

ANI Innovator Profile

The New England Nursing Informatics Consortium (NENIC)

Interview with Denise Goldsmith, RN, MS, MPH
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The Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI) is a collaboration of organizations that represents more than 5,000 nurse informaticists and brings together 30 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, and to describe their contribution towards a unified voice for nursing informatics.

ANI Innovator Profile – NENIC

For more than a decade the New England area was home to two Nursing Informatics specialty organizations. The Boston Area Nursing Informatics Consortium (BANIC) was founded in 1990 and served the interests of informatics nurses in the greater Boston area. The Nursing Information Systems Council of New England (NISCNE) brought together informatics nurses from the western part of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island and Connecticut. In the early stages of their development the two organizations maintained separate agendas and membership. Both organizations provided their growing membership the opportunity to network, collaborate and share ideas and best practices with their local informatics colleagues.

Both BANIC and NISCNE were rich with talented nurse informaticians and the leadership of both organizations recognized the synergistic potential of a merger. To formalize the merger process an application for incorporation as a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporate entity, based in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was filed. The merger and incorporation of the new organization was formalized in September of 2007 and NENIC – the New England Nursing Informatics Consortium - is now formally established as the professional nursing informatics organization for the New England area. At its genesis NENIC represents nursing and healthcare IT professionals throughout New England and is the premier

resource for networking, education and information exchange, in order to enhance professional development and further the profession of nursing informatics.

NENIC Interview with Denise Goldsmith:

1. What is the primary mission of NENIC?

We have a number of missions, but our primary mission is to serve as the premier resource for networking, education and information exchange. When we first started we were primarily a networking organization. We were small and brought together informatics nurses who had nowhere else to go in the Boston area and in Massachusetts. In addition to networking, we have been focusing on educational offerings to our membership and that is where our strength is at this point. We also engage in quite a bit of information exchange. We developed our web site with this in mind and we continue to enhance our web site to do information exchange. I would say those three areas are our mission and focus - networking, education and information exchange.

2. How many members do you currently have?

We have over 200 active members at this point, which is very exciting for those of us who were part of this organization in the 1990's when we topped out at 40 or 45 and perhaps only have 12 people at a meeting. Now we are filling our educational offerings with close to 200 people.

3. What projects is NENIC working on to advance informatics and innovation in healthcare?

Throughout the year, we offer a number of different educational opportunities, not the least of which is our annual spring program – *Trends in Clinical Informatics: A Nursing Perspective*. We just celebrated our 10th annual program in 2012. We really work in this program to highlight both local and national informatics leaders. This is our premier educational offering, but both in the winter and fall we do other education offering as well.

Our second project revolves around leadership. We have a strong collaborative relationship with our local American Organization of Nurse Executive Affiliates that is the organization of nurse executive leaders from Massachusetts and Rhode Island. We have a number of projects between the organizations to share ideas and resources. NENIC members present at their annual symposium and a number of our members sit on their informatics and education committees. We think we have a model for how informatics nurse leaders and administrative or operational nurse leaders from the New England area can work together to develop a strong relationship and share our experiences between organizations.

We recognized early on that our chief nurses and associate chief nurses needed resources to help them understand what informatics really was, and everyone involved sees that there has been a great benefit to this relationship.

4. What value do you see in NENIC being an ANI member?

Collaborating with other organizations on a local, regional and national level is really important to advancing informatics. There is strength in numbers and working together with ANI we have a

unified voice for nursing informatics professional. This has been an incredible asset to the profession. Through ANI, NENIC is provided the opportunity to focus on the educational needs of our local members while at the same time elevating our voice to a national level.

5. In what way(s) is NENIC supporting ANI Initiatives e.g. the [ANI Consumer Pledge](#), [ANI Comments & Testimony](#), the [Emerging Leader Program](#), etc?

We participate in all three of these programs. Last spring we had our annual program and we were fortunate enough to have Judy Murphy of ONC attend and she really educated our group on the consumer engagement efforts of the ONC. In addition at that program, we were one of their first group's to send out the survey to our membership with regards to consumer engagement and personal health records.

NENIC has over the last few years participated in the Comments and Testimony. Our organization has led and facilitated collecting comments and drafting the response that ANI submitted.

With ANI Emerging Leaders, a NENIC member Sarah Collins is currently an ANI Emerging Leader and we were very proud to be able to put her forth and recommend her. I think Sarah will be an outstanding nursing informatics leader and we are very proud of her at NENIC.

6. What is NENIC's vision for the future of nursing informatics?

We looked first to the future of nursing as outlined in the landmark [IOM report](#). There are fundamental changes in the profession that will have a profound impact on nursing. This is coupled simultaneously with broader healthcare reform. We believe that informatics and informatics competencies are essential elements to transforming nursing practice and supporting a reformed healthcare delivery system. We stand ready at NENIC to lead efforts to use information to provide safe, timely, effective, equitable, evidence-based and patient-centered care, delivered at a lower cost. Health information technology will revolutionize healthcare and nursing must be at the forefront of this movement. Incorporating nursing practice and the practice of informatics will help all levels of nurses be both leaders and beneficiaries of the advances in software.

There is a lot of emphasis on the areas that I work on in this particular IOM report. As a nursing informatics leader, my job is to help others understand how informatics will play a role in the work that we do to advance the report's recommendations.

7. Additional Comments

NENIC was one of the original organizations that also participated in the [TIGER Initiative](#). I was fortunate to be at that Summit in 2006 and bring back to NENIC the work of TIGER. NENIC continues to support and promote TIGER and its competencies and efforts to promote informatics.

Biography for Denise Goldsmith

I am currently the Executive Director of Informatics for Nursing and Patient Care Services at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. In this role I provide leadership for creating an infrastructure that captures Nursing and other Health Professional's unique contributions to patient and family care. I provide direction for advanced clinical systems and informatics throughout BWH Patient Care Services and collaborate with others to identify opportunities for work process improvement of information management. My informatics career began with a Douglas Porter fellowship in Medical Informatics at the Center for Clinical Computing at Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Previous positions include Director, Clinical Informatics & Chief Privacy Officer, for Clinician Support Technology, in Newton, MA, as well as Program Manager, Nursing Informatics at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

I am a founding member of NENIC, formerly the Boston Area Nursing Informatics Consortium, where I played an integral role in the merger of the two New England informatics organizations. I continue to play a leadership role on the Board of NENIC as well as on the Program Planning Committee and Web Site Development Committee. I led the development and execution of a peer reviewed Poster Presentation section of the NENIC Annual Symposium where NENIC membership is encouraged and mentored to present their work. I am a member of the American Medical Informatics Association, served as a member of the Finance Committee and have been a peer reviewer for the AMIA and Med Info Annual Symposiums. I am also a board member and reviewer of the International Journal for Medical Informatics.

Recorded: November 9, 2012

For the full interview recording [click here](#) or visit <http://www.allianceni.org/members.asp>