



AFMC

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
L'Association des facultés de médecine du Canada

The AFMC Informatics Resource Group

Report to the AFMC Board of Directors

May 2011

AFMC Informatics Resource Group Annual Report 2010-2011

Background

The AFMC Informatics Resource Group (IRG) brings together educational technologists, instructional designers, and medical informatics and IT professionals from the 17 schools that make up the AFMC. The IRG has a number of functions:

- To act as a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas and practices of interest and relevance to members
- To act as a clearing house for collaborative projects and other activities
- To act in an advisory capacity to the AFMC Board on Informatics matters

The current Chair, Dr Rachel Ellaway from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, took up the position in 2008 and is stepping down at the end of her three-year term at the CCME in Toronto in 2011. Dave Lampron from UBC has been nominated as the new chair for 2011-2013; his appointment is awaiting ratification by the AFMC Board. Dr Ellaway will continue to serve as Vice Chair. Wes Robertson (UofT) continues as the IRG Secretary and Chair of the IT sub-group.

Resource Group Business

The IRG meets throughout the Saturday of the CCME/AFMC meeting. Although there is now a membership model for the IRG the business meeting remains open to other CCME attendees (although in a non-voting capacity). Cross group liaison is actively encouraged.

As with other AFMC resource groups each school nominates 1 official member that they undertake to send to the annual CCME meeting. The IRG membership was reconfirmed with the Deans in the fall of 2010 as follows:

| <i>Institution</i> | <i>Official member</i> | <i>Alternate(s)</i> |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Dalhousie University, Faculty of Medicine | Dr. Katrina Hurley | None named |
| McGill University, Faculty of Medicine | Dr Dave Fleiszer | None named |
| McMaster University, Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine | Dr Anthony Levinson | None named |
| Memorial University of Newfoundland, Faculty of Medicine | Sean O'Neill | Gerard Farrell |
| Northern Ontario School of Medicine | Dr Rachel Ellaway | None named |
| Queen's University, Faculty of Health Sciences | Dr Lewis Tomalty | Matt Simpson, Lynel Jackson, James Ellis, Andrew Dos-Santos, Larry Killen |
| University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry | No response from this institution | |
| University of British Columbia, Faculty of Medicine | Dave Lampron | None named |
| University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine | Janet Tworek | None named |
| Université Laval, Faculté de médecine | No response from this institution | |
| University of Manitoba, Faculty of Medicine | Dr. Sat Sharma | Keith McConnell, Ben Goldstein |
| Université de Montréal, Faculté de médecine | Dr. Richard Ratelle | None named |
| University of Ottawa, Faculty of Medicine | Daniel Trottier | None named |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine | John Costa | Associate Director for Learning Services (TBD) |
| Université de Sherbrooke, Faculté de médecine et des sciences de la santé | No response from this institution | |
| University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine | Dr. Marcus Law | None named |
| University of Western Ontario, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry | No response from this institution | |

Those institutions that have not yet identified their representatives and alternates are asked to do so as a matter of priority.

The second half of the Saturday IRG at CCME meetings has been given over to an open access 'unconference' where topics and discussions of interest are drawn from the participants and impromptu sessions held around these topics. The approach allows a very heterogeneous group to fluidly and quickly explore areas of common interest and options for collaboration, sharing and better understanding. Each year this involves 50 or so participants from a wide range of backgrounds and is well received by all concerned.

The format is being changed for the 2011 CCME meeting to include a panel along with two unconference sessions.

Activities outside the IRG CCME meetings include:

- CHEC-CESC was transferred to be an AFMC-managed initiative at the 2010 meeting with a steering committee drawn from the IRG community.
- Improved liaison with other groups, in particular the AAMC Group on Information Resources (GIR), is being pursued. Morgan Passiment, the lead for the GIR is now a regular attendee at CCME.
- The informatics discussion group organized by Marcelina Piotrowski at UBC and Janet Tworek at UCalgary has continued to meet on a regular basis. The group brings together participants from across Canada using a web conferencing platform. Discussions cover a wide range of informatics topics and the group is intended to function both as an expert panel and as forum for professional development.
- The IT subgroup holds a separate meeting for the discussion of technical matters on the Sunday of CCME. A national benchmarking survey has been conducted of IT facilities to support better-informed practice as well as identifying areas for collaboration and other joint activities.
- The advisory role of the Group is perhaps the least well-developed aspects of its activities. Given the strategic role of information technologies and digital environments in contemporary health professional education the IRG continues to seek to expand this aspect of its mandate and asks for the Board's support in doing so.

Summary

Future directions and developments will be discussed at the IRG meeting at CCME in Toronto in May. We welcome input and engagement from other AFMC Groups as well as the Board on the matters discussed in this report as well as any other informatics-related issues.

As outgoing Chair I would like to thank the members of the IRG for their support and inspiration over the years as well as that of the AFMC and its Board. I hope you will extend your full support to my successor.

Dr Rachel Ellaway (IRG Chair), April 2011