January 19, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to share information about a newly established [Master of Science in Health Informatics](#) (MSHI) program at UT Southwestern that will enhance learners' academic experiences and better prepare them for the technological shifts happening in health care.

In the last decade, health care delivery in the U.S. has changed dramatically, with more data being generated and collected regarding clinical care, patient reported outcomes, population health, and health system operations than ever in our history. The demand for health informatics professionals is anticipated to increase, but there is strong evidence that the nation already faces a shortage of qualified workers in this field. The MSHI program aims to increase and strengthen the health information technology workforce in North Texas. Concurrently, UT Southwestern will gain improvements in patient care, a new generation of a novel workforce, and the development of a national reputation in a rapidly growing field.

UT Southwestern's two-year master's degree program will be administered through the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences beginning this fall. Applications will be accepted from medical students, clinicians, information technology professionals, computer scientists, and data scientists. Part-time and full-time students may select either an information technology or clinician-based track. Interested applicants must apply to the program by April 1 to be considered for admission to the fall semester.

Dr. Christoph U. Lehmann, Professor of Pediatrics, Population and Data Sciences, and Bioinformatics, is the Director of the Clinical Informatics Center and serves as the Chair of the MSHI program. He oversees the curriculum, which is based on 10 domains determined by the American Medical Informatics Association and includes a range of foundational courses and electives.

The program faculty have real-life experience in designing, implementing, and maintaining health information technology systems. All learners will also complete a Capstone research project with help from a mentor. This project will be an opportunity to initiate meaningful change in learners' home organizations or the environment of a potential future employer.

UT Southwestern also intends to establish an ACGME Clinical Informatics fellowship program. The joint development of the fellowship, the MSHI program and the Clinical Informatics Center exemplifies the investment by the institution into the domain of health informatics, which will allow us to create a multidisciplinary and collaborative environment for informatics training and research.

Sincerely,

Andy

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School