# Cisco Enables Virtual Health Informatics/eHealth Conference

**WATERLOO, Ont. (Wednesday, April 18, 2012)** – The National Institutes of Health Informatics (NIHI) is pleased to announce that Cisco Canada, the leading provider of collaboration and video networking technologies, will provide the technology and services to enable the Advances in Health Informatics Conference 2012 (AHIC 2012: http://ahic.nihi.ca, York University, Toronto, April 25 - 27, 2012) to be accessible globally via web cast. This will be the second time Cisco and NIHI have partnered to offer this environment-friendly medium as a means of participating in an international conference in Health Informatics (HI) and eHealth.

AHIC 2012 is a top-tier, peer-reviewed conference addressing HI innovation, research and education. Keynote talks and presentations will highlight the theme of Integrated Diagnostics and Integrated Care. AHIC 2012 brings together visionaries, scientists, academics, industry and government experts from around the globe in a 'green conference' that allows participants to attend and speakers to present their work remotely. This has a dramatic impact on travel costs for participants and greenhouse gas emission.

"To remain current, it is valuable to attend conferences, network with others and hear the latest ideas, innovations and solutions", said Shirley Fenton, AHIC 2012 Organizing Conference Chair. "This usually entails significant costs financially and environmentally in travelling to a conference. We are committed to reducing these impacts and using similar solutions that we advocate being used in the health system."

The grand challenge of putting on a conference convened in cyberspace requires significant planning and highly reliable, well-supported technologies. Brantz Myers, Director of Healthcare Business Development, Cisco Canada notes: "Cisco sees this as a perfect opportunity to demonstrate the power and reach of Cisco WebEx, a key offering in our collaboration and advanced communications portfolio. We have partnered with NIHI to evaluate the quality of the experience from the attendees' perspective. We are confident that AHIC 2012 will again be a landmark, demonstrating effective virtual collaboration and environmental responsibility."

"An undertaking like this is never a one-organization show", added Shirley Fenton, AHIC 2012 Organizing Committee Chair, "Cisco's involvement was crucial as well as the support of co-host/organizer, York University and other key partners and sponsors including McKesson Canada, GE Healthcare, GoldCare, IBM, ICTC, NexJ, OntarioMD, Orion Health, Aperio, ITAC Health, McMaster University, Ontario Centres of Excellence, CHIMA, COACH, University of Waterloo Computer Systems Group, CoMAP, and HIMSS Ontario, and media sponsors including Healthcare Information Management and Communications Canada, Canadian Healthcare Manager, Canadian Healthcare Technology, Longwoods Publishing and others, for whose support we are very grateful."

**For more information:**
Toll free 1-800-860-7901. Web: http://ahic.nihi.ca

NIHI (www.nihi.ca) is a Canada-wide, virtual institute of institutes bringing together experts in Health Informatics (HI). NIHI serves as a catalyzer, co-ordinator and facilitator that assists in defining, fostering and developing initiatives dedicated to HI research and education.