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AHIMA Honors Yale New Haven Health with 2018 Grace Award

For Innovative Advancements in Analytics and Information Governance Resulting in Enhanced Patient Engagement and Leadership in Health Information Management

CHICAGO – July 19, 2018 – The [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) is pleased to announce that the 2018 Grace Award is being awarded to [Yale New Haven Health](#). Named after AHIMA's founder Grace Whiting Myers, the AHIMA Grace Award, in recognition of excellence in health information management (HIM), will be presented at the 90th AHIMA Annual Convention & Exhibit in Miami on September 24.

Ninety years ago, AHIMA founder Grace Whiting Myers acted on a sincere conviction to improve the quality of the nation's health records by founding the association. AHIMA continues the annual recognition of the Grace Award to honor healthcare delivery organizations for their innovative and novel approaches to using HIM to deliver high-quality care to patients.

"It is an honor for Yale New Haven Health to receive the AHIMA Grace Award," said Vincent Tammaro, executive vice president and chief financial officer. "This award demonstrates the commitment of our HIM leadership and staff to strive for excellence by embracing technology and ensuring quality information for patients, customers, colleagues and service to our community."

Yale New Haven Health is recognized for extensive efforts in coding and clinical documentation improvement (CDI) and business analytics to proactively manage at-risk populations, value-based reimbursement, and claims denials and appeals. HIM leadership permeates the organization with informatics and analytics efforts in HIM, coding, CDI, IT and patient account services. The organization reflects exemplary patient service in its outreach to schedule "well visit" appointments and accurately address gender identity in its electronic medical record. By putting members of HIM in leadership positions to coordinate its information governance efforts, Yale New Haven Health has reduced master patient index errors to under 2 percent, identified business unit data stewards, optimized space and centralized staff.

"Yale New Haven Health leverages analytics to support business decisions, cultivates a robust information governance program, and empowers consumers to optimize their health through management of their health information through a patient portal," said AHIMA CEO Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE. "HIM professionals are an intrinsic part of this organization's achievements. AHIMA is proud to present the Grace Award to Yale New Haven Health."

Award evaluation criteria included how organizations support AHIMA's strategic plan by integrating HIM throughout their organization to use and analyze healthcare data, serve as a leader in their organization and community, develop and grow information governance, support and contribute to innovation, and empower consumers in their own healthcare.

AHIMA also recognizes the [University of Kansas Health System](#) with an honorable mention for accomplishments in advancing the use of analytics to drive improvements in patient care and physician documentation and to drive information governance throughout the organization.

A committee of judges, representing healthcare delivery organizations, health information professionals and HIM associations selects the Grace Award winner. This year's judges are:

- Chairperson Elizabeth Curtis, RHIA, CHPS, FAHIMA, Administrative Director Medical Information Management, Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
- Major Tracie C. Allen, MS, RHIA, FACHE, US Army Chief, Administrative Operations Mission Support, USTC/TPMRC-WU.S. Transportation Command, Theater Patient Movement Requirements Center
- Shelly Asbury, CCS, CCS-P, Director, Physician Coding Compliance, JSA Healthcare
- Kenneth Clyburn, RHIA, CHPS, Health Information Services Director, Beaufort Memorial Hospital
- Stephanie Luthi-Terry, MA, RHIA, CHPS, FAHIMA, Director, Enterprise HIM Integration/Business Solutions, Allina Healthcare
- Nicole Mathis-Walker, RHIA, Associate Director, HIM, MD Anderson Cancer Center
- Kyle McElroy, MS, RHIA, Corporate Associate Vice President of HIM Operations, IASIS Healthcare
- Sandra Pearson, RHIA, CHDA, CDI & Data Governance Director, SCL Health

Previous Grace Award recipients include:

- 2017: [SCL Health](#)
- 2016: [The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center](#)
- 2015: [Allina Health of Minneapolis](#)
- 2014: [Children's Medical Center of Dallas](#)
- 2013: [Truman Medical Centers \(TMC\)](#)
- 2012: [University of Wisconsin Hospital and Health System](#)

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 103,000 health information professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA is advancing informatics, data analytics, and information governance to achieve the goal of providing expertise to ensure trusted information for healthcare. www.ahima.org