

The eHealth Technologies and eHealth Community - are they ready for prime time?

A discussion paper commissioned by the National Health & Hospital Reform Commission, published in 2008, identified "Ehealth as an enabler" for Australia health reform*. However, the healthcare industry has often been accused of lagging far behind in health information technology adoption with headlines such as:

"Medical data must graduate from cave the medical and health care communities have managed to ignore, discount and otherwise avoid widespread adoption of health care information technology (IT)**"

Both the technology and health care communities have exhibited their share of problems which both contribute to the perceived lag in the adoption of health IT. The speaker will explore with the audience these issues/problems in the contexts of demographic, socio-economics, professional culture, organizational and technological maturity. The audience will be invited to argue how it can position itself for the shaping of these human and technological landscapes so that the health community can comfortably ride the new technological waves, and fully capitalise on the benefits health IT have to offer.

* C Bartlett, K Boechneche, Booz & Company (2008) Ehealth: Enabler for Australia's Health Reform (Discussion paper commissioned by the National Health & Hospital Reform Commission).

** http://www.ajc.com/opinion/content/opinion/stories/2009/01/30/lewined_0130.html

Prof Stephen Chu is a leading health informatician with over 20 years of clinical experiences and 15 years of health informatics practice, particularly in the domains of EHR, Clinical Information Systems, and Standards development and implementation. He has lead and contributed significantly to the development of referral, discharge summary diagnostic imaging reporting standard specifications in Australia and New Zealand. He has also contributed to the development of electronic medication management programs in both countries. As Head of Health Informatics at Metamorphous Consulting, he served as the clinical and technical program director of a number of health IT implementation activities in Malaysia. He also took on a leading role in health management strategies and services planning development and implementation. He currently holds adjunct professorial positions with La Trobe University and Multi-Media University of Malaysia.