
CIBRC

Questions and/or comments for…

- Bill H.
- Kevin F.
- Tom P.
- Jeff W.

End