



# FOUNDATION MATTERS

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## A Message From the Foundation Board Chair

Winter is the air, and the holidays will be upon us before we know it. As the year comes to an end, many of us take the opportunity to stop and reflect. For the Foundation, the year-end is also an opportunity to look forward to the future.

In 2012, the Foundation will celebrate its 50th anniversary. The Foundation was founded in 1962 as the Foundation of Record Education (FORE). Originally, FORE provided a vehicle for individuals and organizations to donate books to AHIMA. With the assistance of the Foundation, the Association's HIM resource collection of books, journals, and other publications grew, which led to the founding of the FORE Library in 1965. In addition to maintaining and growing the library, the Foundation provided funding to HIM students, ensuring the next generation of highly-trained professionals. As the HIM community grew, the Foundation responded to the needs of the profession by establishing the Merit Scholarship Program, funding research projects, discovering best practices, and ensuring that policy reflected the latest research findings.



Now, the Foundation continues to respond to the needs of HIM professionals, working to be the preeminent foundation for excellence in health information leadership, policy and research for the healthcare industry and the public. Over the past five months, the AHIMA Foundation has undergone significant change in our focus, structure, and staff. As we look to the future, the Foundation is positioned to concentrate on:

1. The value of the HIM professional
2. Influencing standards and policy in HIM
3. HIM/HIT workforce and education

## Events

### March 7-9

[AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis and Procedure Coding](#)  
Seattle, WA

### April 16-17

[2012 ICD-10 Summit](#)  
Baltimore, MD  
(Abstracts accepted through January 6, 2012. For more information, [click here.](#))

### April 18

[2012 Computer-Assisted Coding Summit](#)  
Baltimore, MD  
(Abstracts accepted through January 6, 2012. For more information, [click here.](#))

### June 18-19

[2012 Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Health IT Summit](#)  
Baltimore, MD

### September 29-

### October 4

[84th AHIMA Convention & Exhibit](#)  
Chicago, IL  
(Abstracts accepted through December 21, 2011. For more information, [click here.](#))

View a complete listing of all [AHIMA events](#) and [audio](#)

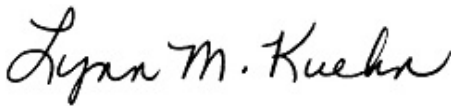
Our structure has changed to include the education visioning of HIM academic departments in college and universities. As part of that structural change, the Council of Excellence in Education (CEE), formerly the Education Strategy Committee (ESC), will be supported by the AHIMA Foundation.

These changes will allow the Foundation to continue to respond to the needs of the professionals we support, improving HIM for the community we serve. The Foundation is focused on the next 50 years and will look to our donors, members, and supporters to help define and create that future. Our ability to create the future depends on your ability to give now and for the future.

I want to take the opportunity to sincerely thank all our supporters on behalf of the AHIMA Foundation Board of Directors. The AHIMA Foundation greatly appreciates your support now and throughout the year.

Our best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Lynn M. Kuehn, MS, RHIA, CCS-P, FAHIMA  
Chair, Board of Directors  
AHIMA Foundation

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### From the Executive Director: Preparing for the Next 50 Years

As the AHIMA Foundation prepares to meet future challenges in healthcare over the next 50 years, it is important we lay the groundwork for that success now. We must coalesce our research efforts with the needs of our members in the academic and practitioner communities to create a singularity in purpose and focus.

To help meet this need, the Foundation is in the process of creating a virtual Research Innovation and Leadership Institute (RILI) that will bring together research and education under one program. The RILI will provide the HIM profession a home where new and creative ideas can be freely expressed and debated in an open forum. Providing this structure will help bring together HIM leadership that will not only respond to future needs in healthcare, but create the future of healthcare.



In January, the Foundation will formally announce the RILI on our website, [www.ahimafoundation.org](http://www.ahimafoundation.org). In the coming months, we will create research, leadership, and educational consortiums designed to foster innovative discussions concerning policy and research necessary for the HIM profession

As you'll see in this newsletter, we are also in the midst of planning for many exciting programs at the annual AHIMA Convention and Exhibit in Chicago in October. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you there and share more about the important and impactful work we are doing at the Foundation.

[seminars/webinars](#)

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### Coming soon, the Winter 2012 issue of *Perspectives in HIM*

Look for the Winter 2012 issue of the AHIMA Foundation's online-only peer-reviewed research journal, *Perspectives in Health Information Management*, coming January. This issue will focus on ICD-10.

[Read the current Fall issue](#), including a survey on EHR use in Saudi Arabia, a study on the quality of E codes in hospital discharge data, and a review of the use of a clinical information portal at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

[Learn more](#) about submission guidelines and the manuscript review process.



The [Communities of Practice](#) is a benefit of AHIMA membership. If you are already a member, click [here](#). For information on becoming a member, click [here](#).



I want to thank all of you in advance for your support as we prepare for our next 50 years of success.

Sincerely,



William J. Rudman, PhD, RHIA  
Executive Director, AHIMA Foundation  
Vice President, Educational Visioning, AHIMA

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## Expanding Into the Future: New Staffing

The AHIMA Foundation is pleased to introduce and welcome three new staff members to the Foundation "family."

### **Daniela Amendola** **Foundation Coordinator**



Daniela Amendola recently joined us as foundation coordinator. She primarily supports the Foundation's educational visioning, and serves as the staff liaison for the Council for Excellence in Education (CEE) and the Approval Committee for Certificate Programs (ACCP). She will also assist with the Student Merit Scholarship Program and the Corporate Sponsorship Program. Amendola joined AHIMA in 2007, as the business development coordinator.

### **Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP** **Director, Research and Development**



Michelle L. Dougherty, MA, RHIA, CHP, is the Foundation's new director of research and development. Dougherty has served as principal investigator, director, manager or facilitator for numerous government contracts and projects that shape healthcare and HIM policy and practices. She has been a director with AHIMA for the past 12 years, providing leadership to the HIM profession and healthcare industry on a wide array of topics, including healthcare policy, HIT adoption, electronic health records and health information exchange, privacy/security, data governance, data integrity, data standards, e-discovery, and personal health records.

In the industry, Dougherty has served in key leadership roles, including bringing together significant stakeholders in the long-term and post-acute care (LTPAC) community to shape national HIT policies, and directing applied research studies to spearhead engagement of the LTPAC sector in the use of EHRs and health information exchange. Additionally, Dougherty has represented AHIMA and the HIM profession in HIT standards organizations and co-leads a standards workgroup developing critical EHR standards to support data quality and integrity. She is a frequent speaker and an award-winning author.

Dougherty holds both a master's degree in healthcare informatics and information management and a BA in health information administration from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN.

**Kate Jackson**  
**Administrative Coordinator**



Kate Jackson joined the Foundation this month as administrative coordinator. Jackson holds a BA in English literature from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and studied advertising and creative marketing at Northwestern University, Chicago. She has extensive experience producing materials for online and print distribution, as well as some video editing experience. Jackson has a keen understanding of best-practices in the use of new media and social networking tools to raise awareness about program activities. Jackson will support the Foundation Board of Directors and process donations.

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### First HIRO Fund Assistance Recipient



The first recipient of financial assistance from the Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) Fund is Debra S. Nelson, RHIT, from Minot, ND. Nelson's home was completely underwater due to severe flooding in that region this past summer. In order to stay in the area and continue doing her job, she needed assistance to help cover the significant costs of staying in temporary housing and replacing her work clothing. The AHIMA Foundation was pleased to be able to assist her during this time of great need.

The HIRO Fund was established in June of this year to help as many members as possible who, like Nelson, are struggling to piece their lives back together after a natural or man-made disaster, while, in many cases, also helping to restore healthcare services for their communities.

Nelson expressed her appreciation for the support from the HIRO Fund, noting, "It was so heartwarming to see the check coming from MY organization and knowing their thoughts/prayers were being sent along with the check."

While we may not be able to predict these types of the disasters in our future, we can predict there will be help for our members. This is not the last year that disasters will strike. But, with your help and support, it will be the last year that victims of these tragedies have to do without the immediate support of their HIM colleagues.

For more information on the fund, to donate to the relief effort, or to download the assistance application, visit the [AHIMA Foundation HIRO Fund Web page](#).

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### Register Now for the HIM Research Training Bootcamp

Registration is now open for the HIM Research Training Bootcamp, an intensive, interactive four-day working session for HIM professionals. This Bootcamp is a partnership between the AHIMA Foundation and the Texas State Institute for Health Information Technology, designed to provide HIM educators and practitioners with the background and skills necessary to seek funding for applied HIM research projects. At the conclusion of the Bootcamp, each participant will have a grant funding application suitable for submission to an external funding agency.

We are seeking participants, mentors for participants, and faculty.

The Bootcamp kicks off with webinars in February. Participants will then travel to Texas State University in San Marcos, TX, **June 11–14, 2012**, for intensive on-site training.

The application deadline is **January 2, 2012**. A \$1000 fee is required to attend the program, and participants must pay their own travel expenses to San Marcos. For more information and to download the registration form, please visit <http://www.health.txstate.edu/him/Continuing-Education.html>, or contact the AHIMA Foundation with questions, at (312) 233-1131 or [info@ahimafoundation.org](mailto:info@ahimafoundation.org).

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### Consider the AHIMA Foundation in Your Year-End Giving

As the end of the year approaches, the AHIMA Foundation reminds our donors to consider their giving options to support the Foundation's important programs, while realizing the tax benefits that come from making a donation.

Members who did not attend convention or take home an item in the Silent Auction can still help support the Merit Scholarship Program. Online donations and pledges may be made via the [secure Foundation website](#).

Also, keep in mind that this time of year is an excellent opportunity to honor or memorialize HIM colleagues, family members, and friends. The Foundation provides options to make your gift "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone, simply by filling in the "dedication" portion of the [online donation form](#). Tribute Gift recipients and donors are recognized on the AHIMA Foundation website, as well as in the annual report and other publications.

As you make your philanthropic plans for 2012, we hope you will consider the importance of the AHIMA Foundation in directly contributing to the future of the health information industry, through Merit Scholarships and other vital programs. The AHIMA Foundation sends our thanks to all the members for their support this year, along with best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2012.

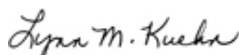
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### Defining the Future: Thank You to Our Donors

The Foundation staff would like to formally thank all AHIMA members, volunteers, and donors for your support this year. Your support is critical and has helped to build a stronger base for the Foundation. As we look to the future, we know you will inspire us with your stories of giving, empower us to make a difference, and guide us through your commitment.

Thank you for letting the Foundation be part of the last 50 years, and thank you for being part of the Foundation's future.

Sincerely,



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Lynn M. Kuehn, MS, RHIA, CCS-P, FAHIMA  
Chair, Board of Directors  
AHIMA Foundation



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William J. Rudman, PhD, RHIA  
Executive Director, AHIMA Foundation  
Vice President, Educational Visioning, AHIMA

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