

MaHiMA

AHIMA Affiliate

Massachusetts Health Information
Management Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JULY 2022- PRESIDENT LETTER



To My Fellow Health Information Professionals,

The pandemic has forever changed the way our healthcare is delivered. Gone are the days of only being seen at the doctor's office. Now, we have digital solutions that offer remote monitoring of patients, mini cameras to take images, Bluetooth devices, and other remote healthcare diagnostic tools. It is now more important than ever that we look for ways to have our voices heard and maintain our seat at the table within all areas of healthcare (i.e., hospitals, medical device companies, pharmaceutical, research, etc.).

Many important stakeholders do not understand what Health Information Management is and why it is important. Without HIM professionals being advocates, we will watch our domains slip away to areas of the business that may not be subject matter experts, such as IT. We need to be an advocate for our profession and demonstrate our relevance. HIM professionals play a vital role within all operations. HIM sets the standards of documentation for EMR builds, establishes proper procedures for the release of information, and is critical for data capture through coding information. Our data is used for budgeting, decision-making for implementing new programs, and quality score ratings just for starters.

As my final act as President, I will ask each one of you to become an active participant in MaHIMA to help strengthen the association. Silence and lack of participation sends a strong message - that we do not care or that it doesn't matter. Active participation is key to propelling our profession forward. By sharing best practices and identifying ways to get our voices heard, we can continue to expand our presence. This organization is more than just a way to get your CEUs. Our voices can make a difference, but we need to come together and support one another. Strength comes from unity.

As I come to the end of my term as MaHIMA President, I want to thank the Board, past Presidents (especially Scott Eischen and Bibi Von Malder), committee directors, sponsors, members, and especially our Administrator Director Elisa Pelchat for your support and guidance. It has been a privilege to serve the organization this past year. Best wishes to President Love Otuechere for an exciting year ahead!

Laura Caravetta, MPH, RHIA
MaHIMA President