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**Editor's Note**

By: Laura Caravetta, RHIA



Happy New Year! I would first like to thank Sherisse for her unwavering dedication to Connect and MaHIMA. She has generously helped me with my transition as Connect Editor and I can only hope to continue her extraordinary work.

As a 2012 graduate of Davenport University's Health Information Management program, I discovered firsthand how valuable a resource MaHIMA is for education, assistance, and camaraderie for students. In the course of my studies, I often found it difficult to complete the practicum requirements since I was an online student, who was out of state.

Reaching out to MaHIMA for assistance provided me with the tools and guidance that allowed me to graduate with my Bachelor's in Science as well as obtain a position in the field. I am thankful for the opportunities MaHIMA has offered and urge students to take a moment to learn more about MaHIMA and the organization's volunteer opportunities.

As the New Connect Editor, I hope to encourage students and recent graduates to take a more active role in the organization and volunteer. Volunteering with MaHIMA provides an individual with a unique experience at the same time allows MaHIMA to tailor education, seminars, and other opportunities towards students and new graduates.

As we step into the New Year, please take a moment and reflect how MaHIMA has made a difference in your career and how you might assist MaHIMA in paying it forward for the next generation of HIM professionals.

Please feel free to contact me at [lcavetta@partners.org](mailto:lcavetta@partners.org) or (617)582-5214 if you have ideas or suggestions for articles!

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**Calendar of Events:**

[MaHIMA Winter  
Meeting/Coding  
Seminar](#)

January 25, 2013

**Congratulations  
to our newly  
credentialed  
members:**

Susan Crawford, CCA

Sallie Moynihan, CCS

Vidya Jayaraj, CCS-P

**On the Web at  
MaHIMA.org:**

[Current job postings in the  
MaHIMA Job Bank](#)

[U.S Department of Health &  
Human Services News  
Release: New rule protects  
patient privacy, secures  
health information](#)

## President's Message

By: Linda Young, JD, RHIA



Another crisp season of MaHIMA is upon us. We are sliding quickly toward another fiscal year and boy what a ride so far! In a few short months we have proudly transitioned the central office to Attleboro and our new Administrative Director, Elisa Pelchat has settled nicely into her new role. MaHIMA is proud to report that since the winter meeting; we have held 3 additional successful meetings with one on the way this month. They are:

October 26th - Western MA Fall Meeting

November 9th - Dot Wagg Memorial Legislative Seminar

November 16 AHIMA Coder Workforce Training

January 25, 2013 MaHIMA Winter Meeting and Coding Seminar

As many of you know, MaHIMA is actively under way with its plans to organize a 2013 Annual Conference in Hyannis this year. This came on the heels of a recent decision to withdraw from the New England Conference, which has since disbanded. Over the past 15 years, the six New England Health Information Management Associations (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island and Vermont) partnered together to conduct an Annual Conference. However, in reviewing the MaHIMA budget, the Board of directors recognized that each and every element of profit or loss had to be evaluated.

The MaHIMA has reported to the membership over the past several years, the necessity to transfer moneys out of the reserves to cover expenses each year. We were headed toward what I like to call our very own "fiscal cliff". The Board recognized that we could not continue to operate this way and expect to sustain a fiscally sound enterprise beyond 2013.

Our 2012-2013 budgetary goal is to eliminate the need to tap into the reserves. In order to accomplish this, we first had to begin to evaluate our fiscal history and determine where the problematic areas were, and focus on making change in those problematic areas. We also began to look at our current operating state, while comparing that to our desired future state and determine where the changes are necessary moving forward. As a start, the board began with an analysis of the profit/losses related to the NE meeting. This analysis included a comparison of potential profit/loss when holding the in-state conference versus the known profit/loss from prior NE conferences. This analysis showed that our continued participation in the NE conference was showing less and less profit each year, exacerbating the need to pull from reserves. And we could begin to right the ship while continuing to provide our membership with valuable educational workshops and seminars, by withdrawing from the New England meeting, along with a few other initiatives which I will discuss.

And as it goes, MaHIMA's dramatic transformation has officially begun. We will be embarking on a few new adventures in 2013. The first, as I mentioned in my previous letter, is in our commitment to the 2012-2013 strategic initiatives by offering more Web-ex seminars. This embodies a multitude of valuables to the membership's employers as well as our members themselves, because it results in less time away from the office, less travel related costs, and lower seminar fees. So many more 'webinars' to come to members! We hope that this new 'meeting at your desk' option will be helpful in offering more sessions in specialty topics in an affordable and convenient way for members.

We also continue down the path of strengthening our association through diversity. MaHIMA can achieve and sustain a high level of recognition in the industry by ensuring that we have reached out to as many potential members as possible. As a result of the decision to hold an in-state conference, we put out a call for volunteers. The response was overwhelming! I want to thank you all. Thank you, thank you, thank you, sincerely! It is our members who will make our association strong and it is our members who will pull together and make it happen. This will broaden the scope of our internal knowledge base and increase in-state professional networking, allowing MaHIMA to position itself as a stronger resource in the healthcare industry than ever before.

*Continued on page 3...*

*President Message Continued from page 2...*

Coming up in March, I will have the opportunity to participate in the AHIMA Leadership Symposium and Hill Day in DC. Delegates, Nancy LaFianza, President-Elect and Ellen MacMullen, Legislative Director will be joining me. A few other dates and information to remember:

January 25, 2013 MaHIMA Winter Meeting and Coding Seminar

June 19-21, 2013 MaHIMA Annual Conference in Hyannis, MA

Our previously announced, newly updated version of the Medicolegal Guide is still available! This great resource has been updated and is available in both paper and CD versions. Check the MaHIMA website for information about ordering and pricing.

MaHIMA members who purchase the on-line Anatomy & Physiology Education program offered by Barry Libman, Inc will receive a discount. The program was created by coders, for coders, to provide refresher training that will benefit coders now and will also be very important during the transition to ICD-10. Taking the time to brush up on Anatomy & Physiology now will help with ICD-9 coding, and strong A&P skills will be very important as we transition to ICD-10.

need of a co-chair for the legislative committee. Also, the position of Legislative Director/Delegate will be opening up for the 2013-2014 term. We can always use volunteers as there are several different committees that need help and the work they do is interesting and rewarding, and it is a good way to network with your peers in the HIM profession. Please feel free to contact me at 781-272-8001, or at [lyoung@aboutams.com](mailto:lyoung@aboutams.com).

**Have a wonderful, but not too chilly winter season!**

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## Awards

By: Susan Pepple



### **MaHIMA Individual Achievement Awards to be given at Winter Meeting:**

Make your plans now to join colleagues at the MaHIMA Winter Meeting on Friday, January 25, 2013. At this meeting, MaHIMA will take a moment to recognize four individuals for the achievements and contributions. The awards are:

#### Outstanding New Professional

The Outstanding New Professional award recognizes and encourages the best of new talent in health information administration or health information technology..

#### Champion Award

The Champion Award honors those whose long-term and enthusiastic support of MaHIMA and the HIM profession have advanced MaHIMA's capacity to achieve its mission.

#### Professional Achievement Award

The Professional Achievement Award honors a MaHIMA member for numerous and long-term contributions to the HIM profession.

#### Distinguished Member Award

MaHIMA's highest honor, the Distinguished Member Award recognizes a member for their long, exceptional history of contributions to MaHIMA through dedicated volunteer service and association leadership.

Detailed information on all MaHIMA awards is available here: [http://mahima.org/awards\\_program/](http://mahima.org/awards_program/)

Contact Susan Pepple, Awards Committee Chair with any questions. 978-369-7180 or [spepple@barrylibmaninc.com](mailto:spepple@barrylibmaninc.com)

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!! We are in

## Communications

By: Jeanne Fernandes, RHIA



The Communications Committee collaborated with the Education Committee this Fall to organize an interactive Student Advisory Panel session at our Fall meeting. During the session HIM Program Directors, Educators, HIM Professionals, and Students shared ideas for fostering valuable interactions between HIM students and HIM professionals. Participants offered innovative ways to expose students to HIM opportunities while helping HIM professionals complete projects and accomplish goals. The session was well attended and received very positive feedback. Additional sessions are planned for upcoming meetings.

Our Website Content Editors, Martha Hamel and Julianne Blanch have been focused on keeping our website updated and relevant. Please feel free to contact Martha or Julianne if you have comments or suggestions for our website.

Our Long Term Care (LTC) – Post Acute Care (PAC) Forum planned in November was postponed due to power outages as a result of Hurricane Sandy. The meeting was rescheduled for Thursday, January 10th from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn. The meeting was hosted by Monica Baggio Tormey, BS, RHIA, CHP Privacy Officer and Regional Director of Health Information Management at New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn.

In addition, the Committee continues to develop member e-Surveys, Job Alerts and e-Alerts and our Social Networking Team is working on enhancing and integrating MaHIMA's online presence on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

We encourage you to follow us online:



Volunteering with MaHIMA is a rewarding experience. If you have an interest in working with the Committee on any of these initiatives, please contact me.

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## Finance

By: Linda Hyde, RHIA



At the Fall Meeting, the FY 2013 budgeted was presented to the membership. The projected budget for the year is \$105,669. First quarter income was \$23,866 with expenses of \$20,869. Eighty-four (84) % of our income for the first quarter comes from Fall Meeting and the Massachusetts proceeds from the NE HIM annual meeting. Complete Fall Meeting income and expenses will be available in the second quarter report. Expenses represent administrative costs and the AHIMA summer team talks and leadership meeting.

As of the end of September MaHIMA has \$109,481 totaling in assets with 81 % (\$89,078) in the Merrill Lynch and Fidelity accounts for reserves. This represents approximately 9 months of our expenses.

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## Legislative Affairs

By: Ellen MacMullin, RHIA



[Here is a snapshot of recent and upcoming activities:](#)

The annual Dot Wag Memorial Legislative Seminar was held on November 9, 2012. It was very well attended; there were over 90 registered attendees. Topics included Anatomy of a Breach, Health Information Exchange, Transforming the HIM Workforce in One of the Oldest Medical Record Departments in America and an Update on General Release of Information. Thank you to all for attending this Annual event. We look forward to planning next year's event.

The Committee will begin plans for our Annual Visit to Beacon Hill. The date of this event is tentatively scheduled in May 2013. Stay connected for more information.

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## ICD-10 Update

By: Linda Hyde, RHIA

With this January 2013 issue of Connect, we are now only 22 months away from ICD-10 implementation on October 1, 2014. Since the finalization of the new implementation date by CMS organizations should have already revised their project plan and timelines to meet this new date.

The MaHIMA ICD-10 Forum met in November to discuss next steps for the association to support our members with preparations for ICD-10 implementation. It was decided to start meeting every other month starting in January 2013. The January meeting will focus on the agenda for the fourth annual MaHIMA ICD-10 Summit this spring, development of a training plan and potential coding Career Fair to bring schools, providers and vendors together. Anyone who is interested in participating in this forum can email Sue Marre for more information at [susan.marre@steward.org](mailto:susan.marre@steward.org).

The Massachusetts Health Data Consortium (MHDC) is continuing its monthly ICD-10 Forum meetings. The second Provider Readiness Survey was conducted in November and results of the survey should provide more information on the status of the various provider organizations across the state in preparing for the transition to ICD-10. Information from this survey will be invaluable to determine what resources will be needed to help providers in meeting this deadline. Meetings are held monthly, if you or your organization is a member of MHDC and you would like to attend please check out the ICD10 Forum page under Resources at the MHDC website <http://mahealthdata.org/>.

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## Laptop Encryption Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

By: Martha Hamel

By now, everyone is aware of the Massachusetts regulations that require ALL confidential data (including medical information, staff demographics, medical insurance, billing, etc) stored on laptops be encrypted. Encrypting laptops – (encoding data into a format that is only readable with a password) - helps Dana-Farber take additional steps to safeguard patient and staff confidential information.

Dana-Farber and Partners Information Services implemented a program to encrypt laptops that connect to the Partners network. Laptop encryption is part of an ongoing initiative to improve the security of DFCI's personal information and comply with state and federal privacy laws.

At the recent Joint Commission Readiness Fair held at Dana-Farber, the Health Information Services Department offered laptop encryption and "Stop Tags" for laptops used by staff to connect to the Partners Network. Staff dropped off their devices and were able to pick them up in an hour or so.



In addition, the Security Office offered the "Stop Tag", which adds an extra layer of security to the mobile device. Stop Tags (Security Tracking of Office Property) can be applied to laptops used by staff at the institute. They adhere tightly to the computer and contain a bar-coded identification number that is on file with the owner's name in an online registry maintained by a private organization.

By calling the toll-free number on the sticker, anyone suspecting the laptop may be stolen can find out who the owner is. If the sticker is removed, a message is revealed that states "This Laptop Is Stolen".

### Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: *What is full-disk encryption?*

A: Full-disk encryption is the process of encoding all the data on a computer's hard drive. A computer using full-disk encryption cannot be started until the proper password is entered, thus protecting the data on the device from unauthorized disclosure.

Q: *What if I don't have access to personal health information on my laptop? Do I still need to encrypt it?*

A: Yes. All laptops connecting to the DFCI network must be encrypted. If you have a DFCI issued or personal laptop, you are required to encrypt the machine if you are connecting to the DFCI network, even if you are just using email.

Q: *I bought my own laptop and use it to work remotely. Do I need to encrypt my device?*

A: Yes. You will need to install full-disk encryption software on it. You may use SafeBoot™ or choose your own full-disk encryption product.

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### MaHIMA, Welcomes a New Administrative Director



Elisa Pelchat is an independent contractor with 18+ years of experience in healthcare consulting practices. She has demonstrated success in

marketing, communications, logistics, meeting planning, business development support and consulting. Working with healthcare consulting firms and for companies like Tyco Healthcare (now Covidien), Starbucks Coffee Company and United Parcel Service, Elisa has worked in various industries adapting and continuing to develop and grow her skill sets.

She has been a member of AHIMA since 2009 and has completed the Coding Basics program in order to further educate herself to assist in collaborative efforts with medical specialists to develop clinical documentation training manuals and presentations. Elisa, her husband and their two daughters reside in Southeastern, MA.



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### MaHIMA Winter Meeting/Coding Seminar

*"Embracing Challenges in Health Information Management (HIM)"*

When: Friday, January 25, 2013

7:30 AM - 3:15 PM

Where: Dedham Holiday Inn

55 Ariadne Road

Dedham, Massachusetts 02026

781-407-2280

MaHIMA's 2013 Winter Meeting and Coding Seminar offers two tracks of education to health information managers and coding professionals. This year's meeting offers 5 continuing education units (ceu's) to health information management professionals on topics such as Playing a Key Role within your ACO, Coding & Documentation for Therapy Services, Panel Discussion with the Schools and MaHIMA, Coding External Causes of Injury, Patient Portal, HACs and SREs, ICD-10 Implementation and AHIMA Tools and Tips. A state business meeting and awards will be held during lunch.

[Click Here For More Information](#)



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### SAVE THE DATE...

#### MaHIMA ICD-10 Summit

When: April 5, 2013

Where: The Lantana, Randolph, MA

Registration information for attendees will be available early February

[Click Here For More Information](#)

#### MaHIMA Annual Conference

When: June 19-21, 2013

Where: Cape Cod Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA (

MaHIMA is pleased to announce a three day conference offering educational networking & exhibiting opportunities to the New England HIM community and our business partners.

The content-rich and timely meeting will focus on broad HIM topics as well as topics specific to Massachusetts. The meeting will be structured to ensure plenty of high-quality face time for exhibitors with our members, many of whom are decision-makers for purchases at their facilities.

Our conference will offer three days of continuing education and two days of tradeshow activities. Attendees benefit from 17+ hours of continuing education, networking, and seeing the latest and greatest in health information technology. Our event welcomes 250 attendees and 70+ companies who provide services to the HIM profession.

Exhibitor registration will be available in January.

## MaHIMA Dot Wagg Memorial Seminar

November 9, 2012



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## Fisher College

By: Valerie McCleary

Fisher College is happy to report that the AHIMA School Score Report for RHIT candidates who tested between 10/1/11 and 6/30/12 had a 100% pass rate for students that took the exam on their first try! We extend our sincere congratulations to those students and proudly thank the instructors.

Two new and exciting projects are underway:

An ICD-10-Work Force Training Program will be released in early 2013 to the public. This can be completed online. Accommodations may be arranged to present this training in a classroom setting in the New England area as instructors are available. This will be advertised and the fee will be set at \$149.00 per person.

RHIT and RHIA preparation courses are being created for the online environment (outside of the degree programs) and will be available to the general public for those who may be interested.

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