



news

233 N. Michigan Ave., 21st Fl.  
Chicago, IL 60601

phone >>(312) 233-1100  
fax >>(312) 233-1090  
web >>www.ahima.org

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### For more information, please contact:

Bridget Stratton

Public Relations

312-233-1097

[bridget.stratton@ahima.org](mailto:bridget.stratton@ahima.org)

## Nominations Open for AHIMA's Prestigious Grace Award Recognizing Outstanding Achievement in Health Information Management

*Nominations for the third year 'Grace Award' accepted through June 16, 2014*

**CHICAGO – March 19, 2014** – For the third consecutive year, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) will recognize a healthcare delivery organization that has outstanding and innovative approaches to health information management through the bestowment of its prestigious Grace Award.

“The healthcare industry is evolving rapidly and at the center of much of the change is how health information is collected, stored, used, shared, and ultimately disposed,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “HIM professionals throughout the country are working to ensure health information is secure and accessible when and where it’s needed. AHIMA is pleased to continue to recognize organizations with the most innovative approaches and successful uses of health information.”

Nomination applications are now available by visiting the AHIMA website, [ahima.org/grace](http://ahima.org/grace). Named after AHIMA’s founder Grace Whiting Myers, *the AHIMA Grace Award: In Recognition of Excellence in Health Information Management* will be presented at the 86<sup>th</sup> AHIMA Annual Convention & Exhibit in San Diego, CA, September 27-October 2.

Evaluation criteria include how the organization contributes to a patient-centered model of care, advances electronic health records and integrates HIM throughout the workplace.

A committee of judges, representing health care delivery organizations, health information professionals, and HIM associations, selects the Grace Award winner. This year’s judging committee includes: Mark Dietz, RHIA, president, Dietz Healthcare Management Consultants; Jane D. Duckert, MA, RHIA, Director of HIM, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics; Marcia Johnson, MPA, RHIA, Associate Administrator Strategy, Planning and Performance Analytics, Truman Medical Centers; Kelly McLendon, RHIA, CHPS, Managing Director, CompliancePro Solutions; Barbara Odom-Wesley, Ph.D., RHIA, FAHIMA, HIT Program Chair,

DeVry University; Diane Premeau, MBA, RHIA, CHP, CHC, Director, Health Information Management Services and Privacy Officer, Daughters of Charity Health System O'Connor Hospital; Helga Rippen, MD, PhD, MPH, FACPM, Chief Health Information Officer, Westat; and Stacy Sochacki, Executive Director, Association Management Center.

In 2012, the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Health System was recognized as the winner of the inaugural Grace Award. Last year, Truman Medical Centers (TMC) was recognized for its innovative approaches to HIM, particularly its use of a technology solution to not only track, but prevent, patient falls and pressure ulcers to improve patient care and decrease hospital stays. One impressive result was reducing the hospital-acquired pressure ulcer rate from 6 percent to less than 2 percent. TMC's Health Information Management department is involved in strategic planning, business intelligence and data analytics, and leads Truman's annual business plan, the Community Health Needs Assessment and the annual Missouri Hospital Association survey.

The call for nominations is being announced this week to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Health Information Professionals (HIP) Week March 16–22, 2014. This year's event is themed "Transforming Healthcare with Information."

[Application deadline](#) is 11:59 p.m. Central Time, June 16, and award recipients will be notified this summer. More information is available at [ahima.org/grace](http://ahima.org/grace).

### **About AHIMA**

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 71,000 educated health information management professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA's enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)