ANI Innovator Profiles

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
Interview with
Joyce Sensmeier MS, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, FAAN
Vice President, Informatics
Ex-Officio Chair, Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI)
HIMSS

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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 – Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
HIMSS is a global, caused-based, not-for-profit organization focused on better health through information technology (IT). HIMSS leads efforts to optimize health engagements and care outcomes using information technology.

Interview with Joyce Sensmeier

1. **Can you please tell us about yourself and the career path that led you to become a leader at HIMSS?**
   Prior to HIMSS I worked in the hospital environment where I implemented electronic health record systems and served as the liaison in the nursing department that primarily focused on clinical systems. In 2000, I came to HIMSS as they were interested in hiring staff that had clinical IT experience. Initially I found it intimidating to work for a national organization but it has been an amazing experience being a part of the HIMSS community.

   My role at HIMSS has evolved over the years from clinical informatics to include standards and interoperability. Today, I serve as the Vice President of Informatics at HIMSS where I oversee these

areas. I am fortunate to work with individuals such as Christel Anderson and other members on my team to help advance the mission and vision of HIMSS.

2. **What is the primary mission of HIMSS?**

HIMSS is a global, cause- based, not-for-profit organization focused on better health through information technology and our mission is to globally, lead endeavors optimizing health engagements and care outcomes through information technology.

HIMSS is also focused on advancing health as it relates to patients and consumers of health. This resonates strongly with me given my nursing background as a patient advocate. I am excited that patient engagement and population health continue to be a part of HIMSS vision and that we sponsor activities and educational opportunities to advance these goals.

3. **What projects is your organization working on to advance informatics and innovation in healthcare?**

HIMSS has a large Clinical Informatics Community, which includes thousands of members with a physician, nursing, pharmacy, clinical engineering or dietician background. Each community has different projects and initiatives they are working on and I would encourage those interested to visit the HIMSS Clinical Informatics webpage to learn of different opportunities to get involved.

HIMSS is also at the forefront of innovation and specifically has an Innovation Community which allows members to participate in projects, programs and activities to contribute to innovation and deliver high quality healthcare. We recently launched the HIMSS Innovation Center in Cleveland, Ohio that provides a neutral environment for all stakeholders to converge to learn about the impact of health IT. The Innovation Center features innovator profiles and a Technology Showcase where companies come together to discuss and share their innovations. It has been a great experience to stand up the HIMSS Innovation Center, and we see it as a new venue for learning and advancing the mission of HIMSS.

4. **What value do you see in HIMSS being an ANI member and co-sponsor?**

It has been a pleasure being a part of the ANI Community. A number of years ago, Connie Delaney and I had a good conversation regarding the importance of nursing organizations collaborating and working together. This led to forming the Alliance for Nursing Informatics with AMIA and HIMSS as co-sponsoring organizations. There has always been a good network of nursing informaticists but through ANI, leaders of nursing informatics organizations are able to be formally brought together to learn from each other. ANI allows for a wonderful collaborative partnership with other organizations and I have enjoyed the synergy we have been able to create by working together to articulate a unified voice on behalf of nurses.

One example of how we work together is in advocating for more nurses to be involved with public policy. ANI along with the American Nurses Association (ANA) and American Academy of Nurses (AAN) put forward the names of several nurses for appointments to the ONC Federal Advisory

Committees. Through our unified efforts, it is exciting to see that we now have more than twelve nurses serving on these committees and their workgroups as a result of the efforts of ANI.

5. **In what way(s) does HIMSS support ANI Initiatives e.g. the [ANI consumer pledge](), ANI Comments & Testimony, the Emerging Leader program, etc.?**

HIMSS takes an active role in disseminating information that comes out of ANI and the corresponding organizations that are involved. For example, if the New England Nursing Informatics Consortium shares information about a conference on the ANI list serv, HIMSS will disseminate this information to its Nursing Informatics Community. And other ANI members will do the same, which helps to get the word out.

One exciting ANI initiative is the [Emerging Leader Program](), which enables emerging nursing informatics leaders to enhance their leadership skills and competencies. HIMSS actively participates in this program and offers these leaders free conference registration and mentorship to help advance their career goals.

Lastly, HIMSS supports ANI Initiatives by actively participating in conferences, paper proposals, comments & testimony and other activities to contribute to the nursing informatics body of knowledge. It is very important for ANI to have a unified voice and by working together we are able to leverage opportunities that collectively bring more value.

6. **What is HIMSS's vision for the future of nursing informatics?**
HIMSS has always been supportive of nurses and the specialty of nursing informatics. Many of today's nursing informatics leaders have been a part of the HIMSS Nursing Informatics Community over time. Much of what HIMSS does is assess the role of nursing informatics and share that information as the specialty evolves over time. For example, every three years HIMSS publishes a workforce survey for informatics nurses to gain an understanding of their salaries, types of jobs available, projects they are working on and the systems they are implementing. This is valuable information to share across the industry and it is important to watch these trends over time.

HIMSS also finds it valuable to assess the value and impact that nurse informaticists have on the health IT environment. This year HIMSS released the [2015 HIMSS Impact of the Informatics Nurse Survey]() and the results show that nurse informaticists are increasingly focused on optimizing EHR systems where at one point in time they were focused primarily on implementation.

Big data is another area that the HIMSS Nursing Informatics community has focused on. HIMSS recently launched the [CNO-CNIO Vendor Roundtable]() which brings together nurse leader executives from health IT suppliers to optimize health engagement and care outcomes in health IT. There are currently three workgroups that stem from the CNO-CNIO Vendor Roundtable. One of these workgroups is the Big Data Principles Workgroup that developed a resource titled ["Guiding Principles for Big Data in Nursing"]() which suggests that you can get better outcomes and reduce cost by using standards and structuring nursing data appropriately within large data sets across the system. The Guiding Principles paper is an exciting resource that has been made publicly available to help guide

nurse informaticists, and I think it will continue to play a role in guiding the health IT landscape of the future.

Lastly, HIMSS will continue to be an active industry thought leader and advance nursing leadership in the health IT environment. HIMSS has many committees and task forces within our Clinical Informatics Communities that provide valuable tools and resources. And we will continue sharing these insights through our national and international events and initiatives.

7. **Do you have any additional comments to share?**
I would like to emphasize the importance of bringing together nursing informatics organizations to work together and develop recommendations. I have a collaborative nature and am excited to see HIMSS bring that forward in its mission by working together with ANI as it is an important activity.

I also want to thank Christel Anderson and Maria Thornblad for their staff support and shared leadership with ANI.

Biography for Joyce Sensmeier, MS, RN-BC, CPHIMS, FHIMSS, FAAN
Ms. Sensmeier is Vice President of Informatics for HIMSS, a global, cause-based, not-for-profit organization focused on better health through information technology (IT). In her current role she is responsible for the areas of clinical informatics, standards and interoperability programs and initiatives. An internationally recognized speaker and author of multiple book chapters, articles and white papers, Ms. Sensmeier was inducted in 2010 as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the highest honor in the nursing profession. She is also co-founder and ex-officio chair of the Alliance for Nursing Informatics, a global collaboration of 30 distinct nursing informatics groups that represents a unified voice for nursing informatics professionals.

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