



FOUNDATION MATTERS

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A Message from the new AHIMA Foundation Executive Director, Bill Rudman

I am delighted to be taking on the leadership of the AHIMA Foundation at such an exciting time for our industry.

As the impact of healthcare reform continues to unfold, the AHIMA Foundation will continue to meet the needs of the health information management (HIM) profession. Through our research, education, and workforce training initiatives we have the opportunity to reach out to all of our members and the education community in a meaningful way. Some of our current projects include: work with 3M that will help quantify the value of the HIM professional, a collaboration with the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning that will allow us to provide career counseling stipends that will include college credits, and the Delta Workforce project that will help us develop training curriculum for those who are under or unemployed.



Recently we expanded our means of support for AHIMA members by establishing the Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) Fund, an ongoing recovery source to assist HIM professionals whose lives and communities have been shattered by natural or man-made catastrophes. It is important that as an HIM community we band together and support our colleagues who have been victims of tragedies that often disrupt their lives both personally and professionally.

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 Salt Lake City 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.

None of this important work could happen without your generous contributions,

which allow us the privilege of serving the HIM profession and industry. We thank you for your generous support in the past and ask for your continued support to help us better serve you in the future.

Sincerely,



Bill Rudman, PhD, RHIA
Executive Director
AHIMA Foundation

AHIMA Foundation 2011 Student Merit Scholarship Application Now Online

One of the major initiatives of the AHIMA Foundation is to attract and support new talent in the health information industry by improving educational opportunities for current and future health information management (HIM) professionals through merit scholarship offerings.

The application form for the 2011 Student Merit Scholarship program is now online, with awards available for both undergraduate and graduate level students. HIM and HIT undergraduate students currently enrolled in CAHIIM-accredited HIM programs are encouraged to apply for a merit scholarship. Graduate students enrolled in master's, PhD, or JD degree programs in areas related to health information are also encouraged to apply.

The scholarship application deadline is Friday, September 30. Visit the [AHIMA Foundation website](#) to access the application form, eligibility requirements, FAQs, and other information about applying for a scholarship.

In 2010 the AHIMA Foundation awarded scholarships to 72 qualified candidates for a total of **\$94,650** in awards, and we would like to be able to continue this level of important student support through 2011. One impactful way to support the Student Merit Scholarship program is by participating in the Foundation's Silent Auction fundraiser at the 83rd Annual AHIMA Convention and Exhibit in Salt Lake City, UT. Donating an item to the auction is a great opportunity to showcase your organization while supporting the education of future HIM professionals. You can learn more about the Silent Auction in the newsletter article below, and by visiting [the Foundation website](#), where you can also access our online donation reservation form.

AHIMA Foundation Establishes the HIRO Fund

In June, AHIMA and the AHIMA Foundation announced the creation of the Health Information Relief Operation (HIRO) Fund, an ongoing recovery source to assist HIM professionals whose lives and communities have been shattered by natural or man-made catastrophe. Through the generosity of AHIMA members and HIM's greater professional community, and begun with a \$10,000 donation by AHIMA, the HIRO Fund will provide material relief to those whose professional practice has been shaken beyond the call of duty.

Provided they meet the eligibility requirements, AHIMA members in recently-declared disaster areas are invited to submit an application for up to \$500 to assist in their efforts to return to work while recovering from the disaster.

August 24-26

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

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

Upcoming AHIMA Convention & Exhibit Dates and Locations

[October 1-6, 2011](#)
[Salt Lake City, UT](#)

Summer 2011 Issue of *Perspectives* Now Available

The Summer 2011 issue of the AHIMA Foundation's research journal, *Perspectives in Health Information Management*, is now available. Click [here](#) to read a study of legibility in medical records; an analysis of pharmacists' perceptions of EHRs in the state of Nebraska; a study of information systems benefits for nurses; and a qualitative study for improving the accuracy of ICD-9-CM coding. [Learn more](#) about the submission guidelines and the manuscript review process.



The [Communities of](#)

Through the HIRO Fund the AHIMA Foundation would like to help as many members as possible, who today are struggling to piece back together their own lives while, in many cases, also helping restore healthcare services for neighborhoods that have been torn apart by disaster. We are asking for all AHIMA and Foundation supporters to please consider making a donation to this extremely important cause.

This is not the last year that disasters will strike, but it will be the last year that victims of these tragedies have to do without the immediate support of their HIM colleagues—but only with your help and support. 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](#).

AHIMA Foundation Research Update

The AHIMA Foundation is committed to establishing public and private collaborations to advance applied health services research and commissioned work focused on health information management (HIM). These research initiatives enrich the HIM knowledge base by producing and publishing evidence-based policies, promising new practices, and practical options for decision makers. The following highlights some of the important research-related work of the Foundation:

Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) Grant on Data Privacy and Security

The Foundation is working with the ONC on a guide to privacy and data security for solo and small group practices that are implementing electronic medical record systems. The guide will include best practices, tools and case studies, references, health information exchange issues, and addressing privacy and security concerns of their patients. The guide is expected to be completed in August and will be available on the Foundation website.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

The Foundation submitted a contract in collaboration with A-Team Solutions (ATS) to CMS to update the CMS online manual system (26 manuals) with ICD-10 codes. ATS is the prime contractor and a preferred CMS vendor. The AHIMA Foundation would be a subcontractor to conduct this work with AHIMA ICD-10 experts, providing content, staff, and quality oversight for this 24-month project. CMS will announce the contract award by August 1.

[Read more.](#)

AHIMA Convention and Exhibit

October 1 – 6, 2011

If you plan to attend this year's AHIMA Convention and Exhibit in Salt Lake City, UT, be sure to reserve time on your schedule for all of the exciting programs that the AHIMA Foundation will be hosting:

Silent Auction

October 1 – 5, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (MDT) (bidding closes at 1 p.m. Tuesday, October 4)

The annual AHIMA Foundation Silent Auction, sponsored by Medwrite, is an important contributor to the Student Merit Scholarship program, with the 2010 auction raising over \$30,000 for scholarship awards. In 2010, the Foundation awarded 72 scholarships to outstanding undergraduate and graduate HIM

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



students, and hopes to continue this critical student support with the 2011 auction.

We encourage you to visit and bid often in the spirit of this charitable cause. In addition, the Foundation is also currently accepting donations for auction items through our [online donation form](#), and we would like to have a large display of unique items to encourage many donors to place bids. More information on supporting the Silent Auction can be found on [the Foundation website](#).

[Read more.](#)

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