

## Leadership in the Field of Health Informatics Awarded to Prof. Dominic Covvey

For Immediate Release - Waterloo, November 11, 2011

**Prof. Dominic Covvey** has been awarded the 2011 COACH “Leadership in the Field of Health Informatics Award” at the seventh annual Canadian Health Informatics Awards (CHIA) Gala ([www.healthinformaticsawards.ca](http://www.healthinformaticsawards.ca)) in Toronto on November 9, 2011. This award recognizes “an individual’s outstanding ongoing contributions as a thought leader, both nationally and internationally, to advance Canadian health informatics (HI) or Canadian telehealth.”

Prof. Covvey was selected for the significant contributions he has made in moving the Canadian HI agenda forward through his dedication, promotion, research, teaching and quest for improvements in our healthcare system. Over the course of his 43-year career, he has promoted all aspects of HI whether in education, research, collaborative partnerships or new initiatives. His goals are to build HI capacity, to raise the standard of HI education curricula and programs, and to improve the quality of health care and patient care in Canada. His devotion is evident in the creation and development of a variety of programs including the former Waterloo Institute for Health Informatics Research (WIHIR) at the University of Waterloo and more recently the National Institutes of Health Informatics (NIHI).

“Prof. Covvey is recognized as a “Founding Father” of HI worldwide” stated Shirley Fenton, Vice President of NIHI. “The COACH Award acknowledges his high level of achievement in our field in Canada. NIHI is very proud of Dominic’s world-class work and accomplishments.”

Prof. Covvey has been recognized nationally and internationally for his professional accomplishments. He is an acclaimed leader in HI program development. He co-authored the internationally recognized document on HI curricula and competencies, “Pointing the Way: Competencies and Curricula in Health Informatics,” a work that has influenced a number of undergraduate and graduate programs. He created the Applied Health Informatics Bootcamp to provide an accessible, comprehensive introduction to Health Informatics in Canada and elsewhere. Since 2005, over 800 people have taken the Bootcamp. As a researcher, he has made significant HI contributions in publications and has strongly influenced health outcomes or health system improvements. Some of his most insightful research addressed the development of innovative workflow support systems in health care, the economics of IT in the health system, the development of collaborative support systems for HI researchers, and a new approach in the definition of an electronic health record. In addition, he has advised many companies involved in health care and participated in government and non-government committees bringing his deep understanding of HI and the Canadian healthcare environment. As a member of the OHA eHealth Council, he developed the first eHealth survey for Ontario hospitals which measured the current state of HIT in their organizations.

Prof. Covvey is currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Waterloo and Founding President of the National Institutes of Health Informatics. He began his research career at Toronto General Hospital, where he spent 15 years as a senior research fellow, followed by 15 years in the consulting industry, serving hundreds of clients in U.S. and Canadian public and private sector organizations. He later became a Full Professor, was awarded a Chair in Health Informatics Research and founded and led the Waterloo Institute for Health Informatics Research for 7 years at the University of Waterloo. He is a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, a senior Life Member of the IEEE, a Life Member of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, and an Information Technology Certified Professional and Life Member of the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS). These honors further attest to his outstanding HI professional leadership reputation.

**About NIHI:** NIHI ([www.nihi.ca](http://www.nihi.ca)) is a Canada-wide, virtual institute of institutes bringing together experts in Health Informatics. NIHI serves as a catalyst, coordinator and facilitator that assists in defining, fostering and bringing together initiatives dedicated to HI research and education.

