



Cisco Systems Enable First Virtual Health Informatics Conference

WATERLOO, Ont. (Monday, March 22, 2010) – The National Institutes of Health Informatics (NIHI) is pleased to announce that Cisco Canada, the leading provider of technologies to support virtual interaction, has committed to providing the technology and services that will enable the Advanced Health Informatics Conference 2010 (AHIC 2010: <http://ahic.nihi.ca>, April 28-30, 2010) to be accessible globally via web cast. This will be the first Health Informatics conference in Canada to offer this environment-friendly medium as a means of participating in a major conference in this discipline.

AHIC 2010 is a top-tier, peer-reviewed conference addressing Health Informatics innovation, research and education. Keynote talks and presentations will highlight the theme “Realities of eHealth.” AHIC brings together visionaries, academics, researchers, industry and government experts from around the globe, in a ‘green conference’ that allows participants to attend and speakers to present their work remotely. This has a dramatic impact on travel costs for participants and minimizes greenhouse gas production.

“To remain current, we all find it valuable to attend conferences, network with others and hear new ideas and solutions”, said Nicola Shaw, AHIC Scientific Program Committee Chair. “This usually entails high costs both financially and for the environment. AHIC’s virtual attendance minimizes these impacts and uses similar solutions we promote in the health system.”

The grand challenge of putting on a conference convened in cyberspace requires significant planning and well supported, highly reliable technologies. Brantz Myers, Director of Healthcare Business Development, Cisco Canada notes: “Cisco has seen this as a perfect opportunity to show the power and reach of Cisco’s offerings for advanced communications and collaboration. We have partnered with NIHI to evaluate the quality of the experience from the attendees’ perspective. We are confident that AHIC 2010 will be a landmark, demonstrating what environmental responsibility is all about.”

“An undertaking like this is never a one-organization show”, added Shirley Fenton, AHIC Organizing Committee Chair, “Cisco’s involvement was crucial as well as the support of other key partners, including the Waterloo Institute for Health Informatics Research (WIHIR), City of Kitchener, City of Waterloo, City of Cambridge, Canada’s Technology Triangle Inc., Conestoga College, University of Alberta, Healthcare Information Management and Communications Canada, Longwoods Publishing, ITAC Health, and others, for whose support we are very grateful.”

For more information about AHIC 2010 (registration, sponsorships), see: <http://ahic.nihi.ca>

NIHI (www.nihi.ca) is a Canada-wide, virtual institute of institutes bringing together experts in Health Informatics. NIHI serves as a catalyzer, co-ordinator and facilitator that assists in defining, fostering and developing initiatives dedicated to HI research and education.

Cisco, (NASDAQ: CSCO), the worldwide leader in networking that transforms how people connect, communicate and collaborate, this year celebrates 25 years of technology innovation, operational excellence and corporate social responsibility. Information about Cisco can be found at: <http://www.cisco.com>.

For more information:

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