PRESS RELEASE
ANNOUNCING 2022 BOARD CHAIR, BOARD OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS
Mervat Abdelhak, PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA was department chair from 1981-2018 and tenured professor of Health Information Management and Health Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. Dr. Abdelhak is recognized as a thought leader nationally and internationally with significant contributions to Health Information Management and Health Informatics education and practice. Dr. Abdelhak is the recipient of coveted awards including the Distinguished Member Award from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), a 103,000-member association, the Distinguished Member Award from the Pennsylvania Health Information Management Association (PHIMA), the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Pittsburgh and the Literary Award from American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

In the early 1980’s, Dr. Abdelhak established two master’s degree programs at the University of Pittsburgh; one is the Health Information Systems program and the second is the Health Care Supervision and Management program. She was also instrumental in developing the Health Information Management/Health Informatics core in the school's Doctoral Program. Under her leadership, she accelerated the departments research productivity garnering in excess of $1.5 million in research dollars annually.
In addition to Dr. Abdelhak's appointment, other newly elected volunteers include 2022 Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Public member of the Board of Directors, and Council members elected for a second term.

NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

CASSI BIRNBAUM, MS, RHIA, CPHQ, FAHIMA

Elected to serve as Chair-Elect
Cassi Birnbaum, MS, RHIA, CPHQ, FAHIMA joined the Peace Health’s Senior Enterprise Director team in April 2020, overseeing its HIM, coding and CDI activities. PeaceHealth is a faith-based integrated delivery system in the Pacific Northwest. Previously, she was the Enterprise-wide Director of HIM/Revenue Integrity for UC San Diego Health, the Senior Vice President of HIM and Consulting for Peak Health Solutions, the Director of Health Information, CDI and Chief Privacy Officer for Rady Children’s Hospital in San Diego, and the Director of Quality Resource Management at Scripps Health. Ms. Birnbaum is also a faculty member for the UCSD Extension and San Diego Mesa College Health Information Management academic programs, and she serves as an Adjunct Faculty member for its Baccalaureate HIMS program.

Since 2010, Ms. Birnbaum has served as board member and officer of the San Diego Health Connect Board, and she was appointed as a Board Member of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) in 2019 and Chairs its Governance Committee.

Ms. Birnbaum was Board Chair/President of AHIMA (2014 – 2016), an AHIMA Director from 2009 – 2012, and she received the 2019 AHIMA Distinguished Member Award. She received the 2017 Distinguished Health Professions Alumna recipient for the University of Kansas Medical Center. Ms. Birnbaum is a Past President for California Health Information Association from 2006 – 2008, and she received its prestigious Distinguished Member Award in 2009.

ALFRED HAMILTON, PHD, FHIMSS

Elected to serve as Treasurer

Alfred Hamilton, PhD, FHIMSS serves as the President and CEO of Technology Solutions Consulting, a consulting firm that specializes in developing integrative clinical and business solutions that adhere to healthcare industry standards. He is responsible for providing clients with honest, reliable, results-oriented performance and excellence. Dr. Hamilton is an expert at providing astute strategic planning; program and project management; and developing actionable information for investment decision making. Nationally recognized for identifying smart investments, developing key partnerships, and developing and overseeing information technology investment management to positively impact diverse and decentralized digital environments.

Over the past 30 years, Dr. Hamilton has held positions with academic institutions, publicly traded fortune 500 company, and served over 20 years as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Army. He is serving as the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee of the Catholic Health, Buffalo, NY, a $1.2B health system. Dr. Hamilton received a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Augusta State University, a master's degree in software engineering administration from Central Michigan University and a PhD in information decision systems/decision science from The George Washington University.
MARISA L. WILSON, DNSC, MHSC, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FAAN
Elected to serve as Secretary

Marisa L. Wilson, DNSc, MHSc, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FIAHSI, FAAN is Associate Professor and Interim department Chair at the School of Nursing, University of Alabama at Birmingham. She received her BS in Biology and Chemistry from the Notre Dame University of Maryland, a master’s degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. She received her nursing diploma from Union Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. Dr. Wilson obtained her DNSc from the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. She has over 40 years of experience in clinical care and management, informatics education, and academic leadership. Dr. Wilson has been selected for numerous organizational committees. She serves on various committees for AMIA, ANIA, AAMC, and HIMSS. Dr. Wilson is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, the American Medical Informatics Association, and the International Academy of Health Sciences Informatics. She was elected as the US Nursing Informatics rep to the IMIA Nursing Informatics Working Group and Special Interest Group.

KAY N. WOLF, PHD, RDN, LD, FAND
Elected to serve as Public Member

Kay Wolf, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND became Ohio State's senior vice provost in February 2019, after serving as vice provost for academic policy and faculty resources since 2014. As senior vice provost, prior to her appointment as vice provost, Dr. Wolf was director of the health sciences and medical dietetics division in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, where she holds the rank of professor.

Dr. Wolf studies dietetics education at an international level as well as self-efficacy in chronic disease and food security. Her work has been widely published, and it includes an outreach component to vulnerable populations in the Columbus community through Ohio State's Food Innovation Center.

Dr. Wolf served several roles in Nutrition and Dietetics professional organizations including on the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics for and the Board of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Dr. Wolf earned her BS in medical dietetics, an MS in food service management and nutrition and a PhD in human resource development from The Ohio State University.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022

BOARD CHAIR

Mervat Abdelhak
PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA

Karen Bakuzonis
PhD, MS, RHIA, CPHI
Director

Karen Bakuzonis
PhD, MS, RHIA, CPHI
Director

Suzanne Boren
PhD, MHA
Director

Melanie Brodnik
PhD, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA
Director

Jane Carrington
PhD, RN, FAAN
Director

CHAIR - ELECT

Cassi Birnbaum
MS, RHIA, CPHQ, FAHIMA

Alfred Hamilton
PhD, FHIMSS
Treasurer and Public Member

Philip J. Kroth
MD, MSc
Director

Eric Swirsky
JD, MA
Past - Chair

Kim Theodos
JD, MS, RHIA
Director

Marisa L. Wilson
DNSc, MHSc, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FAAN
Secretary

Kay N. Wolf
PhD, RDN, LD, FAND
Public Member
Josette Jones, RN, PhD is the Director of Health Informatics and Associate Professor of Health Informatics and Nursing at Indiana University School of Informatics and Computing. She obtained her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Belgium and received her PhD in Nursing Informatics from the University of Wisconsin School of Nursing. Recognizing the increasing role that data and electronic health information play in providing safer, and better-quality health care, Dr. Jones has improved the curricula and set the direction for health informatics education at the School of Informatics and Computing. In 2017, she was appointed to the AMIA Accreditation Committee (AAC) to set health informatics education standards. She was also instrumental in getting the Health Informatics graduate program accredited by CAHIIM. Dr. Jones is active in the Health Information Systems Society (HIMSS), Alliance for Nursing Informatics, the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA), and the American Nursing Association (ANA).
2022 HEALTH INFORMATICS ACCREDITATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. Josette Jones will join the following currently serving CAHIIM Health Informatics Accreditation Council members.
Anita Hazelwood, EdD, RHIA, FAHIMA is a Professor at the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions, at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She received her BS in Medical Record Science from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and a master’s degree in Library Science from the Louisiana State University. Dr. Hazelwood obtained her EdD in Leadership in Higher Education from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She has over 40 years of experience in Health Information Management (HIM) education. Dr. Hazelwood has been active in the HIM profession at the local, state, and national levels having served on a number of committees, workgroups, and professional boards. She served as the President of the Louisiana Health Information Management Association. Dr. Hazelwood has written numerous articles, co-authored several textbooks and authored chapters in several HIM textbooks. Dr. Hazelwood was the recipient of AHIMA’s Legacy Award in 2003.
2022 HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT ACCREDITATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

SUSAN H. FENTON, PHD, RHIA, CPHI, FAHIMA

Elected to serve for a second three-year term

Susan H. Fenton, PhD, RHIA, CPHI, FAHIMA is an Associate Professor and the Associate Dean for Academic and Curricular Affairs at the University of Texas School of Biomedical Informatics in Houston, TX. She is responsible for their graduate certificates, master's and doctoral degree programs. Dr. Fenton led the development of the nation’s first practice Doctorate in Health Informatics (DHI). Dr. Fenton’s research focuses on optimizing the use of EHRs and other health information technology for preventive care and health informatics workforce development. In 2020 Dr. Fenton was inducted into the UT Kenneth Shine Academy and made a UT System Distinguished Teaching Professor. She is a 2019 recipient of the UT Regents’ Outstanding Teacher Award and the 2019 Texas Health Information Management Association Legacy Award. Dr. Fenton serves on a variety of regional and national professional association committees and boards.

ELLEN KARL, MBA, RHIA, CHDA, FAHIMA

Elected to serve for a second three-year term

Ellen S. Karl, MBA, RHIA, CHDA, FAHIMA is the Academic Director for the Health Information Management Programs at the City University of New York's School of Professional Studies. After completing 30 years as a Practitioner, Ms. Karl made a career adjustment and entered academia. The majority of her HIM work experience was as the Director of a Health Information Management department. Ms. Karl recently completed a three-year term on the AHIMA Board of Directors and has also served on the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education's (CAHIIM) Health Information Management Accreditation Council (HIMAC). Ms. Karl also served as the Chair of the American Health Information Management Association's (AHIMA) Council for Excellence in Education (CEE) and on the AHIMA Foundation Board of Directors. She is also a past president of the New Jersey Health Information Management Association (NJHIMA) and currently serving as Past-President for the Health Information Management Association of New York City. She received her MBA with a concentration in Health Administration from the University of Miami, and a B.S. in Health Information Management from the University of Central Florida.
Dr. Anita Hazelwood, Dr. Susan Fenton and Ms. Ellen Karl will serve with the following continuing CAHIIM Health Information Management Accreditation Council members.

Patricia DeVoy  
PhD, EdS, LPN, RHIA, CPC, CPPM

Valerie Dobson  
RHIA, CCS

Beverly Marquez  
MS, RHIA

Jacqueline A. Moczygemba  
MBA, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA

Melinda Wilkins  
PhD, RHIA, FAHIMA

Lesley Plemons  
MS, RHIA

Valerie Prater  
MBA, RHIT, FAHIMA