The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) Achieving the Strategic Vision
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The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) is a collaboration of organizations that represent a unified voice for nursing informatics. Our mission is to provide a single connection point between nursing informatics individuals and groups and the broader nursing and healthcare community. The efforts of our individual ANI members, when combined under the collaborative entity of ANI, provide the synergy and structure needed to advance the efforts of individual nursing informatics professionals. In order to achieve the ANI vision and to maximize individual member efforts, a strategic plan was created to clearly define goals and support activities to meet those goals. The ANI organization embarked upon this initiative toward the end of 2005, defining a strategic plan for 2006 and 2007. This article reviews progress made on those strategic goals.

ANI is a collaboration of organizations that represent a unified voice for nursing informatics. The Alliance represents more than 3000 nurses and brings together 22 distinct nursing informatics groups in the US. These groups function separately at local, regional, and national levels and have established programs, publications, and organizational structures for their members. ANI provides the synergy and structure needed to advance the efforts of nursing informatics professionals in improving the delivery of patient care.

The ANI governing directors consists of representatives of organizational groups that have a nursing informatics focus and will guide the strategic goals and activities of the Alliance throughout the year.

ANI is dedicated to fostering further development of a united voice for nursing informatics; providing a single connection point between nursing informatics groups and the broader nursing and healthcare community; providing a mechanism for transforming care and developing resources for nursing informatics practice, public policy, research, networking, and career services; and supporting individual membership in the affiliated nursing informatics organizations.

■ IMPORTANCE FOR EACH NURSE

The strategic goals were created—and are supported—by nurses representing all facets of nursing informatics practice. Every member represented in ANI shares the responsibility to move forward and achieve these goals. The collective efforts of individual members will enable us to foster further development of a united voice for nursing informatics and will provide a single connection point between nursing informatics individuals and groups and the broader nursing and healthcare community.

■ THE STRATEGIC PLAN

In the first half of 2006, we focused on categorizing and prioritizing the 45 great ideas suggested by the ANI membership. Four overarching priority areas provide the framework for the strategic goals. These areas are:

1. Maintain and increase communication channels
2. Encourage education
3. Increase involvement and leadership
4. Promote and enhance nursing informatics (NI) professional practice

The goals were discussed and voted for during a meeting of the governing directors in July 2006. Several
governing directors volunteered to each lead a work group to work on activities within these goals.

Each lead first solicited volunteers for a work group, reaching across member organizations. Then, each group formulated an action plan and provided a status update at the end of August. Each work group lead presented to the governing directors at the in-person meeting in November 2006. Feedback was solicited on work done to date and future plans.

Next steps include touching base at the in-person meeting at the end of February, adding links to completed work from the ANI Web site and continuing to move forward with the activities.

## SUMMARY OF WORK GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Jacqueline Moss (ASCI) is leading a work group to put together a mentoring program for informatics nurses. Nurses from MINING, DVNCN, NCNA, and ASCI are participating in the work group. The plan is to initiate a pilot mentoring project, gather feedback, and determine what the next steps will be at that point.

Anne Scharnhorst and Cheryl Parker (PSNI) are working on a way to best develop and disseminate tool kits that can be used by all informatics nurses. They are working with Jerry Chamberlain (CARING) and Patricia Dykes (HIMSS NI) to coordinate efforts and leverage what is already available and to communicate what is already available. Discussion is under way to determine the best way to continue this effort.

Mollie Poynton (UNIN) is looking into outreach and empowerment of informatics nurses and offered collaboration on projects that are undertaken. Curtis Dykes (ANIA) presented a summary of effective marketing techniques to the governing directors.

Rosemary Kennedy (DVNCN) has an enthusiastic group participating and leading activities in several areas.

We extend many thanks to the work groups for the exciting work they are doing toward ANI’s 2006–2007 priorities. When the group meets, the synergy is palpable and ripples through each of these projects.

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**ALLIANCE FOR NURSING INFORMATICS ANNOUNCES NEW CO-CHAIR: CAROLE A. GASSERT**

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American Medical Informatics Association

ANI announces the appointment of Carole A. Gassert, RN, PhD, FACMI, FAAN, associate professor and associate dean for information and technology, University of Utah College of Nursing, as its new co-chair. Gassert will represent AMIA and joins Joyce Sensmeier, MS, RN, BC, CP-HIMS, FHIMSS, who represents HIMSS as the other co-chair of ANI. The co-chairs are responsible for the management of the property and business of ANI and work closely with the ANI governing directors and steering committee. Gassert replaces Connie White Delaney, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI, dean and professor, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota, who had served 2 years on the steering committee.

Gassert has directed the Nursing Informatics program at the University of Utah since October 2002. In her position as associate dean, information and technology, she focuses her efforts on numerous informatics projects that have been implemented in the College of Nursing. Dr. Gassert is a long-standing advocate for NI, working to establish NI as a specialty within nursing and developing the first NI graduate program in the world at the University of Maryland. She spent 6 years in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the federal government, where she served as an informatics nurse consultant to the Bureau of Health Professions and the Division of Nursing and Senior Distance Learning Advisor for HRSA before accepting employment at the University of Utah. Dr. Gassert is an informatics expert in NI curriculum, NI competencies, telehealth, and informatics policy and has served in numerous roles in AMIA’s NI initiatives.

Gassert accepts her new role with a sincere appreciation of what has been accomplished to date, and a positive outlook toward the future.

“We are delighted to have the leadership of Dr. Gassert as co-chair of ANI,” said Karen Greenwood, AMIA executive vice president. “She is a champion for nursing informatics and an innovator in the field. Her dynamic leadership and vision will create a path to move towards our goal to improve and impact patient safety and the quality of health care delivery and access.”

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**SAVE THE DATE: 2007 AMIA SPRING CONGRESS**

Mark your calendar for a can’t-miss event in the informatics community. AMIA is heading to Orlando and intends to build upon the recent success of its annual spring gatherings one more time! The 2007 AMIA Spring Congress will be held May 22 to 24, 2007, at the Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando, FL. The Spring Congress promises to draw on the expertise of informatics’ professionals from across the spectrum of the discipline and provide focused content in 5 topic areas. The AMIA Spring Congress highlights several specific areas of endeavors within the field of informatics that will play a pivotal role in...
the transformation of the health system in the United States and abroad. Program themes speak directly to how informatics and the use of health information technology can catalyze advances in clinical care, public and population health, and translational research informatics.

AMIA has produced 5 distinct tracks to highlight these domains:

- Clinical Decision Support
- Nursing Informatics
- Personal Health Records
- Public Health Informatics
- Translational Research Informatics

Track learning objectives of the NI track include:

- identify the maximal role of NI for supporting nurses as patient advocates, care coordinators, and communicators

The early bird member rates for this conference (available through March 16, 2007) are $545 for regular, retired, corporate, and institutional members; and $395 for student members.

**REFERENCE**

1. Alliance for Nursing Informatics operating guidelines, April 2006. Available at: http://www.allianceni.org/about.asp.