



In May 2008, the Institute for e-Health Policy was launched to provide research and educational opportunities for public- and private-sector stakeholders—two key constituents who make and are most directly impacted by e-health policy decisions. The Institute is part of the HIMSS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization with charitable, scientific and educational goals.

## **Programs**

### **Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics**

One major component of the Institute's programs is leadership of the Capitol Hill Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics. Since 1993, the Steering Committee has convened more than 120 widely attended educational sessions and healthcare information technology demonstrations for members of Congress, congressional staff, key federal agency officials, industry professionals and the general public.

Honorary Steering Committee Co-chairs are: Senators Kent Conrad (D-N.D); Mike Crapo (R-ID); John Thune (R-S.D.); Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Representatives Eric Cantor (R-VA); Rick Boucher (D-VA); Rep. Phil English (R-PA); Bart Gordon (D-TN); Allyson Y. Schwartz (D-PA); and David Wu (D-OR). The Steering Committee coordinates many activities with the U.S. House of Representatives' 21<sup>st</sup> Century Health Care Caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Tim Murphy (R-PA) and Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), and is supported by more than 20 major organizations in the healthcare and health information technology (HIT) communities, including trade associations, government agencies, universities and corporations.

### **National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved**

This new initiative's mission is to develop and propose e-Health-related solutions to alleviate health disparities in underserved rural and urban communities—especially among the elderly—and address future HIT workforce issues in these same at-risk communities. The Collaborative is a joint effort of six organizations: the US Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Minority Health; the Institute for e-Health Policy; Summit Health Institute for Research and Education, Inc. (SHIRE); Association of Clinicians for the Underserved (ACU); eHI Foundation; and Aaptis, Inc.

### **e-Health Public Policy Internships**

The Institute now operates an e-Health Public Policy Internship program, which has hosted a dozen students working on self-directed policy projects since 2004. The program is tailored to support undergraduate and graduate level students, including the health professions. One NOVA Southeastern University and one George Mason University intern and six Georgetown University Medical School service learning first-year medical students have been accepted into the program for the 2008-09 term. Two University of California Berkeley students have been accepted into the Institute's first externship program, which began in 2009.

### **National Health IT Week**

The Institute coordinates and develops annual National HIT Week activities (September 21-25, 2009). This is the leading national forum for developing common ground among public- and private-sector organizations, with a goal of advancing the adoption of health information technologies. In 2008, more than 75 major national groups participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Health IT Week.

### **Executive in Residence Program**

The Institute welcomes executives on loan from corporations who have an interest in expanding e-health educational and research opportunities. The first executive completed this uniquely tailored program in January 2009.

**Contact:** Neal Neuberger, CISSP, Executive Director, [neal@e-healthpolicy.org](mailto:neal@e-healthpolicy.org), (703) 508-8182 or Wayne Humphries, Manager of Public Policy Initiatives, [wayne@e-healthpolicy.org](mailto:wayne@e-healthpolicy.org), (703) 562-8870.