



Associations Team Up to Advance Clinical Engineering/IT Integration

ORLANDO (Feb. 24, 2008) – Three national associations have joined forces to develop guidance documents, share best practices, and promote an understanding of the issues surrounding the ongoing integration of information technology (IT) and clinical engineering.

Leaders of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), the American College of Clinical Engineering (ACCE), and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) have signed an agreement to develop a joint Clinical Engineering/IT (CEIT) community, thus pooling their expertise and knowledge and avoiding the duplication of efforts under way.

The agreement is intended to help improve patient care and safety and to boost the quality and cost-effectiveness of customer service. The agreement also seeks to:

- Foster further development of a united voice for IT and clinical engineering concerns, and provide a forum for its expression.
- Provide a mechanism for developing resources, guidelines and best practices for the CEIT community, and provide education, research, certification, public policy, terminology, mentoring, advocacy, networking and career services.
- Explore appropriate collaboration of clinical engineering/IT functions.
- Develop a framework for representing the interests of clinical engineering and IT departments to the broader healthcare community.

“For the first time, we have a written agreement that addresses collaboration on many of the issues clinical engineers and IT professionals have been attempting to iron out,” says Bob Stiefel, the chair of AAMI’s Board of Directors and clinical engineering director at the University of Maryland Medical System.

Stiefel is also a member of AAMI’s Technology Management Council (TMC), which represents technology managers from hospitals, biomedical societies, and industry. The TMC recently launched a new project designed to assess the current status of technology management within healthcare facilities and explore the field’s future challenges and opportunities.

Says Stephen Grimes, president of ACCE, “our members and leadership recognize that CE-IT convergence and collaboration is of critical importance to the industry and its

ability to deliver quality patient care. They believe this agreement provides a solid foundation on which we can work together to build a framework of programs and resources to address the challenges of convergence.”

According to Joyce Sensmeier, vice president of informatics with HIMSS, “as patient care devices take advantage of ‘smart’ technology and become more interoperable, IT experts and clinicians must work together to ensure that workflow issues are addressed. Together, we can define a vision of the future in healthcare delivery.”

For more information about this effort, contact Steve Campbell at scampbell@aami.org.

About AAMI

Founded in 1967, AAMI is the world's leading organization dedicated to advancing the safe and effective development and use of medical technology, and the primary source for timely information on medical technology. Visit www.aami.org for more information.

About HIMSS

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) is the healthcare industry's membership organization exclusively focused on providing global leadership for the optimal use of healthcare information technology (IT) and management systems for the betterment of healthcare. Founded in 1961 with offices in Chicago, Washington DC, Brussels, and other locations across the United States and Europe, HIMSS represents more than 20,000 individual members and over 300 corporate members that collectively represent organizations employing millions of people. HIMSS frames and leads healthcare public policy and industry practices through its advocacy, educational and professional development initiatives designed to promote information and management systems' contributions to ensuring quality patient care. Visit www.himss.org for more information.

About ACCE

The American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) is a national association uniquely serving individuals involved in the management of chambers of all sizes. ACCE's mission is to support and develop chamber professionals to lead businesses and their communities. The organizational vision is that ACCE is the organization of choice for chamber professionals. Visit www.accenet.org for more information.

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