

Health Informatics Awards

AWARD RECIPIENTS



Gala



Emerging Leader in Health Informatics Nancy Gabor

The **Emerging Leader in Health Informatics Award** recognizes individuals who are in the first five years of their career, who have clearly demonstrated leadership and achieved early success in the field. Courtyard Group established this Award in 2004 to foster leadership in our community. In order to be considered for this award, the nominee must have demonstrated leadership and achieved breakthrough results in health informatics, been active in promoting and developing the field through participation in industry associations, volunteer boards, publications, conference presentations, or academic organizations and also be recognized by managers and peers for demonstrating innovation, leadership and a significant contribution to the field.

Nancy Gabor, the 2005 Emerging Leader in Health Informatics Award winner, first demonstrated her leadership skills in the health informatics community in 2003 when the Ontario Hospital Association hired her as an e-Health Analyst. In this capacity, Nancy worked as a Project / Working Group Manager and was a catalyst to bring important e-Health issues to the forefront of the political agenda. Some notable examples of her work include the development and management of the Ontario Hospitals Regional Registries Group and assisting with the development and implementation of the OHA's 2005 EHR Readiness Survey, which provided hospitals across Ontario with valuable insights as to their individual and collective 'readiness' to engage in the province's e-Health Strategy.

In these roles, Nancy's interpersonal skills enabled the facilitation and nurturing of relationships among, and between, multiple levels of stakeholders, an important component of work in the informatics field. In addition, Nancy demonstrated project management skills and a comprehensive understanding of the policy and organizational requirements of e-Health, while providing critical direction that enabled success. Nancy has recently made a career move to NORTH Network, and is now applying her research, evaluation and leadership skills to the telehealth environment.

Nancy has clearly demonstrated commitment and passion by becoming involved in the industry outside of the workplace. A member of COACH since 2003, she volunteered as an active member of the Professional Development

Committee. In 2005 she accepted the invitation to Chair COACH's Code of Ethics Task Force, and as such is also a member of the newly established Health Informatics Professionalism Steering Committee. This Committee's mandate includes the development of strategies for the continued evolution of the health informatics profession in Canada in keeping with COACH's strategic goals. Her strong leadership skills have been invaluable as the Code of Ethics Task Force has been assessing the need for a Code of Ethics and whether the IMIA Code would be appropriate for adoption in Canada. She is also a member of the American Medical Informatics Association, HIMSS, the Canadian Society of Telehealth and the Canadian Evaluation Society.

Progress in the Health Informatics community is dependent on nurturing strong and passionate leaders that will continue to move the health informatics agenda forward and shape our future. Despite being relatively new to the industry, Nancy Gabor has demonstrated the commitment, energy and passion that are hallmarks of an emerging leader. She began her professional life as a national and international healthcare market researcher – that took her as far a field as London, Paris and Bangkok. Through this work she recognized a need for industry focus on the appropriate use of technology in healthcare and decided to commit to e-Health as a personal and career focus. In 2001 she started taking courses and building her network with her goal - To be part of a process that aims to empower consumers to own their own health!

Nancy is also a student in the first cohort of a prestigious distributed-stream graduate program in Health Informatics at the University of Victoria, aimed to graduate in December 2006. In addition to all her other activities, she is working with other health informatics students to build a stronger student network across Canada, including activities at the annual e-Health Conference. There is no doubt that her studies will provide an academic background that, when combined with her practical experience and natural skills, will enable her to assume critically needed leadership and ensure the continued advancement of e-Health in Canada. Along with this award recognition, Nancy will receive \$3000 to use towards her professional development in health informatics.