

December 2009

Mohawk Applied Research Centre

MARC



Mohawk Applied Research Centre in Health Informatics – Partner Update

MARC-HI Awarded NSERC Funding for the EHR Reference Implementation Project

In June 2009, the Mohawk Applied Research Centre in Health Informatics (MARC-HI) was awarded \$2.3 million over 5 years from NSERC's Colleges and Community Innovation (CCI) program to build the Canadian Electronic Health Record Solution (EHRS) Reference Implementation project.

The goal of the NSERC-funded project is to provide a solution based on the pan-Canadian Health Records standard managed by Canada Health Infoway (Infoway) that allows for interoperability of EHR solutions across Canada, linking clinics, hospitals, pharmacies and other points of health care to improve Canadians' access to health services, enhance the quality of care and patient safety, and help the health care system become more efficient.

Specifically, there are four components to the project:

- 1) Creating an API for the EHRS;
- 2) Improving the XML messaging used by the EHRS;
- 3) Integrating vendor products and solutions into the EHRS; and
- 4) Developing components of the EHRS that do not exist today.

Since the API work will help to accelerate all the other projects, it was decided that a prototype of the API should be the initial project. In the summer of 2009 the prototype API called the "Everest Framework" was demonstrated to Canada Health Infoway. Infoway decided to invest in the Everest Framework to support their RFP process for a message builder tool.

Infoway Funds MARC-HI's Development of EHRS-API Prototype Tool

In September 2009, MARC-HI entered into a services agreement with Canada Health Infoway to provide a functional prototype of the Electronic Health Records Solution (EHRS), Application Programming Interface (API) tool, to be transferred

to the e-health vendor community through an open source release. On October 30, 2009 the HL7v3 API was released as a Charter Project under Open Health Tools using the Apache 2 open source license. Open Health Tools (<http://www.openhealthtools.org>) is an international consortium of national health agencies, health standards organizations, and software product companies.

The MARC-HI version of the HL7v3 API is a messaging-oriented set of structures that map 1:1 to the pan-Canadian HL7v3 messages. It is intended to be used as a basis for creating higher-level API's that encapsulate the business case functionality of the EHRS. More than 30 organizations have evaluated the MARC-HI Everest Framework to date. You can learn more about this tool at <http://everest.marc-hi.ca>

Infoway has recently completed an RFP process to acquire a message building tool which will be the basis of an Infoway API for the EHRS. Vendors were given the option to use the MARC-HI prototype as a starting point for the solution. Final vendor selection by Infoway will be announced in early-December 2009.

MARC Hires Research Projects Manager

In September 2009, Andrew Tomingas was hired as Research Projects Manager for the Mohawk Applied Research Centre. His responsibilities include managing the software development team working on the EHRS Reference Implementation project.

Developing Partnership with HL7

Mohawk College is in the process of signing an Associate Charter Agreement with HL7 International which will enable the College to participate in meetings and projects with HL7 on an international basis. Both organizations have the goal of providing reliable standards for the exchange, management and integration of data that support clinical patient care and the management, delivery and evaluation of healthcare services. Ted Scott, the Dean of Applied Research and Duane Bender, Faculty Researcher will be attending the HL7 WGM in Phoenix Arizona in January 2010 to present the mission of MARC-HI to the HL7 Board of Directors and begin a formal discussion around projects that could accelerate the adoption of HL7 v3 in Canada and abroad.

Partner with MARC-HI:

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