Major Health Informatics Conference Coming to Toronto and Your Desktop

WATERLOO, Ont. (Thursday, April 19, 2012) – The Advances in Health Informatics Conference 2012 (AHIC 2012) convenes April 25 – 27 at York University, Toronto, Ontario and on your desktop!

AHIC 2012 is the second global, virtual Health Informatics conference in Canada. Participants can attend both physically and remotely via interactive webcast, thanks to Cisco Systems, the conference's Silver Sponsor.

Keynote talks, scientific presentations and discussion sessions will highlight the theme of Integrated Diagnostics and Integrated Care. AHIC 2012 features national and international visionaries, scientists, industry experts and government leaders addressing Health Informatics and eHealth innovation, research and education. Conference highlights include two pre-conference workshops, five keynote addresses, five discussion – thinking sessions and a built-in conference workshop.

The conference plenary speaker is *Dave Williams*, Canada's astronaut MD and CEO of Southlake Regional Health Centre. The built-in conference workshop on "Transforming Health Care: Evidence, Pragmatism and Politics" will focus on the potential that eHealth capabilities have to significantly increase the productivity of the health system at a time when funding has become highly restrained. The workshop will be led by *William (Bill) J. Pascal*, CMA, *Will Falk*, Independent Advisor and Adjunct Professor, University of Toronto, *R. Brian Haynes*, OC, MD, MSc, PhD, Professor, McMaster University and *Pavel Roshanov*, MD/PhD Candidate, Western Ontario.

Keynote speakers are *Bruce Friedman*, MD, University of Michigan Medical School, *Ulysses Balis*, MD, University of Michigan Health System, *Sylvia Asa*, MD, PhD, University Health Network, Professor, *Dan Gordon*, PhD, IBM Global Healthcare Centre of Competence and *Aditya Pai*, MSc, MBA, IBM Global Business Services.

Dr. Nick Cercone, Co-Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, noted: "We received many excellent paper submissions for AHIC 2012. This will be a fantastic learning opportunity for the conference attendees."

"We have attended so many conferences that cost thousands of dollars for travel, that we decided we had to make this event accessible remotely, and maybe provide ideas to others on how to do the same. As a conference focused on Health Informatics and ehealth, we must use the very technologies we promote as Health Informaticians", said Dominic Covvey, President of the National Institutes of Health Informatics.

AHIC 2012 is co-hosted by York University and the National Institutes of Health Informatics.

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

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