ANI Innovator Profiles

American Academy of Nursing
Interview with Tom Clancy, MBA, PhD, RN, FAAN
Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics and Technology, Co-Chair
American Academy of Nursing

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The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) is a collaboration of organizations that represents more than 6,000 nurse informaticists and brings together 33 distinct nursing informatics groups globally.

Mission: To advance NI leadership, practice, education, policy and research through a unified voice of nursing informatics organizations.

Vision: Transform health and health care through nursing informatics and innovation.

ANI Innovator Profiles Program
The purpose of this program is to capture an ANI Innovator Profile for each ANI member organization to increase awareness and visibility of ANI members and describe how they contribute to a unified voice for nursing informatics.

ANI Innovator Profile – American Academy of Nursing, Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology
The American Academy of Nursing (AAN) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy and its members create and execute knowledge and policy-related initiatives to drive reform of America's health system.

Within the Academy, expert panels represent the working groups and allow the Academy to have a forum where Academy Fellows with expertise in specialty areas can meet. The Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology seeks to gather health policy data and information, then disseminates information, advises and represents the AAN on issues related to: health information management, implementation of informatics and technology through EHRs and PHRs, HIPAA, patient safety initiatives, workforce issues and training, bioterrorism and biosurveillance, evidence-based practice, clinical decision support and other areas of concern related to the use of informatics and technology in nursing education, practice and research.

Interview with Tom Clancy
1. **Can you please tell us about yourself and the career path that led you to become a leader at the AAN Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology?**

My roots in nursing stem back to 1978 when I graduated from the University of Iowa and over the last 35 years I have obtained a Master's degree in Nursing, a PhD in Nursing Informatics along with a Masters of Business Administration. Although I have been at the University of Minnesota for seven years, I have over 25 years of experience in various health systems. Prior to my current position, I served as a Chief Nursing Officer, Vice President of Strategic Planning as well as a principle consultant for Siemens Medical Systems. I was brought into the world of informatics when my advisor, Dr. Connie Delaney, encouraged me to join the PhD program and upon completion, I accepted the position that I am in today. I currently serve as a clinical professor and assistant dean at the University of Minnesota, School of Nursing where I teach, conduct research and consult in the field of nursing informatics and utilize my expertise in the design and analysis of complex healthcare systems. As part of my career, I have had the opportunity to implement a number of EHR and IT applications and focus on computer simulation, modeling and designing systems. This role is a nice fit for me and allows the opportunity to collaborate with corporate and community partnerships.

2. **What is the primary mission of the AAN Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology?**
The AAN Expert Panel serves the public and nursing professions by advancing health policy and practice through dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy and its Fellows execute policy related initiatives to reform the American health system. AAN members have the responsibility to contribute their time and energy to the Academy, which is most often through expert panels. Key areas of importance to the Academy are to enhance quality of health and nursing care, promote healthy aging and human development across the continuum and reduce health disparities and inequalities. In addition, AAN seeks to shape health behaviors and environments and integrate and strengthen healthcare delivery systems both nationally and internationally.

The AAN Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology is a fast-growing panel with well over fifty members. This panel consists of experts in the field of nursing informatics, many of whom are members of organizations in the Alliance for Nursing Informatics, who come together to focus on key initiatives on a national level to develop policy-related initiatives and advance the field of nursing informatics.

3. **What projects is your organization working on to advance informatics and innovation in healthcare?**
One example that comes to mind is AAN's "Call to Action" which is driven through members participating in a number of key committee meetings and conferences throughout the country. For example, AAN members spent a considerable amount of time at the Big Data Conference at the University of Minnesota in June 2014 putting together an action plan to assess how nursing data are electronically captured to make EHR data sharable and comparable.

In addition, each of the AAN Expert Panels develops their own plan which complements the Academy's strategic plan. This year the AAN Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology has developed two key initiatives. The first initiative is to support efforts for the adoption of standardized national terminologies in electronic health records. The Expert Panel's primary role is to assess the strategies and provide support for those efforts. For example, the Big Data Conference included eleven initiatives within its overall action plan to advance the adoption of standardized nursing

terminology. Nine out of these eleven initiatives are chaired or co-chaired by members from the AAN Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology.

The second initiative is focused on the adoption of social determinants of health in the EHR in which the Expert Panel was asked to hosta polic dialogue at the 2014 American Academy of Nursing Conference regarding this topic. As Meaningful Use Stage 3 seeks to incorporate social determinants of health into the EHR in 2017, this will have significant implications on adoption because particular domains for the social determinants of health encompass areas that are not necessarily being recorded today. The Expert Panel has the opportunity to review the recommendations stemming from ONC and IOM and identify strategies to remove implementation barriers. We wish to take the lessons learned from Meaningful Use Stages 1 and 2 and apply them to Stage 3.

4. **What value do you see in the AAN Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology being an ANI member?**
   ANI membership is a tremendous way to network, and many of the members of the Expert Panel are involved in other professional organizations that are a part of ANI. The key is to not recreate the wheel and ANI provides the opportunity to act as one voice rather than numerous disparate voices. In addition, the Expert Panel is supportive of the work being done in other committees and organizations and recognize the need to come together and speak with one voice.

5. **In what way(s) is your organization supporting ANI Initiatives e.g. the [ANI consumer pledge](), ANI Comments & Testimony, the Emerging Leader program, etc.?**
   A majority of the Expert Panel members are active in ANI activities and seek to advance the mission of ANI. We are also supporting many other initiatives, such as the development of patient engagement applications and ANI's Emerging Leader program.

6. **What is your organization's vision for the future of nursing informatics?**
   I believe that the vision we have is to align AAN's strategic plan to improve care through policy. The Expert Panel develops a vision that complements the vision of AAN. Thus, the Expert Panel on Nursing Informatics & Technology looks for ways in which technology can enable improvements in care. In addition, by having individuals on the panel that are involved in key government, federal, state and policy positions, we have the ability to impact change across national initiatives. Thus, our goal is to utilize the informatics and technology experts to enable information technology and make policy changes that focus on improving care and well-being of patients.

7. **Do you have any additional comments to share?**
   ANI provides a rare opportunity for nursing informatics to come together cohesively and act as one voice and the American Academy of Nursing is excited to be a part of ANI.

Biography for Tom Clancy, MBA, PhD, RN, FAAN
Thomas R. Clancy, PhD, MBA, RN, FAAN currently serves as a clinical professor and assistant dean at the University of Minnesota, School of Nursing located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dr. Clancy teaches, consults and conducts research in the area of Nursing Informatics and currently is the Co-chair for the American Academy of Nursing's Expert Panel for Informatics and Technology. As an assistant dean, Dr.

Clancy is responsible for business development at the School of Nursing and has facilitated numerous corporate and community partnerships with the School of Nursing. His expertise is in the field of complex systems design and analysis and he has published over 50 articles and text book chapters in his career. Prior to his appointment to the School of Nursing in 2007, Dr. Clancy spent over 25 years working in health systems, serving in both executive and consulting roles.

Recorded: November 5, 2014
For the full interview recording you can click here or visit http://www.allianceni.org/members.asp.