

# Publisher's Page

## **Agfa HealthCare reaches agreement with RUIS Laval and RUIS Sherbrooke for PACS**

Agfa HealthCare has announced that it has concluded negotiations with the Réseau Universitaire Intégré de Santé (RUIS) Laval and RUIS Sherbrooke regions of Quebec, for the implementation of its IMPAX™ PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System) and diagnostic imaging repository (DI-r) solutions. The contract negotiations included the precise planning, configuration and timing of the two large-scale projects. The agreements, which are worth in excess of \$60 million and include a five-year plan for support and an option for two additional years, are expected to be signed by year end with implementation of each region's two mirrored DI-r solutions starting early in 2007.

## **Emergis to Manage Ontario's Drug Claims**

Emergis Inc. announced that it has signed an agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) to manage the ministry's Health Network System, which processes drug claims under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) program. Under this five-year, multi-million dollar agreement, approximately 99 million ODB claims will be evaluated and paid annually at Emergis' state-of-the-art data facilities in Ontario. In addition to managing the Health Network System, Emergis will provide dedicated staff to support the system and, as requested by the MOHLTC, enhance the system to meet the changing needs of the ODB program.

The Health Network System provides computerized claim adjudication and pharmacy payment, and various batch and administrative support applications, to the ODB program. Pharmacies submit ODB claims electronically and the HNS validates eligibility, provides drug utilization review information messages, authorizes payment and calculates the government share of eligible prescription costs. By the end of 2006, over 2,800 pharmacies and 183 hospitals will be connected to the HNS and more than 130 MOHLTC users will have access to the system. The system adjudicates about 99 million online real-time transactions per year from the approximately 2.2 million Ontarians enrolled in the ODB program. Operating 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, the HNS adjudicates over 53,000 claims per hour at its busiest periods.

## **CIHR's Expertise Lauded in New British Health Research Strategy**

The British government is set to emulate the work of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) as it moves ahead with a bold new strategy to improve an already highly successful UK health-research system. Canadian investments in R&D and, more specifically, Canada's inclusive and multidisciplinary model of health research received outstanding praise in the Cooksey Review, published as part of a pre-budget speech by

Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown MP.

## **Microsoft Unveils New People-Ready Business Platform to Help Meet Workplace Challenges**

Microsoft Corporation recently unveiled Windows Vista™ operating system, the 2007 Microsoft® Office system and Microsoft® Exchange Server 2007, powerful solutions designed to help Canadian organizations simplify collaboration, protect and manage content, improve business insight and reduce security risks and deployment costs.

The new versions of Windows, Office and Exchange Server are the result of an unprecedented relationship between Microsoft and its customers. Real-life scenarios guided product development through feedback from customers who volunteered to let Microsoft watch them work in more than one billion user sessions. During testing, customers from around the world downloaded more than five million beta versions of the three products and provided valuable feedback and suggestions.

## **Honeywell Helps Toronto Hospital Upgrade Buildings, Improve Comfort and Reduce Greenhouse Gases**

Honeywell and Toronto East General Hospital (TEGH) recently introduced an award-winning energy retrofit and facility renewal program that will help the hospital upgrade its facilities, cut its utility bills and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

The \$9.5 million, 15-year program is expected to save the hospital more than \$880,000 annually in operating costs. This money will initially be used to finance facility improvements, including automating HVAC control, upgrading a chiller plant and installing new fixtures and equipment to reduce water consumption. Honeywell guarantees the savings under an energy performance contract with the hospital so the work will not impact capital budgets.

## **New System Will Speed Access to Diagnostic Images**

With financial support from Health Canada Infoway, Saskatchewan Health will implement a new radiology information system that will improve diagnostic imaging services and make diagnostic images and results available electronically to healthcare providers across the province. The Radiology Information System will link with existing hospital information systems to co-ordinate patient information, including X-ray, CT scan and MRI results. The multi-year project will result in a system that stores and digital imaging studies and allows health providers to securely access them throughout the province. The system will schedule patients for diagnostic imaging services, improve the utilization of diagnostic staff and equipment, and eventually link with a diagnostic imaging wait-list registry in Saskatchewan.

### 3M Canada to appoint Regional Director for Alberta and Northwest Territories

Bill Boyce, a 25-year veteran of 3M, has been appointed Regional Director for Alberta and the Northwest Territories. In this role, Boyce will be responsible for leading 3M operations in Alberta including sales deployment, new product and application development, new business development including alliances and acquisitions and developing a growth plan specifically for the oil and gas sector.

### Bell Celebrity Gala Raises \$1 Million for SickKids Foundation

The 2006 Bell Celebrity Gala raised \$1 million for SickKids Foundation, in support of The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto. In 2005, Bell Canada announced a five-year commitment to SickKids Foundation, that includes \$5 million in fundraising proceeds collected through the Annual Bell Celebrity Gala and Bell Celebrity Classic events as well as a \$5 million corporate gift to be distributed over a five-year period.

## Canadian Health Informatics Awards Gala

COACH: Canada's Health Informatics Association and CHITTA, the Canadian Healthcare Information Technology Trade Association co-hosted the 2006 Canadian Health Informatics Awards Gala in Toronto on November 16, 2006. The event celebrated excellence and achievement in the Canadian healthcare informatics community. More than 300 healthcare informatics professionals were present to recognize the contributions of individuals, teams and companies who make use of information and technology for the improvement of health for all Canadians.



### 2006 CHITTA Awards



Xwave, a Bell Aliant Company, won the award for Company of the Year. Paula Hatty, Consultant, Services Manager accepts the award from Dave Wattling, Chair of CHITTA.



Orion Health, won in the category of Healthcare Transformation. Dave Wattling presents the award to Michael Craig, Vice-President of Sales.



The Project Implementation Team of the Year was Sierra Systems. Charles Lafleche presented the award to Stewart Gray, Health Sector Partner.

## 2006 CHITTA Awards

### Corporate Citizenship Award



The winner for Multinational Corporations was Cerner Canada. Jim Shave, Cerner Canada President, accepts the award.



Major Canadian Corporations award went to Sierra Systems. Bill Thomson, Executive Vice-President, accepts the award from Dennis Niebergal.



The award for Small- to Medium-Size Enterprises went to Procura. Warren Brown, President, accepts the award from Dennis Niebergal.

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## 2006 Coach Awards



Leadership in the Field of Health Informatics was awarded to Sarah Kramer, Vice-President and Chief Information Officer, Cancer Care Ontario, by Shelagh Maloney, President of COACH.



The Emerging Leader in Health Informatics from the Courtyard Group went to Sherman Quan, Department of Medicine, Sunnybrook Health Sciences. Presented by Rhonda Chou of the Courtyard Group.



The Innovation in the Adoption of Health Informatics went to EMPcare@home Implementation Team led by River Valley Health. Valerie Hagerman, Regional Director of Telehealth and Janice Wilson, Extra Mural Program, River Valley Health, accept the award from Linda Miller, President-Elect of COACH.



The 2006 Winner of the President's Award was Roger Girard, VP and CIO, Niagara Health System. Roger accepted the award by video.



The 2006 winner of the Steven Huesing Scholarship was Katrina Hurley, Masters in Health Informatics Student, Clinician Investigator Program, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, presented by Steven Huesing, Founding President of COACH, and Shelagh Maloney, President of COACH.

