

HIM-Interchange

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Letter from the Editor

Joanne Fitzgerald



Dear *HIM-Interchange* readers

Welcome to the first issue for 2020 and a brand new decade!

In this issue, Sadiya Askar (2020) shares her journey as a health information management student at La Trobe University over the past three years. Most of us can still remember that sense of trepidation and feeling out of our depth as students on our professional practice placements. It is not always easy to push yourself out of your comfort zone, but it sounds like Sadiya embraced the challenges, including travelling overseas and taking on a leadership role in the health information management student body. Another emerging health information management professional, Alexandra Van Gemert (2020), also shares her story of starting out in her health information management career, with a role in a regional New South Wales health service.

However, it is not only students and new graduates who are capable of pushing themselves out of their comfort zones. If you are looking for some inspiration to take a chance or make a change in 2020, look no further than Julie Wilson's (2020) article on her time spent volunteering at the Children's Surgical Centre in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. I really enjoyed reading Julie's account of her time at the hospital, the accomplishments of herself and her colleagues and the ongoing support she has been able to provide to make a difference to the staff and patients at the Children's Surgical Centre. Her reflections show what a life changing experience it must have been. The article also reinforces that quality of clinical documentation is a universal issue. I wonder how Dr Jim's strategy for ensuring doctors complete their operation reports would go down in Australia?

Knowing that clinical documentation improvement is a topic of interest to many of you, we have included an article from the current *Health Information Management Journal* Special Issue on Clinical Coding and the Quality and Integrity of Health Data. The article discusses the importance of clinical documentation improvement for Australian hospitals (Hay et al 2020). In the article, the authors consider the literature on the case for implementing clinical documentation improvement programs in hospitals and outline some of the challenges of implementation. I encourage you to have a look at the other articles in the special issue of the *Health Information Management Journal*, accessible through the Health Information Management Association of Australia (HIMAA) website.

Julie Price (2020) also shares her insights on clinical documentation improvement gained from the presenters at the 19th International Federation of Health Information Management Associations Congress, which was held in Dubai in November 2019. Presentations at the congress provided delegates with tips on how to achieve clinician engagement and how to measure the success of your clinical documentation improvement program. For those interested in continuing the international flavour, check out the article on HIMAA's International Special Interest Group by Suzette Dela Cruz Regalo (2020).

Krivozhnya et al (2020) showcase some of the events organised by Health Information Managers to celebrate Health Information Management Awareness Month in 2019, including tours, open days, morning teas, audits and aerial photography. I hope the article gives you some ideas and inspires you to organise or take part in events for 2020.

If you were not able to attend the HIMAA/National Centre for Classification in Health conference in Sydney in October 2019, or were in attendance but want to find out more, we have included papers from two of the conference presenters. Firstly, Mardi Ellis (2020) takes us through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11) review project, which aimed to provide evidence to support decision making and implementation planning for ICD-11. Next, Clare Searson and Laura Harris (2020) provide a more in depth analysis of the Independent Hospital

Pricing Authority's development of the new Australian Emergency Care Classification.

Lastly, I hope you enjoy reading what goes on behind the scenes at *HIM-Interchange* and the reflections of some of the HIM Interchange Subcommittee members. Please get in touch with us if you would like to be involved.

Enjoy the issue.

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