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I-PrACTISE Conference
Madison, WI
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TWO NEW TRAINEE-CENTERED PROGRAMS

By Rich Holden, PhD

The two new trainee-centered programs at I-PrACTISE reflect Bentzi’s spirit of commitment and
generosity toward students and junior scholars. When attendees register for I-PrACTISE, they will have
the opportunity to commit a sponsoring fee of $85 or more that will contribute to reducing student
registration fees and prizes of $250/$100/$50 for the best student/resident poster. Any contributors
can also sign up for a chance to meet with a sponsored student or resident at the Karsh dinner on
Monday, April 13th night and throughout the conference, by way of establishing a lasting mentoring
relationship. The best poster prize will be awarded to the most meritorious student or resident poster,
to be judged by a mixed committee of researchers and practitioners.

“I saw the value of having Bentzi in my corner... I knew he would defend me to the hilt” – Michelle Chui,
Associate Professor at UW Madison School of Pharmacy, faculty mentee of Bentzi’s.
In honor of Bentzi Karsh and his legacy as a mentor, I-PrACTISE introduces these new trainee-centered programs: the student/resident sponsorship and the Karsh best poster award. In anticipation of these initiatives, I will relate some personal experiences about Bentzi’s support of trainees, specifically related to conference attendance.

“His encouragement made me who I am today in my career...[it] gave me so much confidence...” – Natalie Abts, Human Factors Specialist, master’s student of Bentz’s.

Bentzi Karsh was a famously excellent mentor and advocate for students and other junior scholars. However, few may know that Bentzi set aside his earnings from teaching at the annual SEIPS short course for his students to attend national conferences. Here’s another little known fact: every year at the national Human Factors and Ergonomics Society Meeting, Bentzi shared a room with his friend and former UW grad school colleague, Nick Everhart, to save travel funds for his students. Bentzi encouraged his students to attend conferences and made sure they could afford to do so. Before and during conferences, Bentzi asked his students, “Who do you want to meet?” He would then seek out whichever senior scholar his students named to make introductions. Bentzi also dedicated large portions of his conference time meeting with other students and junior scholars. There are several individuals with no apparent UW connection who regard Bentzi as a mentor, for whom meeting Bentzi at conferences was an annual highlight.

“On the human factors family tree, Bentzi was an uncle to me...Bentzi’s comments spurred me on to pursue human factors engineering as a long-term research career.” – Alissa Russ, VA Research Scientist, an academic “niece” of Bentz’s

“UPTIC – Understanding Primary care Teamwork: Interaction and Cognition”

Tosha B. Wetterneck, MD, MS, recently was awarded a five-year, $2.5 million grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for “Understanding Primary Care Teamwork in Context: Implications for Health Information Technology Design.” Dr. Wetterneck is an associate professor, Div. of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UWSMPH) and a researcher with the Center for Quality and Productivity Improvement in the College of Engineering at UW-Madison.

St. Mary’s Hospital designates this live activity for a maximum of 11.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. Non-physicians receive CME participation credit.

Our motto this year means we are bringing the science of primary care to inform policy makers, administrators, patient representatives and clinicians. Bring your colleagues, students and interns to this year’s conference to help us realize this goal.
Dr. Asan completed his PhD in Industrial Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 2013, specializing in human factors engineering. He also holds a minor degree in Applied Statistics. He started at the Department of Medicine at Medical College of Wisconsin as an Assistant Professor in September 2013. Dr. Asan is primarily interested in application of theory, methods, and design from the discipline of human factors engineering to understand and enhance health care systems; in particular, interaction between people and technology (socio-technical systems) in health care.

He is especially interested in exploring new patient-centered health IT which can facilitate communication and information sharing between patients and health care providers and contribute to improving patient/family-centered care in inpatient and outpatient settings. His current research focuses on how electronic health records (EHRs) impact doctor-patient interaction overall and how EHRs can be used as a communication and patient education tool which can potentially enhance patient engagement. Dr. Asan also conducts research on the impact of EHRs on workflow, workload and patient safety, and how EHR use impacts cognitive workload of providers.

The project’s long-term goal is to develop new EHR interfaces (data displays and input requirements), implementable by vendors and/or IT programmers, that are demonstrated to support and extend PC clinician and team cognitive work to improve patient outcomes.

This study, a first step toward that goal, aims to 1) identify the cognitive work requirements of PC clinicians and their clinical teams and 2) develop and test specific EHR inter-face design requirements that support these requirements. The research team will be recruiting 10 PC clinics across WI to participate in this important work.

This 2015 I-PrACTISE Conference is sponsored jointly by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, the UW College of Engineering, the UW Foundation Karsh Education Fund, the Departments of Family Medicine and Medicine, the School of Pharmacy, and St. Mary’s Hospital. Additionally, the Wisconsin Medical Society and the WEA Trust are contributors towards this conference as well as the AHRQ Grant 1R30HS23028-01 and 02.

The Conference Attendees and participants are grateful to these sponsors. (Known sponsors as of 2/10/2015)